

Value of Pluralism Stressed at Meeting Of School Officials

St. Petersburg Beach, Fla. — (RNS) — Top Roman Catholic school administrators agreed to seek development of a school curriculum guide that "insists upon the value of group cultural differences" in reflecting a genuine picture of U.S. society.

The potentially explosive resolution came in response to — among other things — a suggestion from Father Mark Schommer, superintendent of Catholic schools in Green Bay, Wis., who said that "Catholic schools teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not the culture of middle-class America."

Although he enthusiastically endorsed Father Schommer's proposal, Father Albert A. Schneider, Santa Fe, N.M., school superintendent, warned Catholic education officials to be "prepared to get your brains knocked out by the American educational establishment."

"This is the time that Christ is going to cost," he declared.

The discussions and resolution were prompted by remarks of two guest speakers, Brother Joseph David, executive director of the National Office of Black Catholics (NOBC), and Msgr. Geno Baroni, executive director of the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs.

Explaining that integration as currently practiced in the U.S. "is forcing your way into institutions where you are not wanted," Brother David charged that "the moral will (of majority groups) is not compatible with constitutional realities."

One reason "the moral will is not there," he said, is that the "Catholic Church has the worst record for upward mobility among blacks" of any institution.

Noting the profusion of blacks in the teaching profession, he lamented the fact that only 2,000 blacks teach in Catholic schools where the total teaching complement is 165,000. "Worse," he added, "a person that once served as principal in an all black school somehow loses his qualifications and is

reduced to lesser status when white pupils are introduced to that school through integration."

Msgr. Baroni cited the lack of a national "moral will" and attributed it to a "failure of the American way of doing things." He charged that "a compulsion to fit into the Anglo-Saxon mold, to join the Readers' Digest syndrome, has stripped many Americans of their cultural strengths and has reduced them to politically marginal citizens."

In the ensuing resolution by the Catholic school officials, the group urged "a Catholic education that both embraces and supports a valid pluralism in life-styles and cultural roots," and established the machinery for "the recruitment and employment of teachers and administrators from minority groups within Catholic educational programs."

The 250 Catholic school officials went into the three-day meeting as the Superintendents' Department of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and came out, through a switch in by-laws, as Chief Administrators of Catholic Education, NCEA.

It was explained that the redesignation takes into consideration the reorganization and expansion of Catholic educational administration at all levels, to include the creation of boards of education, Catholic educational activities under one diocesan director of education.

In other resolutions, delegates endorsed "cooperation with those religious congregations who are attempting to implement individual contracting" for teaching Sisters and announced support of "tax relief for parents for elementary and secondary educational expenses" in non-public schools.

The latter position was communicated by telegram to President Nixon, who was advised that "such tax consideration is essential for the preservation of educational options, which are in a very real danger of passing from the American scene."

Help Chinese Christians, Minister Asks Nixon

Minneapolis — (RNS) — The Rev. Richard Wurmbrand has written President Nixon asking him to intervene in behalf of "100,000 imprisoned Chinese Christians" when he visits Peking.

Mr. Wurmbrand, imprisoned by the Communist regime of Romania for 14 years, also suggested that Nixon "should speak out as a Christian" and tell the Chinese Communist leaders about Christ.

A Lutheran minister, Mr. Wurmbrand leads an organization called "Jesus to the Communist World," which has headquarters in Glendale, Calif. He spoke in several Twin Cities' area churches.

In an interview, Mr. Wurmbrand said his organization seeks to aid families of the Christian martyrs in Communist countries.

Once, he said, his organiza-

tion succeeded in printing the Gospel in Russian on pages 2 and 3 of an issue of an American Communist newspaper shipped to Russia, he said.

Mr. Wurmbrand said there are about 9 million Christians in jail in Communist countries and "tens of thousands" held in asylums because they are regarded as insane if they believe in God.

The "underground church" of Russia is growing faster than the church in the rest of Europe, he said.

Mr. Wurmbrand recalled Khrushchev's boast that Communists will "bury" the U.S. and its children will some day live under Communism.

Instead, the minister noted, Stalin's daughter now lives in the U.S., under capitalism, and his granddaughter was baptized in a U.S. church.

Catholic Move To Pentecostalism Noted by Priest

Green Bay, Wis. (RNS) — "Catholics are a little tired of religion that's distant, impersonal and authoritarian," a Jesuit priest declared here. Like many other Christians he said, they are turning to God more deeply through Eastern mysticism and the new Pentecostal movement.

"These are the two religious movements of the day," he affirmed.

"People want to experience Jesus," said Father George Maloney, S.J., who is also a priest of the Russian Byzantine Rite of the Catholic Church. He asserted that mysticism provides the "search within" and Pentecostalism describes the "revelation of God in community."

