



Heritage Blessed

Photo by Susan McKinney

Bishop Hogan makes things official as he administers the blessing and dedication of the Heritage apartment complex at St. Ann's home. The ceremony marking the Heritage's opening was held Sunday, July 22. The new building is designed to house senior citizens who are able to maintain independent life-styles.

S. A. Church Fears Pressure On 'Population Control'

Chicago [RNS] — Catholic bishops in Latin America are concerned about foreign pressures on their nations relating to population control, according to an American participant in an inter-American conference of Catholic bishops.

"Latin American bishops referred to the pressure on Catholic families in countries that are receiving aid from the affluent nations," said Auxiliary Bishop Nevin W. Hayes, O. Carm., of Chicago, in reporting on the conference.

"Pressure is brought on the nations as a whole to eliminate poor people by the enforced use of sterilization and abortion," he said.

U.S. bishops made it clear at the conference, Bishop Hayes reported, that the U.S. Church "doesn't approve of the recent policies of the U.S. government whether in the U.S. or abroad," in regard to these issues.

The gathering was held recently in Rio De Janeiro and

was the eighth annual meeting of the Inter-American Bishops Conference.

The conference was attended by 25 bishops representing the U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Canadian Catholic Conference and the Latin American Bishops Conference, which embraces 22 national conferences of Central and South America. In addition, a number of observers and resource personnel were in attendance.

The primary topic of discussion at the conference was the family. Bishop Hayes said the bishops concluded that Catholics should be urged to work toward making the United Nations "Population Year" into a "Family Year."

In discussing the United Nations' World Population Conference scheduled for 1974, the bishops spoke about "the need for the Church to be prepared as of now to enter into the formation of each nation's preparation," he said.

"All the existing organizations should be called into action, not

so much to oppose the idea of a 'Population Year,' but to make positive contributions so that it will be a 'Family Year,'" Bishop Hayes said.

Parents Assail Ruling

New York — The State Federation of Catholic School Parents blasted as "monopolistic," "unjust," and a "denial of a religious right" the Supreme Court decisions banning New York State laws which had been aimed at helping poor and middle class parents who are educating their children in nonpublic schools.

The federation, composed of parents from all eight Catholic dioceses, quoted the vigorous dissent of Chief Justice Warren Burger, who along with Justices Byron White and William Rehnquist, voted to help parents and children by upholding the aid laws.

Justice Burger saw the New York law as helping parents "exercise a recognized right," to provide a religious oriented education for their children.

"The Establishment Clause does not forbid government, state or federal, from enacting a program" which would aid nonpublic school students, he said.

The Executive Board of the Federation meeting in New York speaking on behalf of the over 600,000 students in the state's Catholic schools, predicted "dire consequences for our country" if the court decision stands.

Primary among its results, the board said, is "denial to parents of nonpublic school children, in practice, if not in theory, the right to exercise their freedom of choice in education... especially the poor."

The federation pledged to:

- * Fight to regain full citizenship under the law (denied them by this practical prohibition halting help);

- * Preserve and strengthen the Catholic schools;

- * Fight against "secular humanism" in society;

- * Continue to produce citizens "worthy of God and Country."

Secular Humanism Seen As 'Established' Religion

St. Paul, Minn. [RNS] — Recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court have established "secular humanism" as the official state religion in the United States, the ninth National Wanderer Forum charged here.

The forum, sponsored by The Wanderer, conservative Catholic Weekly, also called for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would protect the life of the unborn from the "moment of fertilization" until natural death.

The court decision striking down four state laws providing aid to non-public schools means Catholics should "redouble our efforts to preserve our schools as institutions which are uncompromisingly Catholic," the forum said.

It called for "voluntary financial support" and "reversal of all those steps toward their secularization taken in recent years in the illusory pursuit of government support."

The forum also criticized government subsidies of family planning methods which, it said, include "contraception, sterilization and abortion which the teaching authority of the Catholic Church has constantly

declared to be objectively evil and degrading."

"The element of coercion cannot be absent when such programs are imposed upon the poor and those on welfare," the forum said.

Classroom sex education was condemned. The forum praised as "a positive and workable alternative" a plan developed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles which assists parents in their God-given, delicate and irreplaceable duty to pass on the intimate mysteries of sex, love and family life to their own children."

Other resolutions:

- * Urged removal of Catholic theologians who dissent from the Catholic Church's official teaching.

- * Called on bishops to continue the practice of requiring First Confession before children can receive Holy Communion.

- * Asked for a re-examination of the current English translation of the Mass.

- * Urged more teaching of natural techniques of family planning, including the ovulation method.



Bishop Kearney presents Sister Ellen Kuhl with her mission cross. In back Father Joseph Reinhart, director of the Propagation of the Faith, Bishop Hickey; Sister Laurel Davis, kneeling.

Departure Rites Held for Sisters

On Sunday, July 15 the Sisters of St. Joseph held their seventh departure ceremony for two members of that Congregation who are going to work in the Brazil missions — Sister Ellen Kuhl, and Sister Laurel Davis.

Sister Ellen, daughter of Mrs. William Kuhl and the late Mr. Kuhl, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1962 from St. Mary's of the Lake parish in Skaneateles, New York.

After graduating from Nazareth College, she taught at St. Stephen's School in Geneva, Christ the King in Rochester and at both St. Alphonsus and St. Mary's Schools in Auburn.

Sister Laurel, whose home parish is St. Paul's in Oswego, is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John R. Davis.

She entered the Congregation in 1957, received her BA at

Nazareth College and her MA from Middlebury. She has taught at Mother of Sorrows School in Rochester, Mt. Carmel High in Auburn, and most recently at Nazareth Academy.

Both Sisters attended an orientation workshop at Marykholl this summer and will begin a full language and cultural program in Rio shortly after their arrival in Brazil at the end of this month.

Bishop Hickey gave the homily and blessed the mission crosses at the Sisters' Departure Ceremony, while Bishop Kearney presented the crosses and also said a few words to the two new missionaries.

The Sisters of St. Joseph first opened their mission in Brazil in 1964. There are presently eight Sisters serving in three mission areas staffed by the Rochester Congregation and the Irish Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



Rapt Attention

Patricia McLaughlin, left, and Bruce Watson give their full attention to a Mass at the Sisters of St. Joseph mother-house. The mass was held as part of the summer day camp program Fresh Fun Focus, run by the Sisters. The camp which features swimming, sports, arts and crafts and nature study, is open to children every weekday during July.