



Photos by Laurence E. Keefe

Underclassmen at McQuaid High School got to sample some unusual learning experiences last Friday in a "mini-course" program put on by the student government. Above, "The Art of Good Italian Spaghetti" gets a practical demonstration by Gary Monachino. Right, Rush Henrietta's John Radell gives Louis Beyerlein a spin while giving gymnastics class. And below, Jack Christiano talks on "The Care of Ski Equipment."



Mini Courses with Flair

Planned Parenthood Aide Claims Nixon Is Leading States Anti-Abortion Drive

New York (RNS) — An official of Planned Parenthood here charged that President Nixon was leading the New York State anti-abortion campaign by "virtually" requesting Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York to lead the move for abortion law repeal.

Alfred E. Moran, executive director of New York City's Planned Parenthood office, also declared that abortion supporters this year are going to make their defense of the current liberalized law "a clear-cut religious issue."

Two spokesmen for the New York Catholic archdiocese responded to the remarks made by Moran during a press conference he called to announce a coalition campaign to "educate" people in New York State and the legislators (who last year voted to repeal the law) "on how the law is actually working."

Msgr. Eugene V. Clark, director of archdiocesan communications, denied that President Nixon or the White House had anything to do with Catholic opposition to abortion.

He said it "is a matter of Christian principle that antedates any American President's administration. It is also a moral issue, but it is also a constitutional question of the protection of human life."

Father Timothy A. McDonnell, assistant director of the archdiocesan Office of Christian and Family Life, told Religious News Service that Moran's intention to make abortion simply

a religious issue is a "smoke-screen" aimed at confusing the entire question.

"The question is still human life; human life is still being taken through abortion," said Father McDonnell.

"It would be nice if it was simply a religious issue, but it's not. People of all faiths and no innocent human life is taken a tremendous constitutional issue is raised," the priest said.

Father McDonnell indicated that abortion supporters, by attempting to confine the issue to religious arguments, are trying to get away from the legal issues of right to life and the recourse of the unborn to protection of the law.

In his reference to President Nixon, Moran mentioned a letter sent by the President to Cardinal Cooke last May. In that letter Mr. Nixon said he wished to ally himself "personally" with the cardinal's opposition to the New York abortion law and agreed with the Catholic position calling for repeal of the law.

"We do not say that we're taking on either the Catholic Church or the President," said Moran. "But we do say that we are horrified at the regressive position . . . that the President took in choosing the Catholic hierarchy to lead opposition to the law."

The current New York abortion allows abortions up to the 24th week of pregnancy. Last year, the state legislature voted to repeal the law but Gov. Rockefeller vetoed its action.

Vatican Leader on Jewish Relations Resigns to Do Less Formal Work

By ROBERT HOLTON

Vatican City (RNS)—The head of the Vatican's office for promoting better relations between Catholics and Jews has resigned after six years. Father Cornelius Rijk told Religious News Service in an exclusive interview that he left the Vatican post because he hopes to be able to work on a less formal level as a Catholic priest with Jews.

The Dutch priest resigned effective Jan. 1. He said he made known his intention to resign in a personal conversation with Cardinal Jan Willebrands, head of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. The office for better Catholic-Jewish relations comes under the jurisdiction of the secretariat and Cardinal Willebrands, also a Hollander.

Father Rijk repeatedly declined to discuss in any detail his reasons for leaving the post, even though it has been reported that he long has felt the Holy See has not been pushing ahead as fast as it should, or could, in bettering relations and understanding between Catholics and Jews.

He was asked about a paper on Judaism and the Catholic Church which was given secretariat approval at a plenary session two years ago, and to this day remains pigeon-holed in the Vatican.

"This did not play a major role in my decision to leave the Vatican secretariat," Father Rijk said. "I would say that I wanted to move to another level of operation and this is the one I chose."

Despite his non-committal attitude, this reporter has learned that Father Rijk and other Catholic

and Jews have been bitterly disappointed that the paper has not been issued.

The paper was designed to expand on the Vatican II document on Catholicism and Judaism which many Jewish leaders felt fell short of what was needed.

Father Rijk said he felt that at this point in his career he wanted to "be working on this matter in some capacity, not linked with Rome."

"It is always more difficult and takes much more time to do something when you are working at the top level — the official Church," Father Rijk said. "The actions at that level are more restricted."

He said that right up to the opening of Vatican II, Catholic-

Jewish relations on an unofficial basis were far less developed than Catholic-Protestant ties.

"So I think that on this level is now where I can do something to really help the situation," Father Rijk said. He now is working with the SIDIC organization, operated by the Sisters of Zion. It devotes work to a study of and collection of information on Judaism. The order's quarterly is published in many languages throughout the world.

"The aim of the SIDIC movement is to bring about a better understanding of Judaism on the part of Catholics through study, the making available of information and the setting up of contacts between people of both sides," one SIDIC spokesman said.



Rural Scene

The peace and quiet of a pastoral scene is broken by the presence of a tank outside the village of An Hoa, South Vietnam. (RNS)