



Eddie Merckx presents the pontiff with his championship bicycle.

Pope Gets Bicycle

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul now owns a champion racing bicycle.

It is a cycle used by Belgium's champion cyclist, Eddie Merckx when he won the 1974

professional road race title.

Merckx made the presentation to the 77-year-old pontiff at an audience here, Feb. 22, with some 300 participants in a road race that was to start in St. Peter's Square.

In a brief address to the cyclists, the Pope expressed his encouragement for all forms of sport "which help to develop not only the body but also the spirit, through respect for rules, self-control, and discipline."

Resurrection Parish Completes CYO Program

Eight youths and six adults from Resurrection Parish in Fairport have recently completed the new CYO Youth Group Formation Process.

The process consists of two hour long sessions once a week for five weeks with three members of the CYO Youth Development Staff.

The content of the sessions includes communication skills, organizational skills, the meaning of community, goal setting and brain-storming. There was also an orientation session plus extensive evaluation and follow-up afterwards.

The purpose was to take a core of adult advisors and youth leaders from the parish and build in them a foundation on which to start a youth group.

This formation process is open to any parish in Monroe County that is interested.

The CYO Youth Development Program also offers A Search Series of overnight, away-from-home experiences to parish and neighborhood youths preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation. For more information in regard to these programs, call or write the CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604 (454-2030).

Early Ecumenism

Cook and serve breakfast at 6:30 a.m.! It's a bit early for this reporter, but the hour doesn't bother the hundred young adults who participate in the Lenten Ecumenical breakfasts held in West Irondequoit.

These young people represent

AQ Swimmers Excel in Meet

Members of the Aquinas Swim Team did well in the finals of the City-Catholic championships. Taking top honor in the backstroke was Terry Ryan, who has been undefeated in backstroke for the last two years. His time was one minute and four seconds in winning his second straight backstroke title. Added to Ryan's performance was Joe Thomson's breaststroke victory. Only a sophomore, Joe was seeded fourth in the preliminary round of competition but won top honors with the fastest time in the city this year, (1:10.7).

Other Aquinas swimmers did well. Andy Fornarola placed second in diving with 305 points. Paul Brown placed fifth in the 200-yard freestyle and Brian Rector was fourth in the 500-yard freestyle. The fourth-seeded medley relay team of Terry Ryan, Joe Thomson, Dave Wild, and Brad Cretelle finished third while the freestyle relay team Eric Rule, Paul Brown, Brad Cretelle and Terry Ryan captured fourth.

The next challenge facing these swimmers will be the class A Sectionals which are being held at R.I.T. on March 1.

St. Thomas, St. Margaret Mary, Christ the King, and St. John's parishes, as well as the United Church of Christ, and the Resurrection Lutheran Church.

The services, followed by breakfast, are held every Wednesday morning during Lent, and will culminate in an Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Harbor Square Beach.

Each parish takes its turn at hosting the event while the individual youth groups alternate the duties of preparing, and serving breakfast. By sacrificing their early morning sleep, and through working together these Christian young people project a true Lenten spirit. — Joan M. Smith.

Pontiff Describes 'Window' on World

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul told pilgrims and tourists gathered in St. Peter's Square for his customary Sunday-noon address and blessing that the window (of the apartments) from which he was speaking was "a symbol of our view on the world."

"Once again," he said, "our view offers a panorama of very different events, agitated, threatening, and sorrowful for some; consoling, new, and promising for others."

"The killing of a policeman (during a recent post office robbery in Italy), for example,"

He cited the directive of Pope Paul and the U.S. Bishop's Committee to educate the older people that they are still part of the church and because of their age or infirmity, "are not being neglected."

Father said, "The elderly must not feel left out. The anointing service is offered to give them courage, a more positive approach and a clearer understanding of the closeness of God."

During the week Father Stockmeyer was a guest at St. Ignatius, he and Father Leo Mans, pastor, visited many of the sick and elderly parishioners, inviting them to attend the Anointing of the Sick service and often, dispelling the attitude that "anointing and death go hand in hand."

said the pontiff, "has upset us, as has the spreading of premeditated and collective delinquency."

The Pope also indicated the current movement in Italy for liberalization of abortion. The move, he said, "has not been deprecated by everyone as it should be."

Then, he added, there is "the almost permanent social unrest in the world, with new problems of emigration, or recession and inflation, side by side with weak voices of peace and new centers of armed conflicts"

Archdiocese Severs Girl Scout Affiliation

Philadelphia [RNS] — The Philadelphia Roman Catholic archdiocesan Department of Youth Activities (DYA) has withdrawn its sponsorship of Girl Scout troops in 334 parishes and has decided to form a new affiliation with the Camp Fire Girls, Inc.

Following more than a week of rumors, Father Francis X. Schmidt, DYA director, and members of the Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting for the archdiocese, announced the action during a news conference at the Catholic Center here.