The priest, who heads the Pope John XXIII Center for Eastern Christian Studies at Fordham University, New York, said that the two movements need and complement one another.

In his native Green Bay to conduct a retreat for local nuns, the Jesuit also celebrated a modified Byzantine Mass in English at his brother's home, and preached at an interdenominational gathering of Pentecostals at the First Assembly of God church in Green Bay.

Interviewed here, Father Maloney explained that Eastern mysticism is rooted in Jewish mysticism. "The Hebraistic world feels the existence of God," he said, adding that the Western Church, steeped in Greek rationalism, needs this experiential sense of the deity.

"The Western Christian prays with his mind . . . while the Eastern religions pray with the whole man — body, soul and spirit."

CIA - Jesuits Links Alleged

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Americans United for the Separation of Church and State has called for a congressional investigation of alleged "links" in Latin America between two U.S. agencies and the Society of Jesus.

In a letter to the House Special Subcommittee on Intelligence, Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United, cited a book by a former Jesuit scholastic, Dr. David E. Mutchler, which charges that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Agency for International Development (AID) "in recent years have granted public funds to the Jesuit order and the Roman Catholic Church in Latin America."

Dr. Mutchler's book, *The Church as a Political Factor in Latin America* (Praeger Publishers, 1971), also holds, according to Mr. Archer, that CIA funds are subsidizing Jesuit political activities in the Philippines.

"We believe that a Congressional investigation of Dr. Mutchler's charges would be very much in order, particularly since the CIA-AID Jesuit entanglement in Chile and elsewhere may have produced results counter to the goals of U.S. policy in Latin America," the letter declared.

NEWS DEADLINE

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

Wednesday, November 3, 1971

Father Lum:

Catholics Must Form Conscience on Draft

The Catholic bishops of the United States last week approved a declaration asking civil authorities to recognize the fact that Catholics have the right to claim conscientious objector status.



Father Lum

It is also asked that consideration be given to the idea of granting amnesty to young men who have been imprisoned or left the country because of sincere opposition to compulsory military conscription.

Commenting on the declaration, Father William Lum, liaison between the diocese and the Draft Information Center at 50 Plymouth Ave. N., said: "The declaration of the bishops emphasizes again the fact that the decision to participate in war or not, the decision to serve in the armed forces or not, involves the teaching of the Gospel and the teaching of the Church, as well as the conscience of the individual person."

"And so," he pointed out, "the Catholic who is a citizen of the United States has the responsibility to make a moral decision about military service."

He regrets that "the recom-

Freeze Gets 'Cold Shoulder'

Skokie, Ill. — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic parish in this suburban Chicago town, found in violation of President Nixon's wage and price freeze, is still seeking legal opinions on whether it can raise its fees for religious education programs.

Classes for Catholic children attending public schools began Oct. 9 at \$50 a family in St. Peter's parish here for 15 instruction periods. The fee had been raised from \$25 a child and \$5 for each additional child per family.

However, John McDonough, a teacher in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program, complained to the U.S. Office of Emergency Preparedness. He was informed that the parish had agreed "to comply fully with the presidential order."

But Father Kenneth Klose, pastor of St. Peter's told newsmen "nothing has been decided," and added that the parish "is trying to get legal opinions" on the issue.

mendation calling for an end to a peacetime draft could not have been made known more publicly and more forcefully before the Congress voted to extend the Selective Service law."

Father Lum emphasized that the next step would be to get the word out to people that Catholics can be conscientious objectors.

"The work would also include following up the recommendations of the statement. Too often statements are issued but no one hears about them or no one does anything about them," he said.

He suggested ways to build public support for a consideration of amnesty for those who are in prison or who have left the country because of their opposition to compulsory military service.

"Support should be built to call for an end to the draft in 1973," he said. "But, as long as there is a draft the law should recognize the position of the person who in conscience cannot fight in an unjust or immoral war."

On the role of the Rochester diocese in bringing about such a change, Father Lum said: "While the diocese has joined with a number of other churches and organizations to support the work of the Draft Information Center of the Rochester area, draft information and counseling should be made widely available."

"Perhaps the Catholic high schools could take advantage of the kind of program which the information center put together for the city high schools in which guidance counselors were given information and training about the draft and in which resource centers with information on the draft were put into school libraries."

"The Vatican Council called on all of us," he concluded, "to evaluate war with an entirely new attitude. And we have a responsibility to consider within our own conscience what course we should follow to give witness to a Gospel which is a doctrine of non-violence rather than violence, of peace as Jesus proclaimed it, a Gospel that affirms life and human dignity."

Father Lum has been stationed at St. Margaret Mary Church, Rochester, since 1969.

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