

Circulation Decline Slackens

New York—(RNS)—Catholic newspaper circulation continued to decline in 1970, but at a slackened rate.

Circulation declined about 5 per cent during the current year. A 7 per cent loss had been experienced in 1969. The 1970 circulation of all Catholic newspapers totaled 6,156,257. Catholic magazines, meanwhile, showed a decline of 9.8 per cent in their circulations. The 1970 circulation reached 18,190,569.

This data and much more is carried in the new Catholic Press Directory, just published, which covers the U.S. and Canada.

Priest, Two Blacks on Bible Board

Philadelphia—(RNS)—For the first time, a Catholic and two black members have been elected to the board of the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

Father Raymond J. Teller, director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, will become the first Catholic on the society's board. The new black members are the Rev. William Shaw, pastor of White Rock Baptist church, and Mrs. Jesse B. Pratt, president of Philadelphia's Church Women United.

Township Limits Abortions

Huntington, L.I.—(RNS)—Huntington's town board has voted unanimously that any abortion operations in this town must be performed in a licensed and accredited hospital.

Although similar action has been taken in New York City and Niagara Falls, this was the first such restriction in the suburbs on the New York State abortion law which went into effect July 1.

The Huntington law was initiated after the Medi-Complex Ltd. of Smithtown, a subsidiary of Comprehensive Educational Systems, Inc., of Brooklyn, announced plans last month to establish an abortion clinic in the township. About 14,000 residents of the largely upper-middle class town of 20,000 were reported to have signed the petition spurring town action. A major concern expressed was that Huntington should "not become an abortion mill or capital."

New CCD Executive Named

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Father Charles C. McDonald, director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville, has been named executive secretary of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of the Confraternity.

Father McDonald, who will assume his new office in mid-January, has served with the CCD for five years. He has also been a high school teacher and associate pastor in the Louisville see.

Priest Warns of Subtle Racism

Philadelphia—(NC)—The executive director of the Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations says that religious communicators must overcome "the institutional subordination of a people."

There's a difference between overt racism and "indirect subordination," Msgr. Philip J. Dowling told the Religious Public Relations Council of Philadelphia.

The reality, he explained, is that a great deal of racism exists without direct intent of any individual group. The problem is finding the correct words, for "Words can block the meaning of what you say because of the reaction that the words cause."

Vatican Gives \$10,000 for Refugees

Geneva—(RNS)—The Vatican will make a contribution of \$10,000 to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Father Henri de Reidmatten, O.P., permanent observer of the Vatican to the Office of the United Nations and Specialized Institutes in Geneva, told the U.N. High Commission, Prince Sadriidun Aga Khan, that the Holy See wished to stress the value of the work carried out by the commission.

Communist countries of Eastern Europe have never contributed to the budget of the commission, according to U.N. sources.

Pope Receives President's Envoy

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI received President Nixon's personal envoy, Henry Cabot Lodge, in a 25-minute private audience Dec. 12.

The Vatican revealed no details. Lodge told newsmen that he and the Pope had discussed "a lot of things relating to peace and the alleviation of human suffering." It was his third call on Pope Paul since President Nixon appointed him last June.

Vatican Names EEC Envoy

Vatican City—(RNS)—The Vatican has established diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community (Common Market) and will send a permanent observer to the Council of Europe.

A Vatican spokesman said Archbishop Iginio Cardinal, Papal Nuncio to Belgium and Luxembourg, will take on the functions of nuncio to the EEC and observer to the European council. The move, the spokesman added, confirms the interest of the Vatican in the EEC institutions which, at the regional level, promote collaboration between states toward peace and moral, cultural and economic progress.



Mooney Students Entertain Senior Citizens

Cardinal Mooney High School student members of the Action for People Association entertained senior citizens from the Town of Greece on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13. Also invited were senior Sisters of Mercy from the order's Motherhouse, some of whom are pictured above. Students provided transportation to the Mooney cafeteria for the party, which included entertainment by the Mooney band and chorus.

Take Mary More Seriously, Protestant Magazine Urges

Adrian, Mich.—(RNS)—A Methodist magazine has suggested that Protestants "do more justice to Mary by taking her motherhood with its theological implications a little more seriously."

