

## Child's Conscience Private, Cardinal Wright Says

By FR. VINCENT T. MALLON

Rome — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic cardinal defended the privacy of children's consciences against the invasion of some "modern professional teachers of religion."

Speaking at the First International Catechetical Conference, Cardinal John Wright—the former Bishop of Pittsburgh—challenged the assertion that parents and teachers have the right to invade the sanctuary of a child's conscience to decide when he is ready to make his first confession of sin. The statement was occasioned by a discussion by the American delegation concerning the appropriate time for a child's first Confession and Communion.

"No one," the cardinal said, "neither you nor I has the right to invade the sanctuary of a child's conscience. The role of the parent and teacher is to help form the conscience of the child, never to invade it by telling him when he can and when he cannot admit his guilt before God, once he is properly prepared. Neither you nor I can dare to do so."

## National Shrine Pilgrimage Scheduled

A one-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., is being sponsored by the

## L.I. Pastors Given OK for Latin Masses

Rockville Centre, N.Y. — (RNS) — Roman Catholic pastors of the Rockville Centre diocese have been given permission to celebrate Latin Masses "if and when they judge that this would provide better pastoral service to those who desire it."

However, the Scripture readings must be in the language of the people and materials to aid congregational participation must be provided. Worshippers must be instructed in the pronunciation and meaning of the Latin used in the responses of the people, according to Father Harold J. Heindel, secretary of the diocesan liturgical commission.

Bishop Walter F. Kellenberg, in granting permission for the Latin Masses, suggested that pastors discuss the appropriateness of the services with assistant priests and others in the parish before scheduling them.

He also stipulated that the Mass in Latin must "follow the new Ordo Missae approved by Pope Paul VI on April 3, 1969 with the condition that those attending will actively participate in the liturgy as prescribed by the rubrics of the new Ordo Missae."

Some traditionalist Catholics have advocated the older Tridentine Latin Mass, celebrated in Vienna, Va., despite the protests of local Catholic bishops.

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Courier-Journal

Thirteen hundred enthusiastic delegates from more than 40 countries from every continent in the world warmly applauded the conclusions reached by the Congress after five full days of intense study and debate. In addition to the five cardinals and 60 bishops, 300 laymen, 400 Sisters and Brothers and 600 priests participated in the proceedings, sponsored by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy which is headed by Cardinal Wright.

Early in the conference it was evident that a number of delegates, particularly from the Americas, had come loaded for bear, fearing that the Vatican would try to impose on them a set of pre-written conclusions and a new set of norms of catechetical activities found in the recently published "General Catechetical Directory."

The openness of Cardinal Wright and the enthusiastic, mostly ex tempore address of Pope Paul VI, who received the group in a special audience, sent the delegates home feeling for the most part that Rome was one with them in a search for a positive, authentic, modern approach to catechetics.

International Federation of Catholic Alumnae on Saturday, Oct. 23.

The group will be welcomed by Msgr. McDonough, director of the Shrine, at 1 p.m. Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough, of Louisville, Ky., IFCA's honorary president, has invited the clergy attending the pilgrimage to concelebrate Mass with him at the Shrine at 4 p.m. A buffet supper will follow. Headquarters for this activity will be at the Shoreham Hotel.

Clergy, IFCA members, their families and friends are invited. Persons planning to join the pilgrimage are asked to contact Marie Connel, 7333 New Hampshire Ave., Apartment 609 Hyattsville, Md. 20783, as soon as possible.

## Hilton Women Open Season

Hilton — The Confraternity of Christian Women of St. Leo's opened the Fall season with a buffet dinner. The 1971-72 calendar lists such activities as a fashion show, evening of recollection, card party, communion breakfast, New Year's Eve Dance, and parish social action programs. The theme for the year is "Christian Works and Fellowship", and centers around helping those in need in the parish.

## Scout Swim Badge Course Offered

A Boy Scout Swimming Merit Badge course will be offered at the CYO, 50 Chestnut, Oct. 16 through Nov. 20. The class will meet each Saturday afternoon from 1 until 3.

Boys taking this course must already have passed first class scuba swimming requirements or be capable of doing so without further instruction. The class will be filled on a first-come basis.

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