



Blast Rocks Ulster Church

The wreckage of a car is inspected after bombs inside it exploded outside St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland. Four persons were seriously injured in the blast, which occurred only minutes before 800 worshippers would have been streaming out at the end of the Mass. The church's stained glass windows were shattered and other buildings were damaged by the explosion. [RNS]

Doctor Quits Post Over Abortion Rule

Trenton, N.J. [RNS] — An Irish-born obstetrician and gynecologist has resigned his post at Hunterdon Medical Center here, calling the legalization of abortion "a deciding factor" in his decision to quit and to return to Ireland.

Medical center officials have not disclosed to what degree the hospital is implementing the Court's ruling. Officials said the hospital is operating according to guidelines set down by the state attorney general following the Court decision.

Dr. James Delahunty, a Roman Catholic and a leading opponent of abortion in central New Jersey, said the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion placed him in a precarious position of opposing on moral grounds an issue that has been given legal sanction.

Dr. Delahunty said several non-professional factors also entered into his decision to leave the hospital and the country.

"I am not happy about the educational situation for my children," he said. "I have doubts about American discipline and concern."

Dr. Delahunty, who resides with his wife and five children in nearby Whitehouse Station and is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes parish there, said the medical center's adherence to the Court's ruling made possible the performance of abortions in the same hospital area where he would be delivering babies.

Whatever the factors involved in the decision, Dr. Delahunty said his four years in American medicine have left him an embittered man.

"We have to get back to a more Christian environment," Dr. Delahunty said. "I dread to say this, but I fear some physicians with lagging practices enter into abortion as an economic measure."

He said he could not "on moral grounds" accept such a situation.

Admitting that he has never been pressured to perform an abortion, the physician said he foresees a time when his right to refuse such an operation might be challenged legally.

The Irish-born physician, an active member of the pro-life movement in the Trenton Catholic diocese, said he has been offered a position at Bon Secours Hospital, County Cork.

Adult Ed Program Fizzles

By PAT PETRASKE

Lack of an adequate response to registration has caused the St. Helen's Adult Educational Center, which was to open Sept. 6, to be cancelled for the fall term, announced Michael Vigue, principal at St. Helen's School.

The idea, however, will be revitalized at an October meeting with regional educators and others who have expressed interest in the center, Vigue said. A solution to the problems which plagued the center may enable it to be in operation by this January or September of next year.

Vigue believes poor timing and too comprehensive a program resulted in only 45 registrations for the 48 courses. "They were so scattered over the 48 courses that we couldn't even run three courses," he maintained. Approximately 400 registrations were needed to put the center into full operation.

The new St. Helen's Adult Education Center would have provided a continuing education program for residents of the southwest region and would have encompassed three basic divisions of religion, humane and

social arts and general education.

Over 7,000 brochures had been distributed but Vigue believes that a "four page brochure may not get read." While area pastors were cooperative, many did not think it was necessary to put the brochure into the Sunday bulletins, he said.

Vigue feels that perhaps the summer distribution of the brochures "had asked for a commitment at a time when people were on vacation or when they were preparing to go back to work." On the other hand, a notification sent earlier in the Spring would have been too early for a commitment for the Fall term. Another reason for the poor response was the "people were not prepared for such an elaborate structure and did not know how they could fit in," he maintained.



THE OPEN WINDOW
Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

In your column, of July 18, you mention that the Catholic Church's new position in favor of freedom of conscience can be found in the Vatican II Council's Declaration on Religious Freedom.

You then say, "Other theologians have questioned the age old position on the relation of Church and State and finally won recognition for the American system of separation of Church and State."

I would like very much to read the documents in which the American system of separation of Church and State is recognized. Can you tell me the names of the documents and the books or other sources in which I might find them? Thank you.

Sincerely,
Martha Laties
Chairman, MCPEARL
[Monroe County Public
Education and Religious Liberty]

Dear Mrs. Laties,

I may have misled you in two ways: 1. the foremost expression of the doctrine of separation of Church and State is found in the document of Vatican Council II entitled The Church in the Modern World, specifically in Chapter IV, paragraph 76 and 2. There is no specific reference to the American system in these documents.

The section from "The Church

in the Modern World" reads thus: "It is very important, especially where a pluralistic society prevails, that there be a correct notion of the relationship between the political community and the Church . . ."

"The Church and the political community in their own fields are autonomous and independent from each other. Yet both, under different titles, are devoted to the personal and social vocation of the same men."

The Declaration on Religious Freedom also touches on this matter — particularly in Chapter II, paragraph 15, "In order that relationships of peace and harmony be established and maintained within the whole of mankind, it is necessary that religious freedom be everywhere provided with an effective constitutional guarantee and that respect be shown for the high duty and right of man freely to lead his religious life in society."

