

Wanderer Forum Assails Population Tax

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS)—Use of tax funds to control population was opposed by the National Wanderer Forum, an annual gathering of conservative Roman Catholics.

A resolution said government financing of contraception, abortion, sterilization and other control programs would, in effect, aid in establishing "secular humanism" as a religion and thus violate the U.S. Constitution.

The forum was attended by 600 Catholics from 34 states and six foreign countries—mostly lay people but with a sprinkling of priests and nuns.

In another action, the forum asked the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to protect unborn children threatened by abortion.

(Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of the Notre Dame University and Civil Rights Commission chairman, informed a Wanderer columnist that

counsel for the commission held that abortion does not fall within the commission's legislative mandate.)

Sex education in public and parochial schools was criticized as "part and parcel of the secular humanist anti-life movement" and as usurping the prerogatives of parents.

The forum asked U.S. Catholic bishops to insure that catechetical teaching texts used in their dioceses conform to recent guidelines issued by the Holy See, and to see that the directive that children make their first confession before first Communion is observed uniformly.

Catholic priests were urged in another resolution to remain faithful to their vows of celibacy just "as the married laity are called upon to maintain fidelity to their sacramental commitment."

At the final session, a statement prepared by the forum's executive board was read which mildly rebuked the "liberal" views of one of the forum's speakers, Dr. Germain Grisez, a professor at Georgetown University.

Dr. Grisez, who spoke at the forum awards banquet, reportedly questioned the morality of Catholics attending the forum who supported the war in Vietnam.

The board said it was sending a copy of the book, "America on Trial" by retired Gen. Thomas Lane, a forum participant, to Dr. Grisez. It said the Lane book deals with the issues in a context which members of the Wanderer

Forum might find more satisfactory than Dr. Grisez' position.

The board also proposed that Dr. Grisez enter into a dialogue with the forum participants. It said that the Wanderer would publish discussions on the political issues by Dr. Grisez and members of the forum "if only he can arrange to have our views presented along with his

in some national magazine of liberal-leftist viewpoint."

In another action, the forum decided to withhold judgment on a proposed national pastoral council for the Catholic Church in this country until an "objective evaluation is made" of its possibilities. It said it rejected the steering committee as capable of conducting an objective evaluation.

Internationalization Of Jerusalem Advocated by Pope

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul has made a direct call for the internationalization of Jerusalem.

He said that the Holy City, "enjoying as it does a unique and mysterious destiny," should be protected "by a special statute guaranteed by an international treaty."

Jerusalem, he said, no longer should be "an object of implacable controversy and endless dispute, but a meeting place of concord, peace and faith."

The Pope's comments were made in an address before the College of Cardinals and other leaders of the Roman Curia on his "name day," the feast of St. John the Baptist, for whom he was named at baptism.

He covered a wide range of issues but stressed the right and

the duty "not only of Catholics, but of the whole of Christianity to concern themselves with the destiny of the Holy Places and especially of Jerusalem."

"It seems to us," the Pope said, "that it is in the interest of all that this city, enjoying as it does a unique and mysterious destiny, should be protected by a special statute guaranteed by an international treaty, and that it should thus better be able to become no longer an object of implacable controversy and endless dispute, but a meeting place of concord, peace and faith."

In his address the Pope said that all Christianity shared an "inalienable" right to custody of Holy Places, and that Moslems and Jews enjoyed the same right over their shrines in the Holy City.

Document Reaffirms Communion Sequence

Vatican City — (RNS) — A new Vatican document has reaffirmed the traditional practice of children making their first confessions before receiving first Communion.

The affirmation appears in an appendix of the General Catechetical Directory published here by the Congregation for the Clergy.

Although stipulating that tradition should be followed, the document states that episcopal conferences, upon the agreement of the Vatican, may admit children to First Communion without first receiving the Sacrament of Penance.

The directory is available only in Latin and Italian at this time, but will be published in English and other languages shortly.

Divided into six parts, the volume contains basic principles for catechetical action and a compilation of books to be used.

Part 1 is devoted to material involving the current world situation and the Church, designed to suggest to national conferences the necessity of analyzing their own situations in such a way that catechetical activities can operate effectively.

Part 2 considers the relationship which should exist between the Ministry of the Word and the Deposit of Revelation; Part 3 lays down fundamental criteria that must be followed in the selection and exposition of catechetical data; Part 4 points out that the purpose of catechetics is the faithful communication to man of that which God has revealed.

The fifth section deals with catechetics for different age



John Cardinal Wright, head of the Congregation for the Clergy, displays the new General Catechetical Directory at a Vatican press conference. The volume, divided into six parts, contains basic principles for catechetical action and a compilation of books to be used. Cardinal Wright said the document was the result of "intense collaboration" between the world's bishops, the Holy See, and special commissions made up of theologians and catechists. (RNS)

groups. It stresses material for use with adults, noting that it offers the presentation of the Christian message in a more complete way and affords a basis for work with youth and children. Vatican Radio, in a broadcast, described this portion as the most important form of catechetics. The last section is concerned with suggestions for episcopal conferences and other agencies concerned with catechetics.

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