COURIER / WORLD

Swiss Students in Papal Guard

Vatican City — (NC) — Eighteen Swiss students, including some seminarians, have summer jobs with the papal Swiss guards, whose ranks have thinned over the years. They are serving at the Vatican and Castelgandolfo in posts usually assigned to regulars, some of whom are on vacation.

The present complement of the Swiss Guard is about 50. At full strength the corps numbers 75.

For the past 15 years, the number of young Swiss men willing to enter papal service has been dropping. There have been reports of dissatisfaction with pay scales and duty hours.

Vatican Tightens Traffic Code

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican City will introduce a new traffic code Sept. 1 designed to clamp down on drunken driving and other traffic offenses in the papal enclave.

Breathalysers will be employed to help police detect motorists driving "under the influence of alcohol," and up to three months imprisonment may be meted out to such persons. A three-month jail sentence is also stipulated for persons driving under the influence "of drugs or of any substance that removes or diminishes understanding or will power."

Parking fines will be increased from 40 cents to \$3.20. Pedestrians will be subject to fines of \$1.60 for blocking cars or crossing the street other than at marked crossings. Fines not paid within five days are automatically doubled. No clerical exemptions are allowed.

New speed limits for Vatican City's 6½ miles of narrow, winding road will be 20 miles per hour for autos, and 10 for motorcycles. Since its creation in 1929, Vatican City has never had a fatal traffic accident.

'Political' Priest Marries

Lisbon — (RNS) — A priest who has run afoul of government authorities for his criticism of Portugal's colonial policies, has been excommunicated by the Church for marrying without ecclesiastical permission.

An official Church communique issued here announced that the recent marriage of Father Jose da Felicidade, 45, was an infringement of canon law that carried the automatic penalty of excommunication.

The priest told newsmen here he decided to get married after failing to win a reversal of a suspension order. He said he had publicly supported the abolition of mandatory priestly celibacy and had been suspended for "serious doctrinal errors."

Private School Aid Studied

San Juan, P. R.—(NC)—Battle lines were being drawn here as public hearings opened on the feasibility of an amendment to Puerto Rico's constitution permitting direct government aid to private schools.

The Puerto Rican Catholic hierarchy is expected to support the proposed amendment. Controversial Bishop Antuillo Parilla, S.J., who teaches at the state university and has no duties with the hierarchy, publicly has taken a stand against the amendment, favoring instead direct aid to students.

The Evangelical Council, composed of a number of Protestant groups, also announced it will oppose the amendment and press for direct aid to students.

COMING LATER!

The "Summer Festival" of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester

WILL BE

SEPTEMBER 18-19 Motherhouse grounds 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Chicken supper
Food and game booths
AND

Christmas-shopping specialties!

- Mark Your Calendars Now -

School Aid Case Heads for Top Court

Washington — (NC)— Lawyers for Catholic, Jewish, Protestant and non-sectarian private schools across Pennsylvania have filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court outlining the constitutionality of the state's aid program for private schools.

Urging that the Pennsylvania Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Education Act (PNES EA) is both constitutional and "squarely in the public interest," attorneys for the schools are seeking continuation of the established aid program.

Lemon vs. Kurtzman, the case testing the Pennsylvania program, could be a landmark aid decision. If the Supreme Court upholds earlier rulings, it will clear the way for state purchase of services from non-public schools across the nation.

On Nov. 28, 1969, a Philadelphia federal court upheld the constitutionality of the act in a 2-1 decision.

The test case was brought before the court and is now being appealed before the Supreme Court by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups and individuals.

In the civil liberties union brief, the appellants restate the position taken in other aid cases: that no aid whatsoever can go to church-related schools

The brief for the schools contends that the Philadelphia court rightly held that it is permissible for government to support the secular functions of church-related schools.



