

Natural Birth Control Adherents Seek Aid

Bloomington, Minn. [RNS] — Federation of America said here that they will seek more private and government support for "natural birth control" programs.

Father R.A. Miller Dies in Philippines

Father Richard A. Miller, SJ, died Monday, Dec. 16 in Manila, Philippines. He is the son of William F. Miller and Margaret Grace (Nelligan) Miller of 179 Augustine St. He was educated at Nazareth Hall, Aquinas Institute and Mt. St. Mary's College of Emmitsburg, Md.

After graduation from college, he joined the Society of Jesus, made his novitiate at St. Andrew-on-Hudson, 1939-1941. His scholastic days were spent at Woodstock College, Woodstock, Md., as were also his theology years. As a seminarian, he taught several years at Regis High School in New York City.

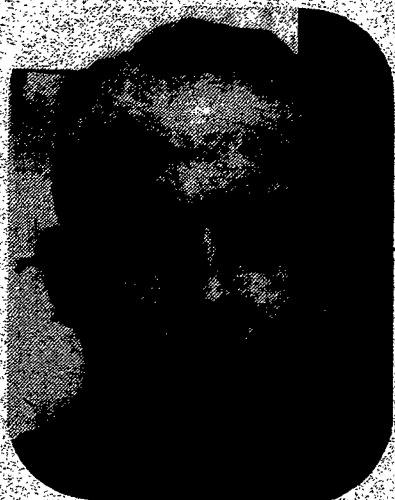
On June 17, 1951, he was ordained to the priesthood at Woodstock, Md.

He then obtained his doctoral degree in Astrophysics from Fordham University and did extensive post doctoral work at the University of Michigan.

Most of his priestly life was spent in Baguio City and Manila, Philippines, where he was director of the Solar Division of the Manila Observatory.

Father Miller supervised the building of new research instruments for the three-story solar building. Numerous international astronomy journals have published more than 50 of his articles, the fruit of his research.

Four years ago, he returned to



Rochester, seeking medical help for illness. While at McQuaid for three years, he taught, served as treasurer and with a number of students there, revived interest in the seismograph station.

In October 1973 he returned to Manila, improved somewhat in health. About six months ago, he began suffering poor health again and finally after three months of intensive care at Medical Center Manila, he died on Dec. 16.

Father Miller is survived by his parents, William F. Miller and Margaret Grace (Nelligan) Miller, his brothers, John W. Miller, Father Robert G. Miller, CSB, his twin brother, Father Thomas M. Miller, CSB and David C. Miller, four nephews and a niece, several aunts and cousins. Father Richard Miller was buried in Manila, Philippines, on December 19.

Sister Maurina SSJ, Of Blessed Sacrament

Sister Maurina McLaughlin, an Irish-born Sister of St. Joseph who spent the 55 years of her teaching career at Blessed Sacrament School, died Dec. 9, 1974, at the St. Joseph Convent, after a long illness.

Father John Reddington concelebrated the Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 12 in the Motherhouse chapel, with Msgr. John M. Duffy and Fathers John Norris and Joseph Reinhart. Also present were Fathers James Moynihan, Frederic Walz, Charles Connell, Francis Pegnam and Frederick Bush.

Sister entered the community from St. Mary's, Auburn, and began teaching at Blessed Sacrament in 1907, five years

after the school opened. She quit teaching in 1962, but continued to live in the parish convent until 1968.

A teacher of first graders, for the most part, she saw three generations of Blessed Sacrament families pass through the school. She gained a reputation for wit, humor and wisdom, and many of her former pupils returned to her for guidance, even after her retirement. Until her own health failed, she was an almost daily visitor to the sick in their homes and in hospitals, and she also assumed the duty of preparing the church for daily Mass as well as solemn festivals.

Sister Maurina's sole survivor is a brother, Frank McLaughlin of Jamaica, N.Y.

Sister Louis Bertrand, Hospital Administrator

Sister Louis Bertrand Dixon, SSJ, a nursing supervisor, instructor and hospital administrator for many years, died unexpectedly Wednesday evening, Dec. 11, 1974, at the St. Joseph convent on East Avenue.

Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday at the Motherhouse chapel by Father James Robinson, SSE, of Selma, Ala., where Sister had worked for 19 years. Father Joseph Reinhart assisted. Father Frederic Walz also was present.

