

Vatican Memo Renews Birth Control Battle

By FR. ROBERT A. GRAHAM

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican's memorandum on international birth control policies is proof that Pope Paul VI does not consider his encyclical *Humanae Vitae* to be a dead letter.

An American magazine first revealed that Jean Cardinal Villot, papal secretary of state, had sent a long document to his representatives strongly criticizing programs of population control now officially sponsored by international agencies. He instructed them to take action to oppose these policies, particularly by appeals to governments.

An Analysis

Existence of the message, dated last Nov. 14, was acknowledged by the Vatican press spokesmen who said that "it is no secret what the Holy See

thinks about birth control."

Clearly, the pontiff does not regret the negative judgment he took in his encyclical and is ready to use whatever influence he possesses to give it effect and vindicate it.

The "working paper," as it is described, consists of 15 pages, plus an annotated bibliography. It is addressed to Nuncios and Apostolic Delegates and to the Roman observers at such institutions as the United Nations, UNESCO, the International Labor Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and others.

The document, according to informed sources, recognizes the gravity of the world demographic problem as a legitimate concern of the public powers. It recommends that the bishops take increasing interest themselves.

It admits that divisions

among Catholics on the morality of artificial birth control weaken opposition to the current program.

The Vatican has not deviated, despite lack of support, from its contention that the rhythm method is deserving of serious consideration and is the only morally acceptable method of birth control.

The document has particularly sharp words against the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) which it says distinguished itself by a zeal in contradiction to its very mission. On the other hand, it has kinder words for the World Health Organization (WHO) which has cast doubt on the priorities and medical justification of current campaigns.

Apparently conscious that it will be accused of attempted imposition of the private moral tenets of a particular commu-

nity, the Vatican counterattacks in advance. It charges that the international organizations themselves violate human and religious rights by imposing specific solutions that are in conflict with the consciences of individuals.

The Vatican also charges that current programs, by advancing allegedly unproved and possibly dangerous methods whose real function is still unknown, are indulging in unscrupulousness hitherto banned in the medical profession.

It scoffs at humiliating inducements, such as the gift of a transistor radio, or job advancement, persuading illiterate individuals to submit to the birth control programs.

The document says that the negative reaction to the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* was charged with such passion and such publicity that its positive

aspects have been overlooked. And it regrets that funds are more readily available for family planning than for development programs. Over-concentration on the demographic problem, it says, is the result of the simplistic views of certain governments and of the public as well.

The document contains frequent references not only to Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, but also documents from Vatican II and the encyclical, *Mater et Magistra*, of Pope John XXIII. It concludes with directives for the papal representatives.

International organizations, it notes, depend upon member governments ultimately for their authorizations. It asks the nuncios to bring to the attention of the home governments the importance of shaping a clear policy and of instructing their delegates accordingly.

Reconsider Position On Aid, Rocky Asked

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After the governor's statement, the sponsors of the bill said they would amend the bill to provide even stronger safeguards, including a proposal that only schools at least five years old would be covered in the plan so that no new "private" schools would be set up.

Father Brent pointed out that when the Quality Integrated Education plan was being debated in Rochester public schools, the diocese put a ban on transfers from public schools to prevent anyone attempting to flee integration by enrolling in Catholic schools.

"The ban has since been lifted," he said, "but we monitor the situation and we will reinstitute the plan if needed."

Meanwhile, other Catholic school officials expressed "shock" and "amazement" at the governor's statement.

Msgr. Eugene J. Malloy, secretary of the Brooklyn Roman Catholic diocese, said the supporters of parent-aid legislation, "patterned so carefully after Gov. Rockefeller's scholar-incentive program, are shocked and amazed at his statement."

"We believe this unfairly prejudices the legislative process," he added.

Msgr. Joseph T. O'Keefe, secretary for education of the New York archdiocese, evinced "great disappointment" over the governor's position, said that nonpublic school educators "will continue to press for parent-aid this year."

He said "to stand by and do nothing would be to jeopardize the future of schools educating thousands of children in New York State. When the governor says he does not favor parent-aid, it appears that he means no aid for non-public schools."

Msgr. O'Keefe urged the legislature to endorse the bill any-

way, since the outcome will have "a profound effect on our secular society for years to

Msgr. Malloy, while criticizing the governor for speaking out against the proposed parent-aid measure, said, "We are disappointed that he fails to realize the seriousness of the financial crisis facing non-public schools, since he is opposing the only viable program of assistance before the legislature."

"To impose drastic tax increases on the hundreds of thousands of citizens who send their children to non-public schools without providing them with any relief to meet rising school costs would be rank injustice," charged the Brooklyn educator.

Gov. Rockefeller, who indicated at his news conference that he still favors some form of state aid to parochial schools, is also insisting that the so-called Blaine Amendment to the state constitution be repealed, first.

J. Alan Davitt, executive secretary of the State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, said parochial school parents and students will be "offended by this rejection and will simply resolve to press all the more for financial help which they urgently need and which the governor has promised."

