



An unidentified militant cleric is collared following a chalice-throwing incident during an open-air Mass at Canterbury Cathedral. (RNS Photo)

Catholic Canterbury Mass Protested by Paisleyites

London — (RNS) — Militant Protestants led by the Rev. Ian Paisley, the controversial Northern Ireland clergyman, shouted and waved placards in protest here when thousands of Roman Catholics marched into the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral last week for the first Catholic Mass offered there since the 16th Century.

An unidentified man rushed to the altar during the service and threw a silver chalice into the air, shouting, "Betrayal!"

During a march of protest, on the cathedral grounds, an egg was thrown at Mr. Paisley, who led supporters in "crusading" songs. The Northern Ireland minister said Protestants had held an "orderly protest", adding that he was in Canterbury only to carry out his parliamentary duties.

The open-air Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy of Southwark and six diocesan bishops with the permission of the Anglican cathedral's dean and chapter, was but one observance of the 800th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas a Becket.

Several thousand Catholic laity, 450 priests and 350 nuns, from all parts of Britain, gathered on the grounds of the Anglican cathedral.

Because militant Protestants had earlier announced their intention to demonstrate, local authorities canceled all leaves for Canterbury police and hundreds of police and medical and ambulance personnel were on duty near the cathedral.

The Catholic procession began quietly enough, with only one elderly man brandishing a placard and shouting out slogans of an anti-Catholic nature.

Later, however, as groups of priests and children passed, the man was joined by other militants who shouted and waved at the marchers.

The Catholic priests were followed by civic and Catholic dignitaries and Anglican clergy. Among them were Anglican Bishop William Chadwick of Barking, who represented the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. William Ramsey; members of the Anglican cathedral's staff; Bishop Cowderoy and Archbishop Domenico Enrici, the Apostolic Delegate to Britain.

As the procession neared its end, militant demonstrators were joined by Mr. Paisley, now a member of both Britain's and Northern Ireland's Parliaments, and other supporters. They waved banners proclaiming "Christ Saves, Rome Enslaves" and "Protestant's Awake to the Dangers From Rome!"

They shouted protests against

U.S. Overturns Mass. Statute

Boston — (RNS) — Chief Justice Bailey Aldrich of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here overruled the conviction of birth control advocate William R. Baird for distributing contraceptive materials to an unmarried university co-ed.

Justice Aldrich's nine-page decision, written for the three-member bench, struck an unprecedented blow at the controversial Massachusetts statute which prohibits the distribution of birth control information and devices to the unmarried.

State officials will appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court within 30 days.

Baird was arrested in April 1967 when he allegedly gave a contraceptive foam to an unmarried co-ed during a Boston University lecture. Convicted in superior court in October 1967, he appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Court where a 4-3 split decision against him was handed down on May 1, 1969.

the celebration of a Catholic Mass on what they called "Protestant" (Anglican) grounds.

COURIER / PEOPLE

Obstetrics Chief Resigns Post

Yonkers, N.Y.—(RNS)—A physician who cannot reconcile himself to New York's liberalized abortion law resigned his post as chief of obstetrics at Yonkers General Hospital here.

"I feel it is morally wrong to take a human life," said Dr. Robert R. Onorato, a Catholic. Interrupting a pregnancy in any stage, he said, amounts to taking a life.

The 54-year-old specialist said he would continue at Yonkers General as an attending gynecologist and obstetrician. If anyone asks him to perform an abortion, he will tell them "they'll have to see someone else. I will not do it," he told newsmen.

Capuchins Elect Fr. Rywalski

Rome—(NC)—Father Paschal Conrod Rywalski, OFM, Cap., Swiss Capuchin provincial, was elected minister general of his order at a general chapter that closed here June 30. The Capuchins have more than 15,000 members throughout the world.

Retired Bishop Dead at 85

Davenport, Iowa—(RNS)—Bishop Ralph L. Hayes, retired Catholic bishop of Davenport, died here July 4 at the age of 85. A former rector of the North American College in Rome, he was the fifth bishop of Davenport and served the diocese for 22 years until his retirement in 1966.

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