Although these may not sound like very positive affirmations of the doctrine of separation from our point of view, they are an about face from the universal stand (Protestant as well as Catholic) which followed the Reformation and made all the states of Europe identified with a particular faith.

I might also refer you to Andrew Greeley's The Catholic Experience, published by Doubleday, and John Courtney Murray in a book he edited, Freedom and Man, published by Kenedy.

Pontiff Chides Brazil Legate

Castel Gandolfo [RNS] — Pope Paul VI told the new Brazilian ambassador to the Vatican that, as Pope, he stood "at the side of" the bishops, priests, religious, and laity who were working for human development in Brazil.

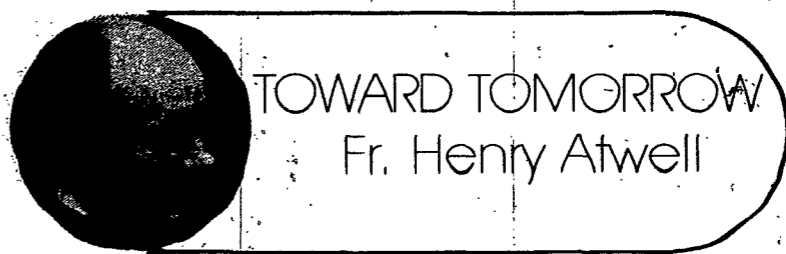
Addressing the envoy of a country whose authorities have been accused by the Catholic Church of harassing bishops, and jailing and torturing priests, nuns, and lay Catholics, Pope Paul said:

"Common well-being can be achieved to the extent to which the various rights and duties of the human person are guaranteed."

The new ambassador, 57-year-old Antonio Borges Castello Branco, presented his credentials Aug. 28. In a brief address, he told the Pope that the government of Brazil was "dedicated" to the social and moral well-being of all Brazilians.

The pontiff said, "We stand at the side of (Brazil's) bishops, priests, religious men and women, and lay men and women who are endeavoring to make available to all the spiritual and human gifts which God has given your people."

The Pope then added: "Without justice and respect for the dignity of all men without distinction, there can be no lasting peace or real progress."



President Nixon at his recent press conference asked the nation to leave Watergate to the courts and get on with what he termed, "the business of the people."

Earlier, in his televised talk to the people of the nation, he said he wanted to put the Watergate muddle "in perspective from the standpoint of the Presidency."

He repeatedly used such terms as "abuses," "mistakes," "overzealous," to describe the actions of those who worked for him.

He made two clear references to clergy and church related lay people and I think his comments require more than passing attention.

The President first explained why he refuses to turn his White House tape recordings to the Watergate investigating committee. "It is absolutely necessary, if the President is to be able to do his job as the country expects, that he be able to talk openly and candidly with his advisers about issues and individuals," he said. "This kind of frank discussion is only possible when those who take part in it know that what they say is in strictest confidence."

He did not endeavor to explain how such confidence is protected by secretly recording, over a two-year period, all these conversations, but he cited as examples of necessary and recognized right to confidence as applies, he said, "to conversations between a lawyer and a client, between a priest and a penitent, and between a husband and a wife."

Mr. Nixon is well aware, I'm sure, that the priest-penitent conversation invariably occurs in the confessional. I can't help but wonder what the Pope would say if priests began secretly tape recording their "conversations" with penitents as the President has recorded his conversations at the White House.

Then later in his talk, Mr. Nixon said the disregard for laws, rules

and regulations on the part of the people who worked for him, "did not suddenly develop in the year 1972." He said it started in the 1960s "as individuals and groups increasingly asserted the right to take the law into their own hands, insisting that their purposes represented a higher morality, . . . all in the name of peace and in the name of justice."

Immediately one thinks of Dr. Martin Luther King, the two Berrigan priest-brothers, and scores more who were willing to put their bodies on the line for the cause they championed.

The President is well aware, I'm sure, that there is quite a gap between people like these and the men who worked for him — John Mitchell, G. Gordon Liddy, Ehrlichman, Haldeman, Dean, Magruder. The President's men are all well versed in the law, many are indeed even lawyers, as is Mr. Nixon, and they were hired to serve the nation and enforce its laws, laws which Mr. Nixon admitted they broke or disregarded.

Is it not surprising then that the President did not pursue the example? Dr. King was willing to endure the grim life of Atlanta jail rather than deny his dream and the Fathers Berrigan went behind the bars of federal prison for their "overzealous" desire for peace.

If the courts do finally take up the Watergate case, I hope the words of the President are not forgotten and that the "perspective" in which he views these events is not only preserved but even enlarged to its full dimensions.

BENEDICTINE IS CC PREXY

Canon City, Colo. [RNS] — A Benedictine Brother, who is business manager of Holy Cross Abbey in this southern Colorado city, was elected president of the Greater Canon City Chamber of Commerce. He is perhaps the first U.S. Roman Catholic religious to serve in such a post. He is brother Michael Murray, OSB.