Sister Louis Bertrand was administrator of the Edmundite Fathers' Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma from 1945 until 1964. Twice during those years, in 1947 and in 1963, she was responsible for planning new hospital

buildings, and in 1950 she established the first practical nursing school for blacks in that Alabama area.

She was born in Coming and entered the community in 1926, after her graduation from the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Elmira. She worked at the nursing school until 1945, except during 1933-1935, when she was studying for a bachelor's degree in nursing education at Catholic University. Ill health forced her return from Selma in 1964. In retirement, she was the convent's dietary supervisor for several years.

Sister Louis Bertrand leaves one brother, Adrian Dixon of Hammondspport and Auburndale, Fla., and a niece, Mrs. Margaret Ann Ratcliff of Fairport.

The Rev. Robert J. Carlson, an Evangelical Covenant minister who is executive vice president of the federation, said "it is our concern to get the same kind of public and private support as the present providers in the family planning delivery system."

He said the federal government should be funding organizations that favor "natural birth control" methods.

"All of the natural family planning groups this year received \$350,000 in federal funds out of \$150 million for all family-planning services," Carlson said.

Msgr. John J. Seli, chairman of the federation, said that through the practice of natural planning the federation hopes to reduce the incidence of abortion.

Officers of the federation said that newly developed methods for detection of ovulation offer "a positive alternative" to birth control pills, intra-uterine devices and other methods.

Dr. Hanna Klaus, a member of the federation's national board, said she has been studying "107 women who used the 'natural' ovulation method through a clinic in the School of Medicine at St. Louis University. She said in the last year the rate of conception of women using the ovulation method was 1.02 per cent.

The basis of the method," Dr. Klaus said, "is that there is a warning of impending ovulation, because, as the egg ripens in the ovary, it provides a hormone, estrogen. Estrogen produces a special mucus from the cervix. The mucus is not only a sign that the egg is coming, but it will keep the sperm alive in the woman's body until ovulation."

Dr. Klaus said that trying the method on "a do-it-yourself basis without proper instruction is dangerous."

Knights Donate \$100 to Fund

Irondequoit Knights of Columbus recently donated \$100 from the proceeds of their annual Charitable and Benevolent Drive to the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund.

According to Thomas Grosodonia, the Pope Pius XXI Council staged the most successful drive among the area councils this year. Monies collected are disbursed to a number of causes, most notably to help in the education of the mentally retarded.

Grosodonia noted that leading couples in the drive were Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bromka and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Halpin.

LATIN MASS

The Tridentine Choir of Rochester chose the Mass in E-flat by J.N. Bartholomew (1899) for midnight, Christmas Eve, at St. Patrick's, 454 N. Plymouth. A carol service was scheduled for 11:45 p.m.

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THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr.
Louis Hohman

time which a monk named Denis the Little introduced in the sixth century. He mistakenly identified the year 754 of the Roman era with the first year of Christ's life, calling it 1 A.D., in spite of the fact that Herod the King died in 750 of the Roman era, which corresponds to 4 B.C. Now we know from the Gospel that Herod was alive for some years after Jesus was born, so Jesus had to be born some time before 4 B.C., probably about 6 or 7 B.C.

Dear Father Hohman,

When was Jesus born? I had always assumed that A.D. meant Year of Our Lord and therefore he must have been born in the first year A.D. But someone told me that it was really some years B.C. [Before Christ]. Which is correct? And was Jesus really born on Dec. 25?


Dear Curious,

Yes, Jesus was born in B.C., probably several years prior to 4 B.C. I am sure you recognize that the designations B.C. and A.D. were applied after — long after — Jesus was born. At the time He was born, the years were counted from the founding of Rome.

The date has been confused by the erroneous computation of

As to the date (day) on which he was born, most likely it was not Dec. 25. The reason that date was chosen is because there was a pagan feast called Dies natalis solis invicti (the birthday of the unconquered sun). It celebrated the beginning of longer days in the northern hemisphere. Because Jesus is the "Unconquered SON" his birthday was celebrated near that of the pagan feast. Because of the need for good traveling weather in the time of taking a census it would be much more likely that Jesus was born in September or October. My source for these speculations is the Franciscan Scripture scholar, Stephen Hartdegen.

Have a very holy and happy Christmas.



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