

# High Vatican Spokesman Hits Legalized Abortion

Vatican City — (RNS) — L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City daily, has warned that acceptance of abortion could eventually lead to the elimination of other categories of human life, such as "incurables and the congenitally defective."

It said that legalized abortion constituted "a monstrous step backward on the path of Nazi-type genocide."

The attack came in an article signed with an asterisk — an indication, according to Vatican observers, that the author is a high-ranking ecclesiastic, possibly Pope Paul himself.

A bill was introduced in the Italian Senate on June 18 that calls for limited legalized abortions in the country.

Gynecologists have estimated that three million clandestine abortions are carried out yearly in Italy. Italy's total population is about 54 million.

Emphasizing the Church's concern over rapid population growth, L'Osservatore Romano declared, "The real solution is to be found only in economic development and social progress."

Abortion is no solution, the

journal insisted. "If one forgets that the right to life is inviolate," it said, "then other categories of persons are likely to present themselves, after abortion is admitted, as subjects for disposal," such as "useless mouths," "incurables," "the congenitally defective," and "dead weights."

The paper then warned that in a society that functioned according to "utilitarian and inhuman criteria," a progressive loss of conscience could allow such categories of people to be eliminated for the common good "without scruple."

It pointed out that such was the case with Nazi Germany.

## Departure Rate Rising, Priesthood Study Shows

Rome — (RNS) — A survey commissioned by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has revealed that the number of men leaving the priesthood grew from 563 in 1964 to an estimated 2,000 in 1970.

The survey also confirmed a common belief that the vast majority left because of dissatisfaction with the Church's rule of mandatory celibacy.

Details of the study, conducted by Msgr. Emelio Colagiovanni, a member of the Congregation for the Sacraments and a trained sociologist, were

published in L'Avenire, a Catholic newspaper, Aug. 5 and 6.

The survey, which covers a 30-year period from 1939 to the end of March, 1969, shows a steady upsurge in the number leaving the priesthood in the sixties.

In 1965, departures totaled 559. In the following year, the number more than doubled, to 1,189. It nearly tripled, to 1,670, in 1967. The rate slowed in 1968, with 1,906 leaving, but from January through March of 1969, an additional 1,142 left.

Msgr. Colagiovanni surmised that if the figures were brought up to date they would show that a total of about 13,000 men had left the priesthood since 1939.

As to their reasons, Msgr. Colagiovanni said 75 per cent gave "celibacy" as the "overriding" one, while a large number said it was "an important factor" in their decision.

He said the study also disclosed that among priests there was "a growing dissatisfaction" with the role of the priest, "a sense of rebellion" against Church authorities and institutions, and "a feeling of frustration and insecurity."

The number who left because of "loss of faith," he noted, was "proportionately small, but increasing."

### NEWS DEADLINE

A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

## Judge's Ruling

### Clean Text Does Not Redeem Pornographic Pictures

New York — (RNS) — Criminal Court Judge William E. Ringel ruled here that pornographic pictures cannot be "redeemed" by the mere presence of accompanying non-obscene text.

"The non-obscene material does not make up for nor make amends for the obscene material," he said in refusing to dismiss the obscenity charges against the sellers of two publications which surround allegedly obscene pictures with legal text.

The publications are a magazine called "Sexscope" and "The Illustrated Presidential Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography."

The "Illustrated Presidential Report" used text from the commission report around allegedly obscene photographs. Judge Ringel said the pictures were not used by the commission in preparing the original report. "The conclusion is inescapable that, on its face the text . . . has been employed as a mere cloak to hide that which is patently obscene," the judge said.

His opinion held that "the presence of some non-obscene material (does not) redeem the

publication from the stamp of obscenity where the overwhelming impact of the books, as here taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest and affronts community standards."

Asst. Dist. Atty. John H. Jacobs hailed the opinion and stressed its importance in cases being prepared here against about 20 publications as part of the city's drive against obscenity, pornography and prostitution.

"This opinion comes down hard and clearly on a major point," he said. "We will use this point in all our cases."

## I-C Houses To Open Oct. 1

Oct. 1 is the opening date for 44 town houses in the low and moderate housing project sponsored by I-C Development Corp., an offshoot of the Catholic Interracial Council.

Applications for residence in the project, located in Rochester's 3rd Ward, are being received at Immaculate Conception Rectory on Edinburgh Street, reported James Dobson, I-C chairman.



### Anniversary Mass

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty distributes communion at Hill Haven Nursing Home during the 100th Mass arranged for residents by Trinity Council, Knights of Columbus, of Webster. Knights and their families, members of other councils and relatives of the residents joined in the anniversary celebration Aug. 10. Masses have been offered at the Penfield home twice a month since January, 1968.

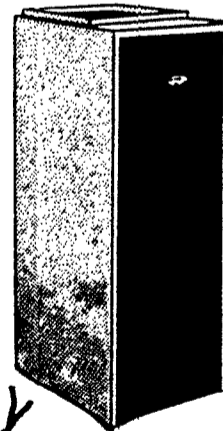
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