Davitt pointed out that the governor has offered neither "a viable alternative" nor has he proposed any changes that would make the parent-aid bill acceptable.

Some legislative sources reported that Gov. Rockefeller, confronted with money problems, wants to hold off any additional assistance to education until next year, when the state's Fleischman Commission report on aid to non-public schools is due.

BOMBAY LEADERS PLAN TRIBUTE TO CARDINAL

Bombay — (RNS) — Bombay citizens representing various religious denominations have formed a committee to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay.

Sheriff C. S. Jain, chairman, announced that it is planned, as a memorial of the Jubilee, to establish a project "of lasting value to the poor, irrespective of caste or creed." More than \$8,000 already has been contributed, he said.

Cardinal Gracias was consecrated, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay on June 29, 1946. A special reception for the cardinal is planned in April, rather than in June, a monsoon month.



Sportsmen Honored by CYO

Terence Cardinal Cooke (center), Archbishop of New York, presents two noted sportsmen with the annual Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) awards. Receiving the CYO's Coach of the Year Award is Alex Webster (left), head coach of the N.Y. Giants football team. National Football League Commissioner Pete Rozelle is presented with the John V. Mara Memorial Sportsman of the Year award. (RNS)

Schools Hopeful

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last October: "sell your product, promote your parish school."

Publicizing school news in the Sunday bulletin, sponsoring "walk-through" days and Open House for parents, making films and writing brochures on the assets of the parochial school have been some of the approaches of schools engaged in active recruitment campaigns.

Personal contact with parents of children who are starting school next Fall has been very effective.

The success of this strategy has heartened principals at Blessed Sacrament, St. John the Evangelist, Greece, St. Ambrose, Irondequoit and St. Mary's Elmira.

"Quality education" has also been an important factor. During the past five years, many parochial schools witnessed a severe decline in enrollment. With fewer children to teach, the schools were free to innovate and experiment. These creative education programs have, in turn, attracted more parents and increased enrollment.

At Holy Trinity School, Webster, for example, enrollment dropped in five years from 600 to 350 pupils.

"But for the last two years, enrollment has gone up," commented Sr. Anne Michael, SSJ, principal.

She credits this rise to a "fine non-graded primary program," now in existence for three years.

City schools, especially, have seen an "educational re-birth." As Catholic families moved out of urban neighborhoods, and enrollment declined, the schools were able to specialize and individualize their instruction. These special programs attracted the attention of parents, both Catholic and non-Catholic, black and white, who preferred the smaller classes and personalized instruction that the Catholic schools are able to offer.

St. Francis Xavier School on Bay Street, Rochester, offers both regular and remedial programs to its students.

"The remedial program has been a great selling point," Sr. Kathleen Kohl, SSJ, principal, observed. "It generated the interest of the black and non-Catholic community," she added.

St. Philip Neri and Holy Rosary schools, whose special primary programs use mothers as teachers' aides, have met with the same parental interest.

Registration in all parishes takes place in March, and only then can these predictions be validated.

But all the signs seem to proclaim loudly: "Don't write off the Catholic schools; they're filling up again."

Spain Seeks New Pact With Vatican

Madrid — (RNS) — The Spanish government wants to scrap the 1953 Concordat between Spain and the Vatican and negotiate a new, revised church-state agreement.

The Foreign Ministry has scored the 1953 treaty as "obsolete and outdated," and said the government hoped for an eventual separation of church and state.

A new draft concordat was drawn up jointly last July by a Vatican commission, headed by Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, secretary of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, and the Spanish Ambassador to the Holy See, Antonio Garrigues y Dias-Canabate.

The draft proposal has produced little enthusiasm in government circles, and has been criticized by a majority of the 81-member Spanish Bishops' Conference on the grounds that it does little to loosen the close ties between church and state.

The 1953 Concordat gave the Spanish Church a voice in education, the supervision of marriage laws, and financial support by the state. In exchange, it gave the Spanish head of state the right to choose bishops from a list of three nominees selected by the Vatican from a prior list worked out jointly by the Vatican and the government.

In 1968 Pope Paul VI asked Generalissimo Francisco Franco to "relinquish voluntarily" his role in the naming of bishops, in light of the principle set down in Vatican II that "the apostolic office" of bishops entails that the right of nominating and appointing bishops "belongs properly and of itself exclusively to the competent ecclesiastical authority."

Gen. Franco, in reply, insisted that any revision of the Concordat should be a general one.

The present draft proposal, in a kind of compromise, abolishes the government's right to choose bishops, but obliges the Vatican to inform the government as to its choice "in order to learn if there are any objections of a political character."

MCC Singers Set Concert

The Monroe Community College Chorus and Jazz Singers, back from a tour of Central New York and Canada, will present a concert at 8:30 tomorrow night, Feb. 18, in the campus Little Theatre.

The program of classics and contemporary music includes two songs written by Robert Mowers, a member of the Jazz Singers.

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