

Area Girl Wins Essay Contest



Scholarship Winner

Terrigino, Mary Beth and her parents.

Her way with words has won Mary Beth Gottschalk a \$300 scholarship to St. Agnes High School.

Mary Beth, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Gottschalk of Chestnut Dr., Rochester, recently graduated from St. Pius X School.

Her scholarship came from her entry in the Catholic War Veterans annual essay contest.

Michael Terrigino, county commander of the Monroe County Chapter of Catholic War Veterans made the presentation Tuesday, June 16.

Bishop Explains Selective C.O.

Richmond, Va. — (NC) — Bishop John J. Russell of Richmond has sent letters to draft board officials throughout Virginia, advising them of Catholic Church teachings which permit Catholics to form conscientious objections to military service.

"It is my hope that this position will be considered and that all objectors be judged according to the honesty and sincerity of their beliefs," the bishop wrote.

In addition to the draft boards officials, the bishop also sent copies of his letter to President Nixon and U.S. Sens. Harry F. Byrd, Jr., and William B. Spong of Virginia.

Explaining the Church's position regarding conscientious objection, Bishop Russell acknowledged that traditionally the Catholic Church has never been considered a "pacifist sect."

The bishop added that "nevertheless there is an ancient and respected tradition in

the Church which sees the personal conscience of the individual as the immediate arbiter of moral decisions."

"The right, indeed the duty, to follow one's conscience is an essential teaching of the Catholic Church," he stated.

Gets Degree

Atlanta, Ga. — (NC)—Msgr. (Maj. Gen.) Edwin R. Chess, chief of U.S. Air Force chaplains, received an honorary doctorate of laws at graduation exercises of Atlanta Law School.

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Theologians Endorse Selective Objection

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — Thirty members of the University of Notre Dame's theology faculty, including university president Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., issued a statement here (June 13) endorsing the principle of selective conscientious objection.

All but two members of the theology department signed the statement, which urges revision of Selective Service regulations to allow conscientious objection to a particular war. At present, federal law requires opposition to "war in any form" in order to be classified as a conscientious objector.

"A Christian, applying honestly the 'just war' standards, may properly conclude that he cannot participate in the kind of war he now faces," the Notre Dame statement declared.

"Indeed, sober attention to the reality of contemporary war, its goals and methods, makes its moral justification increasingly dubious."

ARTIST GIVES POPE 'CHRIST OF PEACE'

Mexico City — (NC) — Mexican artist David Alfaro Siqueiros—as famed for his role in revolutionary political movements as he is for his murals and frescoes—has given a painting of Christ to Pope Paul VI for the Vatican museum.

The painting was accepted on behalf of the Pope by Msgr. Rafael Vasquez Corona, national moderator of Mexican Catholic Action.

Siqueiros said his painting shows "a Christ of peace among

believers." It "shows His anguish, His Message of peace," the artist added.

Siqueiros' works often have been anti-clerical and anti-Church. But he said: "There's not a leftist who doesn't recognize that Christ fought for the transformation of human life. Christ was a great revolutionary. He was the first to fight against the oppression of the pagan world. He was always on the side of the downtrodden."

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