

PIRATES  
21



Roberto Clemente, the man many believed to be baseball's premier player, is dead; the victim of a plane crash that ended a "mercy mission" for refugees from the devastating earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua. At the time of his death, the Pittsburgh Pirates' star outfielder was heading a volunteer relief effort in Puerto Rico, formed to gather food, clothing and medical supplies for the earthquake victims. The samaritan plane reportedly developed engine trouble and was trying to turn back to San Juan when it crashed about a mile offshore. The death of Mr. Clemente, at 38 a national hero of Puerto Rico, plunged that commonwealth into gloom. Celebrations connected with the inauguration of a new governor were cancelled, he was eulogized at Catholic Masses throughout the island, and Puerto Rican radio stations cancelled regular programs, substituting somber music. (RNS)

## Church Jammed for Clemente Mass

Carolina, Puerto Rico (RNS) — A Requiem Mass was offered for baseball star Roberto Clemente at the San Fernando Catholic Church in his hometown.

A chartered plane brought 70 of his teammates and others from the Pittsburgh sports world to Puerto Rico for the service.

Among those attending were baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, and president Daniel Galbreath, manager Bill Virdon and

former manager Danny Murtaugh of the Pirates, and Art Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Archbishop Luis Martinez of San Juan.

Following the Mass, the visiting friends of Mr. Clemente went out into a plaza crowded with hundreds of people. They went then to the Clemente home to pay their respects.

Mr. Clemente and four other men died New Year's Eve when their plane fell into the sea shortly after taking off from San Juan. The plane was carrying relief supplies intended for earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

On the day of the Mass here (Jan. 4), seven volunteer Navy divers operating from a Coast Guard cutter found the sunken cargo. The body of the pilot, Jerry Hill of Ypsilanti, Mich., was found the day before.

Mr. Clemente's widow, Vera, spent most of the days following the crash watching search operations from shore. The couple had three children.

## Priest Raps Report On 'Authority Crisis'

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A family life expert of the U.S. Catholic Conference here has criticized a study of birth control practices of U.S. Roman Catholics for "oversimplified and speculative" conclusions that the situation reflects a "crisis of authority" in the Church.

While he would not argue with the study's demographic assertion that there has been a large increase in contraceptive practice among Catholic couples in the U.S. over the past 17 years, Msgr. James T. McHugh said the conclusion drawn from that data is "well beyond the scope of (the) report and analysis."

Msgr. McHugh, director of the USCC's Family Life Division, was commenting on an article in Science Magazine, based on the latest findings of the 1970 National Fertility Study.

He said "its major weakness is the authors' lack of understanding of the relationship between Church pronouncements and the behavioral patterns of the Church's adherence" to those pronouncements.

The study cited in the article indicated that a "dramatic change" has taken place in birth control practices of Catholic women. It said that in 1970, 68 per cent of Catholic women between age 18 and 39 were using birth control methods other than rhythm.

The authors anticipated that by 1980 Catholics and non-Catholics "will be virtually indistinguishable in their birth control practices, reaching about 90 per cent."

Commenting on the study's conclusion — that the increase in contraceptive use by Catholics reflects a crisis of authority — Msgr. McHugh said "no one has

yet carefully studied the relationship between behavioral non-conformity to moral teaching and rejection of that teaching."

Citing the "determined propaganda efforts" of the 1960s aimed at persuading women to decrease fertility, he said "there is reason to believe that some Catholics have been persuaded that the necessity to limit family size is important for the common good (i.e., to alleviate poverty, racism, etc.) and that they have reluctantly utilized methods of contraception not in conformity with Catholic moral teaching."

"This type of moral ambivalence does not constitute a rejection of moral teaching or of the Church's mission."

On the same day as the Mass here, more than 1,300 people attended an inter-faith service honoring Mr. Clemente at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

Hundreds were standing inside the cathedral and other hundreds, unable to get in, listened outside over a radio hookup.

Participants in the service included Auxiliary Bishop Anthony G. Bosco of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, Bishop William Connare of the Catholic Diocese of Greensburgh (Pa.), United Methodist Bishop Roy C. Nichols of the Pittsburgh area and Rabbi Walter Jacob of Rodef Shalom Temple.

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## Drinan Sees 'Defunding' End to Vietnam War

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.) believes that the Senate of the 93rd Congress "almost certainly" will have enough votes to "de-fund every aspect of American involvement in Indo-China."

The lawmaker, who is a Jesuit priest, said:

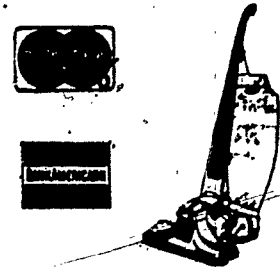
"If massive public opinion were brought to bear on the Speaker of the House and on all members of the 93rd Congress, it is possible — perhaps probable — that the House of Representatives would act to withhold funds" from the Nixon Administration in the Southeast Asia war.

He said the House of Representatives could also "prevent any further giving of military equipment" to the South Vietnamese government.

The 52-year-old congressman, who is beginning his second term, called on persons involved in the peace movement to "move as never before to bring unprecedented pressure upon every member of the U.S. House of Representatives."

"Now there is the opportunity for the House to reassert its own independence and autonomy," he said. "There has never been in the entire history of the war an opportunity more dramatic, more evident and more full of promise . . ."

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## Priests' Meeting Moved to Jan. 17

The monthly meeting of the Priests' Council has been postponed to Wednesday, Jan. 17. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. at St. Bernard's Seminary, Father Joseph Brennan announced.



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