The priest said he had declined either to confirm or deny the early rumors of the split because he had not officially notified pastors and Girl Scout leaders that the decision was final. The action by the archdiocese affects some 8,600 girls (about one fourth of all Girl Scouts in Philadelphia) and will become effective July 1.

Father Schmidt confirmed that the split between the archdiocesan agency and the Greater Philadelphia Council on Girl Scouting centered on Catholic disapproval of an "awareness" program being developed by the council. That program grew from of an earlier and controversial "To Be a Woman" merit badge program which included gathering information on such topics as birth control and abortion.

Last November, Father Schmidt had submitted a list of guidelines to all three local Girl Scout councils. The guidelines suggested the formation of a permanent Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting (which now exists) to oversee Catholic participation in Girl Scouting. The Greater Philadelphia Council rejected the proposal.

In January, representatives of parishes which sponsored Girl Scout troops under the Greater Philadelphia Council met at the archdiocesan offices and voted, almost unanimously, to switch from the Girl Scouts to a "new agape Camp Fire program."

The conflict between the archdiocese and the Philadelphia Girl Scout council erupted in May 1973 when a troop leader revealed the council was developing, unknown to Catholic scout leaders, a new pilot program it planned to introduce to 12-to-14-year-old Cadette Scouts. Called the "To Be a Woman" merit badge, it required the gathering of information on sexual intercourse, rape, pregnancy, birth control, abortion, venereal disease, menstruation and menopause.

The program met with outrage from parents and troop leaders, and Father Schmidt criticized the proposal as "shoddy, unworthy of Girl Scouting" and "diametrically opposed to Catholic belief and morality." He then threatened to withdraw support from the Girl Scout movement unless a satisfactory agreement with the archdiocese could be worked out.

In July 1973, the newly-formed Catholic Committee on Girl Scouting said that while "we would be very reluctant to discontinue sponsorship of Girl Scouting, we may very well be forced by religious conviction to do so." "We are not afraid to contemplate the formation of a new and highly relevant young girls ecumenical organization."

Soon after the Girl Scouts council announced it had revamped the proposed merit badge program in favor of an "awareness" program, and negotiations with the archdiocese were begun. After more than a year, Father Schmidt presented his list of guidelines for Catholic participation in Girl Scouting, but they were rejected by the Philadelphia council.

He said the Girl Scouts "have not shown adequate concern or desire to establish a working policy with our Catholic committee to meet the changing needs and newly-developing aspects of the Girl Scout program."

Prior to Father Schmidt's news conference, the president of the Philadelphia Girl Scouts "have" conference, the president of the Philadelphia Girl Scout council's board of directors said in a letter to Catholic pastors sponsoring Girl Scout troops that the suggested affiliation with Camp Fire Girls would deprive Catholic girls of "the opportunity to understand and respect others on a day to day basis."

Claiming that the Youth Department of what is now the U.S. Catholic Conference had endorsed Girl Scouting, she told the pastors, "we do wish to assure each one of you that we will do everything possible to have scouting continue for your girls."

We have tried our very best to resolve the differences and regret sincerely that our efforts were fruitless."

Camping Retreats Will Accommodate All Applicants

"The Family Camping Renewal Program offers families a chance to have an informal week's vacation of camping combined with a spiritual atmosphere," said Father David Mura, a director of last year's camping retreat at Snyder's Darien Lake campsite in Corfu, N.Y.

According to Father Mura, this year's camping renewal program will be enlarged to encompass every family in the diocese that wishes to participate. The program will also be extended from one week to two, July 27-Aug. 2 and Aug. 3-Aug. 9, and will be held at Skybrook campground in Dansville.

A fee of \$75 per week pays for the campsite, staff salaries and program costs. Campers must provide their own camping equipment and food.

The program will roughly consist of a morning Bible session for the children who will be divided into groups under the direction of teenage staff members. The adults will participate in recreational activities and meet in small groups to analyze their religion. Mass will be said daily along with a campfire lecture and discussion of various facets of faith, the sacraments, family experiences and individual commitment to Christ.

"Last year we had a really good week. The 11 or 12 families that came had a good time getting away from the hassles of daily living and getting to know their religion and their family better," Father said.

Families that would like to attend the program should contact Bill and Barb Peck, 315 Charlotte St., Newark, N.Y. 14513.

Archbishop Retires in Seattle

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Archbishop Thomas A. Connolly of Seattle has resigned after 25 years as head of the archdiocese, and Bishop Raymond G. Hunthausen, of Helena, Mont., has been named to succeed him.

Archbishop Jean Jadot, Apostolic Delegate in the U.S., announced that Pope Paul accepted Archbishop Connolly's resignation for reason of age. The retiring prelate is 75. The Pope then named Bishop Hunthausen, 53, who has served as Bishop of Helena since 1962, to head the Seattle archdiocese.