

# Vatican Tells 19 Priests: Reconcile Views with Cardinal

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The Vatican Congregation for the Clergy ruled that the 19 priests who broke with Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington, D.C., on his interpretation of the 1968 papal encyclical on birth control must reconcile their views with the prelate where Church teaching is explicit, it was disclosed here.

However, the ruling does allow for the reinstatement of the suspended priests without a formal report of their stand on the encyclical to Cardinal O'Boyle as he had demanded.

The congregation said that while conscience is valuable as a "subjective norm," in the determining of the rightness and wrongness of an act, "objective norms" supplied by the Church, the Pope and the bishops must be the determining factor.

The case, which had been deliberated for several months, was filed last July with Pope Paul by 19 priests—among more than 50 who originally dissented—who had some or all of their priestly faculties suspended by Cardinal O'Boyle. They had refused to go along

with the prelate's interpretation of the encyclical, "Humanae Vitae," issued in July 1968, and banning artificial birth control.

John Cardinal Wright, American-born prefect of the clergy congregation, recommended that "without further delay, formality or necessity for written or oral explanations, each priest who accepts the findings set forth . . . present himself to his ordinary (Cardinal O'Boyle) and declare his desire to enjoy the full faculties of the archdiocese."

It was not immediately known how many of the priests remaining would respond to the Vatican ruling allowing for reinstatement, but Father Joseph Byron, pastor of St. James Parish in suburban Mt. Ranier, Md., in whose name the case was presented, said he was "glad the decision came through and that the elements are there for a solution."

Cardinal Wright established a pastoral, not a judicial basis, for the case — a method which gained the approval of all priests concerned.

The congregation's ruling fo-

cused on the teaching authority of the Church, holding that when a priest received the canonical faculties of a diocese, he is "assumed to communicate this teaching, according to the traditional norms of the Church, to those under (his) care."

The document, entitled "Theological and Pastoral Principles," held that Pope Paul's encyclical "declares without ambiguity, doubt or hesitation the objective evil of the contraceptive act, is an authentic expression of the Magisterium, and is to be understood in accord with the dogmatic tradition of the Church."

"Conscience is not a law unto itself," the document added, "and in forming one's conscience one must be guided by objective moral norms, including authentic Church teachings."

It characterized the role of conscience as a "practical dictate, not a teacher of doctrine," adding that the essential element in doctrine is that "the duty and responsibility to teach on matters pertaining to faith and morals" belongs to the Pope and the bishops.

## Father Phil Berrigan Reindicted

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — A federal grand jury here reshuffled the cast of defendants in the alleged plot against a presidential aide when it returned new indictments.

Re-indicted was Father Philip Berrigan, SSJ, once described

by the government as the leader of an alleged plot to kidnap Henry Kissinger, an adviser to president Nixon, and to blow up heating equipment in federal buildings in Washington, D.C.

The new indictment adds charges that the group planned to "destroy draft records in several cities."

The priest's brother, Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, named as a co-conspirator in the original jury presentment but not indicted, was removed from the list of the co-conspirators.

Both priests are now held in a federal prison in Connecticut upon convictions for leading raids on Selective Service boards.

Two new indictments were presented by the grand jury. It named:

- Mary Cain Scoblick, 32, a former nun from Baltimore, and John T. Glick, 21, of Lancaster, Pa. Glick is now serving a pris-

on term for participating in a raid on a federal building in Rochester, N.Y.

Others re-indicted were:

- Anthony Scoblick, 30, a former Josephite priest and husband of Mary Cain Scoblick.

- The Rev. Neil McLaughlin, 30, of Baltimore.

- The Rev. Joseph R. Wenderoth, 35, of Baltimore.

- Sister Elizabeth McAlister, 31, a nun now on leave from her post at Marymount College, Tarrytown, N.Y.

- Egbal Ahman, 40, of Chicago, a graduate student whose home is in Pakistan.

Renamed co-conspirators — but not defendants — were Sister Beverly Bell, 43, of Washington, D.C.; Sister Marjorie Shuman, 47, also of Washington; Sister Jogues Egan, 52, former president of Marymount College; and William Davidson, 43, a physics teacher at Haverford College.

## Bishop Hogan Reports on Detroit Meet

(Continued from Page 1A)

tional celibacy," Bishop Hogan reported, inspired several unofficial theological studies which were passed around in Detroit. These papers saw the desire for optional celibacy as a result of the current "emphasis on personal freedom and integrity."

The Bishop added, however, that another reason for the present questioning of celibacy is that "in the practical living-out of the priesthood there is not sufficient evidence that celibacy has totally liberated us for complete dedication to service."

"All reports seem to agree that marriage would offer no solution to the frustrations of the clergy which seem to be evident in the sociological and psychological reports," Bishop Hogan said. "In fact, a majority of priests seem to be telling us that they would not choose marriage, but they would like the freedom of the option."

The bishops elected John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, John Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis and Archbishop Leo Byrne of St. Paul-Minneapolis to represent them at the Rome Synod.

