



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Don't Worry — No Fire

This fire truck was not at St. Bernard's Seminary in response to a fire, though there is always the heat of activity there. To find out what the truck was up to, turn to Page 7; and to learn more about life at St. Bernard's and about World Day of Vocations, turn to our centerfold.

Bishops Denounce Population Report

From Courier-Journal Services

Atlanta — The bishops of the United States, meeting in public for the first time, issued a stunning denunciation of the recommendations of the presidential Commission on Population Growth and the American Future.

The bishops called that portion of the report which recommended abortion as a birth control measure as "immoral."

To counteract the impact of the report the 237 bishops unanimously agreed to sponsor a nationwide week of prayer and study on the sanctity of human life next October.

The bishops' statement was drawn up by a committee headed by Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York. It singled out the commission's view that abortion on demand is an acceptable social policy when "the child's prospects for a life of dignity and self-fulfillment are limited."

The bishops asked: "What constitutes self-fulfillment? How does one arrive at the conclusion that another person's

prospects for life of dignity and self-fulfillment are limited?"

Asking also who would be responsible for such decisions, the bishops warned that drawn to its extreme such a policy could be used against racial and other minority groups.

The statement was unanimously endorsed after a rider concerning the Vietnam war was turned down. A small group of bishops wanted to broaden the statement's scope to include renewed American bombing in Vietnam as also representing "a callous disregard of human life."

The anti-war stand did win some support in that the threats to human life to be expounded in October also will include "war, violence, hunger and poverty."

At their meeting last fall, the bishops declared that the Vietnam war no longer met the requirements for a "just war."

Earlier in their three-day meeting, the bishops voted to seek Vatican permission to

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Unofficial Survey of Bishops Favors Communion in Hand

Atlanta (RNS) — A majority of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops favor letting U.S. Catholics receive Holy Communion in the hand, if they choose, a recent survey found.

However, the vote — 106 yes and 69 no — fell short of the two-thirds vote required by the Vatican to institute the practice, it was reported at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Spring meeting here.

Bishop James W. Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the bishops' liturgy committee, said the committee had decided not to offer a motion on the question at the meeting here in view of the results of the survey.

He said further time is needed for the question "to mature."

He also emphasized that communion-in-the-hand would be entirely optional for each communicant. He said where the practice has been put into effect in other countries it has been found to be "reverent, dignified and orderly."

Bishop Malone cautioned bishops against continuation of the unauthorized practice of giving Communion in the hand in some U.S. parishes. Such unauthorized practice, he said, is hurtful to Church law and discipline and is "disruptful."

Cardinal John Carberry of St. Louis proposed that Catholics be polled for their thinking on the question, but no action was taken on his suggestion. A poll in the St. Louis archdiocese reportedly found a large majority of Catholics opposed to receiving Communion in the hand.

Wide Range of Activity in Diocese

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While the nation's bishops were meeting in Atlanta, there was a wealth of activity in the diocese worth note.

The Priests' Council came to grips with financial problems and as is the case with all budgetary meetings, some sparks flew. Page 7.

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A three-judge federal court has held up payments to private schools under the Mandated Services Act and an analysis on how that affects diocesan schools is on Page 2.

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A pair of interviews add spice. Charles Randisi talked to Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy on the progress of the Pastoral Council (Page 7) and Barbara Moynehan interviewed theologian Mary Daly on women's viewpoints (Page 17).

Two other stories, a little offbeat for a religious publication but nonetheless of interest to Courier readers, make print this week. John Dash has an interesting book review as well as some chat with the author of "Struggle for Identity" on Page 9. Meanwhile, one of "Nader's Raiders" was in town and some of his views gauged to consumers can be found on Page 14.