



Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Willke, top left, and Marjory Mecklenburg, top right, addressed diocesan conference on concern for the unborn. Below, speakers share platform with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Photos by Barbara Moynihan

## Conference Told Include PRO-LIFE In Sex Education

By CHARLES RANDISI

Proposals for including pro-life material in Catholic school and religious education courses were revealed at the first Conference for the Unborn last week. The conference for all diocesan educators, was held in two parts, the first at St. Agnes High School and the following day at St. Casimir's in Elmira.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who called the conference, introduced pro-life lecturers Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Willke, and Mrs. Marjory Mecklenburg, president of the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, to the priests, teachers, and students who attended.

Father Robert Collins, diocesan director of the Family Life Bureau, talked about plans for including abortion as part of sex education in diocesan schools.

Dr. Willke, a Cincinnati gynecologist, and Mrs. Willke, a registered nurse, attacked abortion on scientific, psychological, and sociological grounds. They first gave common arguments for legalized abortion, and then disputed each one systematically.

For example, Dr. Willke described the need for abortion because of the health of the mother as "ancient history." He said that because of medical progress, no mother should ever have to lose her baby because of her health.

He also said that he sees the question of abortion as a scale that has the social problems of the mother on one side, and the life of a baby on the other.

The Willkes hold that from the moment of conception, there is a separate, unique life within the mother. "In the words of Dr. Paul Ramsey," Dr. Willke said, "once conception occurs, you now have two patients."

The Willkes have written "Handbook on Abortion," as well as several other books on human sexuality.

Mrs. Mecklenburg, who was formerly a pro-abortionist, tries to give concrete alternatives to abortion. She said that the "crux of the situation" is that there are problems with pregnancies. "How do we solve them?" she asked. "Abortion . . . is not the solution."

Her Minneapolis-based chap-

ter of MCCL provides real help. The pro-life group tries to aid both the mother and her unborn child.

She said that "a healthy attitude toward sexuality" is necessary today, when "our youth are being bombarded with permissive sexuality."

"We must educate the young mother to be the best mother she can be," she also said. She listed day-care centers and means of keeping the unwed expectant mother in school as alternatives to abortion.

MCCL's ultimate goal, she said, is "a society where abortion, whether legal or illegal, is unnecessary."

Father Collins thanked the  
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## Pope Now 75, No Resignation

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul's 75th birthday came and passed without any mention of his possible retirement.

The pontiff spent the day much as he does any other day. He offered two private Masses, received several Curia and other Church leaders in audience and tended to the myriad of duties that go with the spiritual leadership of the world's more than 633 million Catholics.

There had been considerable speculation right up to his birthday that the Pope would announce his retirement.

This speculation was primarily based on the fact that six years ago he decreed that all prelates volunteer their resignations on reaching age 75.

Nor was there any fanfare about the anniversary in official Vatican circles.

"It was strictly low key all the way," observed one Vatican official. "The biggest thing about the birthday was not what the Holy Father did, but what he didn't do in line with the predictions of so many so-called 'informed' people — by that I mean that there was not even the slightest mention or hint of resignation."

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## Special Education Column by Bishop Hogan

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan uses his column "Pastoral Perspective" this week to pay special tribute to those in the diocesan educational apostolate.

In so doing the Bishop also passes along his views of the opportunities and obligations of Catholic schools, saying they can be unique, contemporary and apostolic.

Must reading for Catholic families and for those engaged in education, "Pastoral Perspective" can be found in its usual Page 3 spot.

It has been 10 years since the Second Vatican Council was convened. Religious News Service has acquired the services of some widely known religious authorities to give their views of the council from the vantage point of 1972.

This week, Father Robert Graham, Dr. Eugene

Carson Blake and Sister Mary Luke Tobin discuss the council on Page 20. The two-part series of articles will continue next week.



Older people are not necessarily depressed, poor, lonely or unhappy and, by so stereotyping them, we do the majority of them a disfavor.

Such is the theme of this week's centerfold which supplies a look at the life of older citizens.

This week's editorial (Page 3) is on the same subject.