

School Plan Draws Reaction in Elmira

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Father David Kunz, preaching at St. Mary Our Mother Church on Sunday, saw value in the report presenting the details for the laity to discuss. "It is good to see that the laity are being informed as soon as the clergy and that the comments of the parishioners are being sought."

Agreeing, in general, with the future consolidation of some churches and schools, Father Kunz said that some of the proposals were good because they "indicate that the diocese is attempting to do real planning for the future and is attempting to prevent needless duplication" of property and efforts.

Father John Leary, pastor of St. Mary's Church, put his observations in the parish bulletin to appear next Sunday. He drew a parallel between the diocesan report and the voluminous surveys carried on by the Congress and governmental departments.

"How many of the proposals raised in such reports ever get enacted?", he asked.

Repeating a point made frequently here last week, he said: "The proposals advanced are the opinions of only one person, based on a small number of survey-responses sup-

plied by Catholics of this county."

Msgr. McGhan told his parishioners at SS. Peter's and Paul Church that their parish had already successfully cooperated in school consolidation and that they should not be excited by the present proposals.

"Perhaps the Lord has permitted this report to become necessary because of the general deterioration of our society. Perhaps He is asking us to do more for our churches, to improve their effectiveness in dealing with the breakdown of family life and the decline of morals."

Referring to a local radio program in which listeners spoke out strongly against the Donovan Report and its author in several evening sessions last week, he said: "Please let there be no more name-calling or attacks on personalities."

The proposal that the eleven churches in the county be reduced to four "parish corporations" and that such churches as St. Casimir's and St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's might be closed and the property liquidated drew the heaviest fire and dismay. Parishioners came to the rectories in tears bemoaning the mistaken possibility of losing their church, several pastors reported.



Filipinos Cheer Pope
Pope Paul is cheered by women from the Philippine Islands who attended his weekly general audience. In Fall he will visit Philippines. (RNS)

Pope Paul Extolls Beauty of Nature

Castelgandolfo — (RNS) — The beauties of nature call out to reflective listeners the message: "We are made by God," said Pope Paul in an address at his Summer residence here.

Addressing pilgrims in the courtyard of his residence, located in the Alban hills some 40 miles from Rome, the Pope said that the sight of his "beautiful and restful surroundings" refreshed him and made him reflective.

"Here," he said, "is sky, space, sea, light of day and silence of night. We feel the restoration of spirit that these things give to us, and the instinctive admiration they awaken in us."

It is true, the 72-year-old pon-

tiff went on, that one can get used to everything, "even things as lovely as these," so that one will hardly notice them, but "those who know how to listen" will hear the clear message: "Creation delivers us to the Creator."

The Pope then expressed hope that everyone of every social class would be able to have some chance at a holiday and experience something of the "existential enjoyment that restores body and soul in each of us."

Pope Paul is continuing the papal custom of retreating from Rome's oppressive Summer heat, but is not exactly "on vacation." Vatican sources point out that the pontiff's stay is one of "study, work and prayer."

Tito to Visit Vatican as Relations Improve

Rome—(RNS)—Italian Radio reported that after an 18-year interruption "a complete return to normal diplomatic relations" between Yugoslavia and the Vatican will take place in mid-August.

At that time, it said, diplomatic representation between the Communist country and the Holy See will be raised to full ambassadorial level.

Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, is expected to visit Belgrade to inform the government of the nomination of the apostolic nuncio. In turn, the Vatican prelate will be informed of the government's choice of ambassador plenipotentiary to the Holy See.

The Bishop Speaks



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ness of God. Religious communities of women in particular reflect the creativity of God, the God who is the source and inspiration for art and poetry and music. And how this cold world needs this inspiration!

The Church has always needed a maternal principle within it. There is something wrong in a human family where there is not a maternal principle; a child always grows up seemingly lacking something.

Without the Blessed Mother of God, Christ could have entered this world, and because He was the Son of God, He could have assumed humanity, but it would have been a little bit fraudulent or synthetic if it had not been for the maternal principle of the Mother of God who gave Him to the world in authentic humanity.

The Church is no other than the continuation of the life of Christ. That it be authentically human it must have this maternal principle which brings Christ's presence into the world.

And there you are, to rule the Church like Mary, not by your authority but by your personality and by the inspiration of your being, which we desperately need.

Sisters must present to the world a charismatic way of life. You have these charisms given to you by the Holy Spirit:

Poverty to possess all so that you can give fully of the riches of your greatest treasure which is the gift of your person.

And chasity, the ability it gives you to embrace all, especially Christ Himself in His person and companionship. It gives you the opportunity of spiritual maternity to the world which desperately needs you in these days when motherhood seems to be at its lowest status.

And obedience so that you can be part of the ecclesial community which everyone can look at and say: "This is the Church operating at its very best."

Sisters are to all mankind the very image of the Pilgrim Church—present in the world but not at home in it. In your whole being, the whole way of your life to point to the unspeakable life beyond.

Be womanly; be warm; be understanding; be human; be tangible witnesses of the fruits of the Spirit who is the soul of the Church. Your lives have to be filled with charity, with joy, with peace.

Whatever activity your apostolate demands, be enthusiastic in what you do and be guided by a prudence which will be directed by your prayer life. Religious life cannot be secularized and remain religious. Actions must be directly subordinated to contemplation.

The trends toward secularization have never been halfway measures, but generally end in scandal and become destructive of gospel holiness.

Many people waste a great deal of time harking back to the past. No one is questioning the tremendous dedication of many wonderful women in the past, but it was also a system which can no longer survive. And it was a system which also had its drawbacks because it tended to shelter the incompetent. To be vital today, all communities, all organizations which have their life and impetus in the Church have to reassess themselves.

Courier-Journal

Will Britain Strengthen Its Ties with Vatican?

London — (NC) — Election of a right-wing Conservative government in Britain has raised hopes that this country may upgrade its present diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Britain currently maintains only second-class diplomatic relations with the Holy See despite the fact that Britain, once the head of a vast world empire, is still the center of a commonwealth of nations including some 50 million Catholics.

Britain is represented at the Vatican by a minister at the head of a legation, while the Holy See has no official diplomatic representative in London. The apostolic delegate here, Archbishop Domenico Enrico, has no official diplomatic status. He is purely the representative of the Pope to English Catholics — though this does not stop the Foreign Office and other government departments from seeking and receiving his help on international matters.

Some independent members of the British Commonwealth have their own representatives at the Holy See who outrank the British minister, and the British government — especially in some of its underdeveloped colonies overseas — often works hand-in-hand with the Vatican in social, medical and other projects.

A new British minister to the Holy See was appointed in June. Desmond Crawley, a professional diplomat, served in

Africa, India and Pakistan and as ambassador in Bulgaria.

The question of British representation at the Holy See was last raised during the Labor government in 1966 when Norman St. John - Stevas, Catholic campaigner in parliament, asked Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart to give the mission embassy status. Stewart replied that he did not think it appropriate to make this change "at the present time" but spoke appreciatively of the "valuable part" played by the Holy See in world affairs.

St. John - Stevas is now a prominent member of the ruling Conservative government and its foreign secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, is likely to be more sympathetic than Stewart.

Anti-Abortion Group Forming

Philadelphia — (NC) — With the aim of growing into a strong statewide organization, some 200 women in a five-county area have formed Pennsylvania's Human Life to fight proposals for relaxation of the state's anti-abortion laws.

Mrs. James C. Kelly of Milmount Park, a steering committee member said there are too many "quick solutions" proposed to solve society's problems today. Too often solutions proposed infringe on right of others, she added.

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