

'Catholic Day' Stirs Misgivings

Trier, West Germany—(RNS)—This city will be the site of the 83d Catholic Day Congress (Katholikentag) Sept. 9 to 13, and the event is being viewed with some uneasiness.

Traditionally a massive outpouring of loyalty to the Church, the last Katholikentag at Essen in 1968 escalated into a "congress of rebellion," as the West German press described it, "where the dynamite of frustration and discontent accumulated through the years had exploded." The West German press recently reflected views of Catholic leaders who believe the forthcoming congress at Trier may well become another showdown between progressive and traditionalist elements.

With regard to the future of Katholikentag, the German Catholic bishops are on record as having stated that one of the dangers which must be overcome is "the practical (one) of creating mass psychosis at non-representative, accidentally composed mass rallies."

The hierarchy also warned of the theological danger of "a solely secular understanding of and approach to the Church, wrongly understood and impatient democratization processes, and the application of the majority principle to issues of truth and faith."

Australian Cardinal to Retire

Sydney—(RNS)—Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, will submit his resignation to Pope Paul early in 1971, according to a spokesman at St. Mary's Cathedral here.

Cardinal Gilroy, who is 74, has entered a hospital here for a rest, on the advice of a heart specialist. This is his second hospital rest in five months.

Cardinal Gilroy has been Archbishop of Sydney since March 8, 1940. He was named a cardinal on Feb. 18, 1946. In 1968 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

He is a member of the Vatican Council for the Public Affairs of the Church; of the Congregations for the Oriental Churches, of Bishops, for Divine Worship, and for the Evangelization of Peoples. He is also a member of the Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law.

PR Immigration Control Cited

San Juan, P.R.—(NC)—A minority party legislator has urged Gov. Luis A. Ferré to employ stringent immigration controls, plus a global study of population, in dealing with the Puerto Rican population problem.

The suggestion came from Rep. Olga Cruz Jimenez of the Popular Party. The majority New Progressive Party will push an islandwide \$7 million birth control program which has the approval of the Puerto Rican bishops, "if it is not against the doctrines of the Church." The bishops, too, have favored a global study of population.

Rep. Cruz quoted U.S. statistics indicating 49,737 foreign residents. The legislator urged particularly tighter controls on the admission of Cuban refugees, and asserted "there is a great uneasiness among Puerto Ricans who are being displaced in jobs by foreign personnel."

Albany, N.Y.—(NC)—A pastoral letter from Bishop Edwin B. Broderick was read July 19 in all churches of the Albany diocese to allay "concern to some of our people" about having lay men and women distribute Holy Communion.

"This departure from a tradition of over 1,000 years may cause concern to some of our people," the bishop wrote. "Such an initial reaction may be offset by this important historical consideration: in the first centuries of Christianity, the laity handled the Eucharist and even carried the Holy Sacrament to their homes and administered it to the sick," the bishop wrote.

"For nine centuries this seemed to be the customary way . . ."

Bishop Broderick said he had received a three-year permission from the Holy See, allowing men and women of the laity to distribute Communion as needed.

U.S. to Fight Judge's Ruling In CO Case

Washington—(NC)—Justice Department lawyers have appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn a U.S. District Court judge's ruling that the draft law is unconstitutional because it forces Catholics to choose between their beliefs or prison.

In a decision handed down in favor of James F. McFadden of San Francisco, Judge Alfonso J. Zirpoli of the ninth district court threw out an indictment brought against McFadden in February for failing to report for induction.

Judge Zirpoli said that under the first amendment's guarantees of the free exercise of religion, the government cannot force a man to act against his conscience.

As a result, the judge said, McFadden's conscientious objection to the Vietnam war based on his application of traditional Catholic just war principles should be allowable under the law. Since it is not, the law is unconstitutional.

The Justice Department's appeal will be brought before the high court when it reopens in the fall.

Catholic moral teaching—reinforced by a November 1968 statement by the U.S. bishops—traditionally allow objection to a given war on the grounds that it is unjust. American law, however, only allows for absolute pacifists to qualify as conscientious objectors.

Selective Service laws have generally allowed objector status for members of the "peace" churches—Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren—but not for Catholics, Jews or members of the historical Protestant churches such as Episcopalians, Presbyterians, etc.

CRS SHIPS FOOD TO DROUGHT AREA

New York—(RNS)—Catholic Relief Services shipped another 10,000 tons of U.S. government surplus food to drought-stricken Yemen, where a famine threatens.

In early July, the U.S. bishops overseas aid agency diverted some 3,000 tons of food to the tiny Arabian republic following an urgent appeal. The latest shipment, valued at \$750,000, left Galveston as relief officials in Yemen reported that more than a million persons were in danger of starvation.

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