The Michigan Christian Advocate, official publication of the state's United Methodists, said in a Dec. 10 editorial—"Mary Belongs to Christmas"—"it is impossible to understand the coming of Christ without fully acknowledging that He was His mother's son."

Protestants traditionally play down the importance of Mary, and accuse Roman Catholics of "going overboard" in "their devotion to her as the Mother of God," the magazine said. However, "that she was chosen to bear Jesus is of great significance and deserves proper recognition."

"Without human parentage, Christ's humanity would not make sense and would be totally unreal," the editorial conceded.

It cited a recent report from Europe that "ecumenism is progressing in Holland through dialogue centering on Mariology between Roman Catholics

and members of the Dutch Reformed Church."

"This may be evidence that advancement is being made in reconciling differences in the part Mary plays," the Methodist magazine said.

Protestant objections to the Catholic emphasis on Mary have often centered on the titles given here, such as "Mother of the Church." "For Protestants," said the editorial, "there is no 'Mother of the Church' but only a Lord of the Church. To give Mary the title is to take something away from the Lordship of Christ."

Nonetheless, it suggested that a Christmas emphasis on the entire Holy Family should say something to today's parents and children.

"That first Christmas would have been vastly different," the editorial said, "if Mary and Joseph had not been together at the time of the great event."

The editorial was carried in "The Editor's Pulpit," which is according to Editor John E. Marvin, "motivated by the freedom inherent in the Methodist tradition . . . what appears here is the editor's point of view and not necessarily the official position of The United Methodist Church."

Two Lutheran Colleges Clamp Down on Abortion Ad

Minneapolis—(RNS)—A controversy over an advertisement for a New York abortion clinic halted the mailing of the student newspaper at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and brought the permanent suspension of the student newspaper at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

Both colleges are affiliated with the American Lutheran Church.

Dr. Kenneth Bailey, vice president for academic affairs at Augsburg College, ordered that 300 copies of the Augsburg Echo normally mailed to alumni and other off-campus subscribers be held "until the question of the advertisement's legality can be resolved."

The distribution of 1,500 copies to campus readers was not affected.

Dr. Oscar A. Anderson, Augsburg president, issued a statement saying that the editors showed "very poor judgment" in using the abortion ad.

"I have indicated in a letter to the editor the seriousness of this breach of faith and we have arrived at an understanding," Dr. Anderson said. "He has been most cooperative . . ."

Meanwhile, at Concordia, President Joseph L. Knutson announced termination of The Concordian following a meeting with the executive committee of the school's board of regents.

Termination had been recommended by the Concordia Student Affairs Committee composed of three faculty members, three administrators and three students.

China Rumor: Two Priests Visit Canton

Hong Kong—(RNS)—Hong Kong Radio reported that two Italian Roman Catholic missionary priests recently spent "several days" in Canton (Communist China) and were allowed to celebrate Mass in their hotel room.

The broadcast quoted Father Mario Marazzi, identified as "a spokesman for the Catholic community in Hong Kong," as saying that both priests (unnamed) had received Chinese visas to stop over in Canton, en route from East Pakistan to Hong Kong.

A Hong Kong newspaper, "The Star," characterized the granting of visas to the priests as a "diplomatic bombshell," the broadcast said, adding, "This straightaway sparked speculations as to whether Communist China was beginning to show a conciliatory attitude towards the Vatican."

According to the report, Father Marazzi refused to discuss the matter beyond saying, "I was certainly very surprised and pleased to hear about this incident. It is probably connected with the fact that Italy recently recognized China."

The priests are members of the religious congregation called Servants of Mary, with headquarters in Rome.

Home Life Sought As Adjustment Aid For Patients

Homes are needed for men and women who are ready to leave the Rochester State Hospital, Dr. Russell Barton, director, said this week.

He described the patients as well behaved and able to take care of themselves. But in many cases, Dr. Barton said, they cannot cope with life alone.

The family care program of helping mental patients adjust to community living has been successful for 30 years, the doctor added. The hospital takes care of any medical, dental or psychiatric problems, and the state pays \$150 a month for the room and board of each patient.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs. S.J. Robertson of the hospital's social service department, 473-3230, extension 424.