## Evangelicals Condemn 'Abortion on Demand'

Los Angeles — (RNS) — The National Association of Evangelicals has declared abortion on demand to be "morally wrong" except in cases of incest or rape or when the mother's life is threatened.

A 260-word resolution expressing this stand was approved by the 1,000 clergymen and laymen at the concluding sessions of the three-day, 29th annual meeting here.

The NAE thus became one of the first conservative, evangelical Protestant bodies to take a collective stance on the abortion issue raised in recent years by changing legislation and court decisions.

While the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) have issued statements, repeatedly in recent years condemning abortion, the resolutions on abortion from Protestant bodies have mainly come from more liberally oriented denominations, frequently favoring liberalization or repeal of abortion laws.

The NAE resolved, in part, that "abortion on demand for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment or economic advantage is morally wrong, and (the NAE) ex-

presses its firm opposition to any legislation designed to make abortion possible for these reasons.

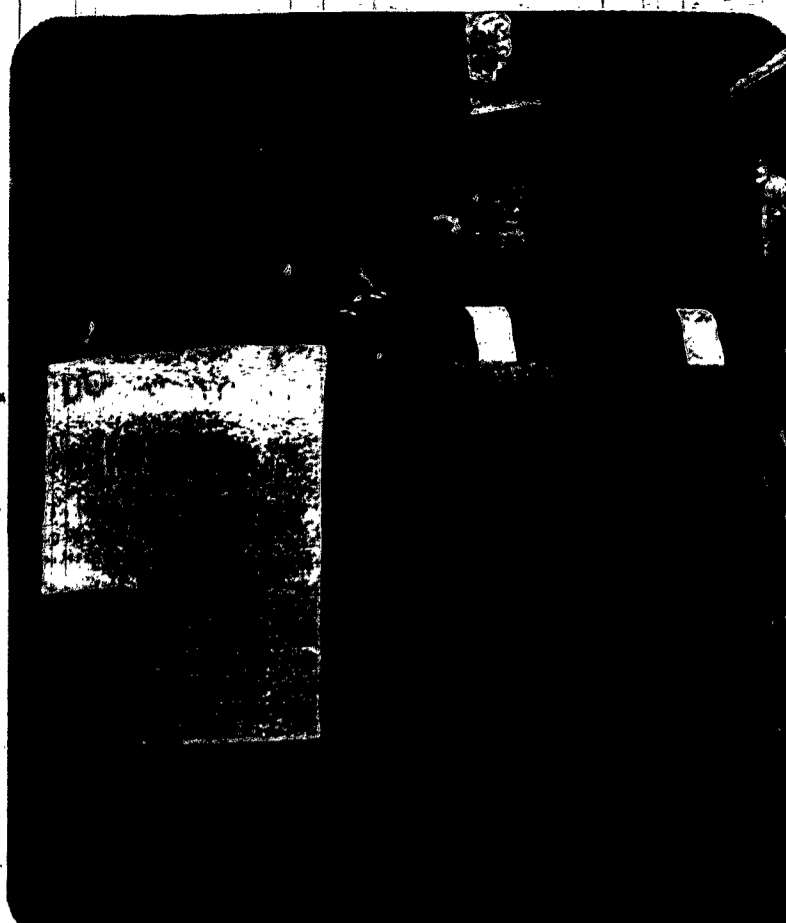
"At the same time we recognize the necessity for therapeutic abortions to safeguard the health or the life of the mother, as in the case of tubular pregnancies.

"Other pregnancies, such as those resulting from rape or incest, may require deliberate termination, but the decision should be made only after there has been medical, psychological and religious counseling of the most sensitive kind."

The statement said the moral issue "is more than a question of the freedom of a woman to control the reproductive functions of her body. It is rather a question of those circumstances under which a human being may be permitted to take the life of another."

## Medical Missions

New York — Shipments of 3,280,543 lbs. of medicine and hospital supplies, valued at \$17,007,007 were forwarded to 3,467 mission recipients last year by the Catholic Medical Mission Board, according to its annual report.



## Happiness Is . . .

Using a cartoon character, this youngster at the Right to Life Rally at the State Capitol last week showed his concern over the present abortion on demand law. Young and old from all over the state demonstrated support for the Donovan Crawford anti-abortion bills which will restore the protections of the law to both mother and unborn child and end abortion on demand.

## Abortion Law Change Urged

Buffalo, N.Y. — (RNS) — New York State's liberalized abortion law comes "dangerously close" to ending actual human life in the womb, the Episcopal Bishop of Western New York said here.

Bishop Harold B. Robinson made the comment as he urged the State Legislature to amend the new abortion law to shorten the period during which abortions can be authorized from the current 24 weeks after conception to 20 weeks.

The Episcopal bishop commented that Christians and others often face the responsibility of choosing something less than perfect in this world. He said a therapeutic abortion may be undertaken up to the 20th week if it is a responsible act made in the knowledge that a greater good is likely to result. Up to the 20th week, the fetus is certainly non-viable, the bishop said, but after that abortion would become "a doubtful medical procedure" that could kill a baby.

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