



A Kiss from the Pope

Pope Paul VI kisses the head of a little boy during his weekly general audience in the Vatican. During his address to the pilgrims, the pontiff noted the distinction made by some between "the structure and the Spirit of the Church" and said "one cannot isolate the Spirit from the structures instituted by Christ, whether they be ministerial or sacramental." (RNS)

Chinese Catholic Priest Sees Vatican-Peking Tie

Rome — (RNS) — A Chinese Roman Catholic priest, reportedly exploring with Vatican officials the possibilities of "dialogue" between the Holy See and the People's Republic of China, said in an interview that he is happy over "the understanding" he has encountered at the Vatican "as regards the Church in China."

"It seems to me," Father Wei Tsing-sing told newsmen, "that we are on the right road for talks between the Holy See and Peking." He added that he thought action in this matter was "urgent," not only "to save what can be saved of Catholicism in China" but "above all, to bring the light and peace of the Gospel to 700 million Chinese."

"One human being out of four is Chinese, and the Church cannot neglect one fourth of humanity," he added.

Father Wei, a parish priest in Paris, came to Rome in mid-November on his own "personal initiative" to discuss the question of Vatican-Peking relations with members of the Secretariat of State and of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church.

The priest outlined what he felt were indispensable conditions for setting up a viable Vatican-Peking dialogue.

"First, the Vatican should recognize the Chinese People's Republic as the only legitimate government of the Chinese people . . .

"Second, formal diplomatic relations between China and the Holy See (broken off in 1951) should be re-established and, allied with this condition, there should be a 'modus vivendi' for the Church inside China."

Father Wei said that "two basic factors" were entailed in any effective modus vivendi: "respect for religious freedom on behalf of the Chinese government, and recognition by the Holy See of the 45 bishops consecrated in (mainland) China between 1957 and 1962 without permission from Rome."

"However," he added, "before this recognition, it is indispensable that Peking liberate those bishops and lay persons still in jail, while bishops

College Youths Form Coalition

La Grange, Ill. — (RNS) — A group of some 200 young people, mostly students from colleges and universities around the country, formed a National Youth Pro-Life Coalition here and called on all potential presidential candidates to clarify their positions on abortion.

The coalition was formed during a three-day meeting of a national "Thanksgiving for Life" student conference at the Christian Life Center here.

Sponsored by SOUL (Save Our Unwanted Life), a student pro-life group based at the University of Minnesota, the delegates from some 25 states participated in seminars conducted by experts in the medical, legal and sociological aspects of abortion.

Under the theme, Educate to Action, they also plan ways to organize youth on the local and national levels to promote a "pro-life mentality."

Susan Bastyr, co-founder of the year-old Minnesota SOUL agency, said delegates will return to their youth groups to implement the programs and proclaim to the country that "there is no human life not worth living."

She indicated that the students will now challenge a "society which promotes peace and justice while tolerating the violence of destroying the unborn child in abortion."

In his key address, Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers, resident in ob-

stetrics and gynecology at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., called attention to the "dehumanization inherent in human abortion." He said that "abortion is a primitive and negative response to a complex social problem."

"Instead of being destructive," he added, "we can be constructive by promoting and creating positive solutions which are in keeping with the dignity of every person."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of the late President John F. Kennedy and wife of R. Sargent Shriver, former ambassador to France, told the conference by telegram that if America is to be a "moral leader in the world today" it does not need "to boast of hundreds of thousands of abortions."

She said that "to use abortion is selfish and lacks respect for life: it robs all mankind of its nobility."

The newly-formed National Youth Pro-Life Coalition, according to Miss Bastyr, will attempt to facilitate communication and cooperation among the various young people's pro-life organizations around the country.

One of its activities will be to obtain from every announced presidential candidate a clarification of his or her position on the question of abortion.

"But the utmost liberal cause is protecting other people's lives. To be pro-life, you have

to be for all life," she added.

As alternatives to abortion, SOUL members refer women to counseling services, but they are also seeking legislation requiring hospital insurance to pay maternity benefits regardless of marital status, and promoting other educational and social pro-life programs.

Notre Dame, St. Mary's Phffft!

Notre Dame, Ind.—(RNS) — The University of Notre Dame and neighboring St. Mary's College decided that "it is not possible to accomplish complete unification at this time" and dropped their plans for a full merger.

The two schools announced last May a plan that would have joined the predominantly male Notre Dame — with enrollment of 6,800 undergraduates, and the 1,800-student women's college, with St. Mary's retaining its identity within the university structure.

In a joint statement, Mother Olivette Whalen, C.S.C., chairman of the St. Mary's board of trustees, and Edmund A. Stephan, chairman of Notre Dame's trustees, said the schools "were unable to solve financial and administrative problems" connected with the proposed merger.

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