

From Courier-Journal Services

A task force created last September by representatives of Catholic religious orders of women and national nuns' groups and by staff members of seminaries will sponsor a national conference on the ordination of women in Detroit Nov. 28-30. Delegates to the National Federation of Priests Council convention in St. Petersburg, Fla., asked reconciliation for divorced and remarried Catholics; resigned priests, alienated youth, and aid for the poor and hungry. West Virginia's abortion law, similar to the one in Texas overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, has also been declared unconstitutional by a judge who disagreed with the Supreme Court decision. Circuit Judge Thomas E. McHugh declared, "By logic and law, the unborn child is deserving of more protection than the United States Supreme Court gives him or her. However, the personal desires of this judge cannot control litigation in the court. We are a nation of laws and the Supreme Court is the final authority in the interpretation of the U.S. Constitution."

"The time is ripe for the breakthrough which will put Christianity on the map as having recaptured the unity for which Christ prayed on the eve of his death," Father Joseph Spae, the Pope's representative to the World Council of Churches, said in a talk on ecumenism in San Diego. Catholic delegates to the third European Justice and Peace Conference beginning April 6 in London will study multinational corporations and their relationship to developing countries.

Eight U.S. senators and eight congressmen expressed from their respective floors tributes to Msgr. Nicholas H. Wegner, the retired director of Boys Town in Nebraska on the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. An ecumenical conference on Christian response to the world food crisis was told by a U.S. Senate specialist on nutrition that this nation, despite current food scarcities, should develop a broader multi-year food aid policy aimed at the neediest nations. Catholic and Protestant spokesmen said they must make it clear to all that the food crisis is "not a question of charity but of justice." After some pressure from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, officials of the National Invitational Basketball Tournament in New York City have agreed that at least one black or chiefly black team will be included in future 16-team fields. Pennsylvania's Gov. Milton Schapp has asked the state legislature to provide \$33 million for parochial and other non-public schools for the 15-month fiscal year beginning July 1. Sen. Hubert Humphrey has credited religious groups with having played a major role in pressuring the national administration into increasing U.S. food assistance abroad from 4.3 million to 5.5 million tons.

Bolivian Bishops Score U.S. Funds As 'Genocide'

La Paz, Bolivia [RNS] — Bolivia's Roman Catholic bishops have denounced a birth control plan for Bolivia, backed by funds from a United States agency, as "modern genocide."

In a pastoral letter, the Bolivian Bishops' Conference charged that funds from an \$8-million program sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) were to be earmarked for "increased use of contraceptives, sterilizations, legalized abortion and economic sanctions on large families."

CDA Board Announces Opposition to ERA

Miami — The National Board of the 182,000-member Catholic Daughters of America (CDA) has taken an official stand against the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

National Regent Winifred L. Trabeaux of Plaquemine, La., said that "the vague language of the ERA poses a threat, not a support of women's rights. Specific problems in women's rights should be dealt with by specific laws to meet those problems."

The board reaffirmed its belief "in the effective and continual enforcement of all laws protecting women's rights, such

control programs "are an attempt to do away with the future of the poor nations, depriving them of the element vital for survival: population."

Calling on the government to "beat back international pressures," the prelates declared:

"(Birth-curb) programs, cloaked in an apparent altruistic desire to reduce the population so that people can reach a higher standard of living, cover selfish aims of international domination and tend to preserve the welfare of the developed countries."

as the Equal Employment Opportunities Act of 1972 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

The statement said that various legal safeguards of women's rights and that would be abolished by the ERA and that the "stability of the family, the basic unit of society" was threatened.

"Likewise, the ERA would harm the individual woman. It would remove her right to preferential Social Security benefits. It would wipe out state labor laws and guidelines which benefit women in industry who do heavy, manual work."

Archbishop Jadot:

Barring Altar Girls Inconsistent With Women Serving Communion

St. Paul, Minn. [RNS] — Archbishop Jean Jadot, Pope Paul's personal representative in the United States, said here he "agrees" that the Roman Catholic Church is "inconsistent" in barring girl altar servers while permitting women to serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

At a news conference, he expressed belief that in time the barriers against girl servers will be lifted.

The apostolic delegate, who made a three-day visit to the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, meeting with many archdiocesan groups and leaders, said his visit had nothing to do with selection of a new archbishop for the archdiocese.

He indicated that the process of consultation for a new archbishop had been completed, explaining that "the problem is now in Rome."

In addition to meeting with Archdiocesan groups, the archbishop spoke at a Serra Club symposium and addressed the annual St. Thomas Day observance at the College of St. Thomas here, from which he received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

At the press conference, the archbishop, a veteran papal diplomat from Belgium who served earlier in Africa and Asia, made clear that he did not want to interfere with the responsibilities of local bishops.

WATCH OUT FOR SOL

The sun is a very fine fellow in small doses. Too much could lead to skin cancer, says the American Cancer Society. Take precaution while in the sun; use lotions, wide hats and umbrellas. See your physician promptly when a sore does not heal.

He revealed that Pope Paul, in sending him to Southeast Asia eight years ago, had warned him, "Be careful. You are a man of action. You don't have to take the place of bishops."

In response to questions, Archbishop Jadot said he:

*Thinks it would be "good" to have more bishops chosen from the ranks of religious orders.

*Is impressed with the activity of the laity of the U.S. Catholic Church and the quality of leadership of its bishops. But he said he is concerned that 40 per cent of the U.S. population is "unchurched" and that he sees "so little real missionary spirit."

*Believes that the Holy Year, in stressing internal renewal, will bring about a better climate for understanding and reconciliation. He said a return to a greater emphasis on spiritual life was evident by interest in the charismatic renewal movement and prayer groups.

*Regards the shortage of vocations as "a real problem." When asked if the Church might make better use of the service of married priests he commented: "Many of us make a very great mistake trying to link together two different problems — allowing priests to marry and ordaining married men."

*Feels one way to attack the problem of world hunger is to reduce food waste at home.

*Was consulted in the takeover

by Indians of the Alexian novitiate in Wisconsin. He said he had told the Alexians there was no problem if they gave the property to the Indians and observed; "The most valuable property is not worth a drop of blood."

In an address at the symposium at St. Paul Seminary sponsored by the Serra Clubs, Archbishop Jadot discounted suggestions that young people have "turned off" the Church.

"I believe," he said, "that youth are not so much rejecting Christ and His Church as they are failing to respond to individual Christian communities which seem to have divorced themselves from the sufferings which afflict mankind and, perhaps also from an authentic prayer life."

Archbishop Jadot said the interest of youth in helping the poor and the downtrodden and in the spiritual dimension, "even including contemplation," is "a foundation upon which we must build."

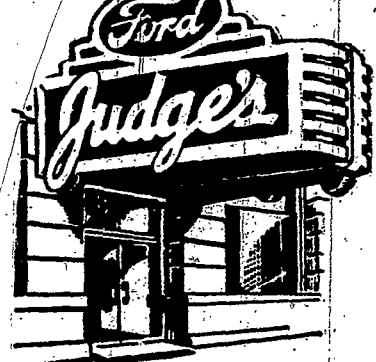
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