

Pope Laments Weakening Of Religious Influence

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope Paul deplored what he said is a current effort to take away "from the common way of living every sign, every criterion, every duty of religious derivation."

There are currents of thought and action, the Pope told pilgrims here, which claim that morals must concern only relationships between men and man's personal conflicts, and that there is accordingly no need

for any religious dogma in the moral field today.

He said that some seem to desire not only that religion should no longer appear in public, but that it should have no inspiring and directing influence in civil legislation and public practice.

Even when religious freedom is recognized officially, Pope Paul said, its practical operation is often suppressed and sometimes oppressed with intimidating and vexing methods that

suffocate not only consciences but free and open profession of religious feelings.

Stressing that a distinction has always existed between temporal and spiritual orders, and that this distinction must be observed as a matter of obedience to Christ's words, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's," the Pope said there is a parallel question of the relation between faith and morals.

He said that devotion to God provides the motive and energy for fulfilling all other demands, including the love of one's neighbor.

The supremacy of religious life in the human order, he said, does not allow one to avoid duties that are involved in the movement of society toward justice and progress.

While religious observance does not exonerate the conscience from obligations to one's neighbors, he said, action in society should not be deprived of beneficial religious inspiration.

Pope Paul also warned his audience here that religion should not be made the pretext for policies to serve other ends that are not just, honest and for the true well-being of one's neighbors.

LADIES OF CHARITY

Elmira — Mrs. John Dunor has been elected president of the Ladies of Charity of Elmira for a two year term. Other officers for the next two years are Mrs. Charles Prettyman, vice-president; Mrs. Irene McCarty, secretary, Mrs. Joseph Manning, treasurer and Father Richard Murphy, spiritual director.



Pope And Choir Boy

Pope Paul shakes hands with a member of the Texas Boys Choir of Fort Worth, Texas. The choir, which has its school at Denton, Texas, called on the Pope at his Summer home in Castelgandolfo. (RNS)

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