

120-Year-Old School to Close

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — St. Joseph's Academy, Minnesota's oldest private high school, will close at the end of the current school year.

St. Joseph's is one of four high schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis owned by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Reasons given for the closing were "steadily declining enrollment, sharply rising operating costs and large-scale remodeling needs."

Enrollment at the 120-year-old school declined from 790 in 1951 and 719 in 1964 to 354 girls this year.

Bishop Sees 'Over-Protection'

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — United Methodist Bishop Roy C. Nichols of the Pittsburgh Area believes that "children today — poor and affluent — have one thing in common: they are over-protected."

President Nixon has appointed Bishop Nichols chairman of a forum on "The Crisis in Values" to be held during the White House Conference on Youth. The black bishop previously served as regional chairman of the Pennsylvania Governor's Committee on Children and Youth and was president of the Berkeley, Calif., Board of Education.

At a press conference here, Bishop Nichols said, "Affluent parents often give their children everything and society often places poverty children automatically on welfare rations." Young people today are "just the product of their times," he said. "Youngsters feel that their lives are molded by the social forces around them. . . They feel less involved in shaping their own destinies."

New Approach to Obscene Mail

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Post Office Department has announced new regulations to stem the flow of pornography into homes where it is not wanted.

A person will be able to fill out a form giving his name and address and indicating his desire not to receive sexually-oriented materials. The Post Office will print a list each month of those filling out the forms, and mailers of obscene materials must buy the list and remove all the names from their lists. The cost to mailers has not yet been determined.

Under a provision of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, mailers must determine for themselves whether they are subject to it. The act takes effect Feb. 1.

Fund Raiser Begins Prison Term

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Victor J. Orsinger, lawyer, financier and fund-raiser credited with causing the bankruptcy of an American Catholic religious order, has begun a three- to nine-year prison sentence at Lewisburg (Pa.) federal penitentiary.

He was convicted in November 1968 of fraudulently using the money of the Sisters of the Divine Savior, and his appeals finally ran out.

A week earlier, it was announced that a religious order of priests and Brothers which he advised, the Society of the Divine Savior, filed for bankruptcy in a Wisconsin federal court. The order reportedly lost more than \$7 million it invested in an Orsinger real estate firm.

Compassion Advocated

Washington — (NC) — A woman's relatives and friends, and society generally, share in the sin of her abortion when they withhold compassion, Father James T. McHugh declared here.

Father McHugh, director of the family life division, United States Catholic Conference (USCC), said the key element in helping the expectant mother is "compassion." He spoke to a regional meeting of the Catholic Social Workers Association.

Without compassion, "it is too easy to speak of abortion as a sin and a crime and to assign the guilt to the woman." In fact, the priest continued, "the sin and the crime is very often on the part of society, on the woman's friends and relatives or the doctor who performs the operation."

Those who say a woman should be allowed to decide for herself whether to bear a child or have an abortion may be most guilty of all, Father McHugh asserted, because they tend to isolate her when she most needs human help.

"But the evil, the sinfulness and the crime are really the lack of compassion that we give to the pregnant woman," the priest said explaining that with compassion, society has the responsibility "to guarantee medical and financial assistance to every pregnant woman as a right."

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