



Welcome Back!

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, left, greets Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at the door of the diocesan pastoral office as the bishop returned to work Monday, Jan. 3 after surgery and his convalescence at his residence in Victor. One reason for Bishop Hickey's smile may be that he had to run the diocese as chief administrator during Bishop Hogan's absence.

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Anti-Abortion Suit Gains Ground in New York City

From Courier-Journal Services

New York—"We will go all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary," a Fordham law professor declared here, after citing what he described as a "landmark" court judgment in his favor ordering a halt to all abortions in the city's 18 municipal hospitals.

The halt, however, did not go into effect since action on the injunction issued by State Supreme Court Justice Francis X. Smith of Queens, was blocked by appeals filed by the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation Counsel and State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz.

In granting the request of Prof. Robert M. Byrn, who earlier had been declared legal guardian for the "unborn" by Supreme Court Justice Lester Holtzman, Justice Smith held that an unborn child of less than 24 weeks, maximum period for an abortion under state law—is a living human

being, "entitled to the protection of the law."

During a press conference sponsored by the Metropolitan Right to Life Committee, Prof. Byrn said the ultimate aim of his suit is to have the state abortion law—which permits discretionary abortions up to the woman's 24th week of pregnancy—declared unconstitutional because it violates rights of the unborn child guaranteed under the 14th Amendment.

Before the outcome of a trial on the issue, the next move to halt abortions would have to be made by the plaintiff in the case, Prof. Byrn, who would have to ask the Appellate Division to vacate the automatic stay.

The defendant in this case will be New York City, because in a constitutional action the defendant is government. But, Prof. Byrn explained, if the suit is successful, all hospitals

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'So-Called Pluralism' Draws Criticism from Pope

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI assailed "so-called philosophical pluralism" as part of the "disintegration of rationality" at the root of today's "crisis of faith."

Addressing his weekly general audience, the pontiff said that modern man, in the face of the questions of truth and reality, finds himself without "a valid philosophy" and without "that common sense which is authenticated and rooted in the depths of perennial human wisdom."

He said that the "disinte-

gration of rationality" which appears to be the fruit of recent philosophic thought had led to "negative doubts, destructive criticism, and partial certainties," so that the modern mind, faced with cultural novelties and social changes, is unable "to formulate accurate analyses" of life problems or come up with viable philosophic syntheses.

Scoring what he called "the tendentious superficiality" of "party or entertainment press," the Pope said that the modern mind seemed to prefer "to

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N. Irish Political Settlement Urged by British Bishops' Unit

London — (RNS) — Immediate negotiations for a political settlement to end violence in Northern Ireland were urged by Roman Catholic Bishop Charles Grant of Northampton in a letter to Britain's Prime Minister Edward Heath.

Bishop Grant wrote as president of the Commission for Justice and Peace of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He said the commission was "gravely concerned by the deteriorating situation in North-

ern Ireland."

"You are no doubt aware that categorical denunciations of the recourse to violence have been made by the Catholic Church in Ireland and in this country," he told Mr. Heath.

"But we believe that if the vicious circle of violence and counter-violence is to be broken, then negotiations for a political settlement bringing together all the parties to the dispute need to start, and to be seen to start, immediately.

Trappists' New Look

This sign at their abbey gives some idea of the stoicism of the Order of the Cistercians of the Strict Observance, more popularly known as Trappists. In this week's centerfold, photojournalist Lawrence E. Keeffe takes you beyond the walls of the abbey in Piffard for a word-and-picture look at the lives of the Trappist monks.

