



From Courier-Journal Services

U.S. Catholic officials associated with the airlift of Vietnamese orphans have rejected criticisms of the project by Caritas, the international relief agency with headquarters in Vatican City. Bishop Edward Swannstrom of Catholic Relief Services in New York City said the standards employed in the placing of the children were "of the highest professional level, with the best interests of the child considered paramount." Brother Martin has become the first black to become a priest of the Atonement Friars. Boys Town of Nebraska is working at establishing alumni associations in cities across the country to form a network of communication for its 14,000 alumni.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta has been honored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization for her "exemplary love and concern for the hungry and the poorest of the poor." Newsprint, an ecumenical newsletter, reports that Bishop James Rausch of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked the Vatican informally to clarify "what functions a girl or woman can properly perform at the altar." Pope Paul VI has called for special prayers for Vietnam to invoke "understanding, compassion and mutual aid" for the suffering population there.

Sister Virginia Schwager of the U.S. Catholic Conference Health Affairs Division says those opposed to euthanasia should be prepared to fight legislation that would permit it. "We are in the 16th inning on abortion and only in the second inning on euthanasia," she told a medical-moral conference at St. Elizabeth's College in Convent Station, N.J. Cardinal Terence Cooke has sharply criticized Arthur S. Fleming, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, for a letter supporting the right of women to decide whether to have abortions. The letter to two U.S. senators urged defeat of an amendment which would have prohibited use of federal funds for abortions; the amendment was rejected. In New York City, some 150,000 men, women and children of all faiths marched and rallied to demonstrate support for Soviet Jews. The rally was in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza at the United Nations and nearby Holy Family Catholic Church rang its chimes in sympathy for the cause. Sister Anne Gillen of Chicago participated in the rally and read a message from Cardinal Terence Cooke which said, "In this Holy Year of renewal and reconciliation, it is fitting that we should join together with our Jewish friends and neighbors on behalf of Soviet Jews and other persons who are denied their rights in the Soviet Union. Their struggle is our struggle."

Pope Paul has named Father Joseph Chhmar Salas, a native Cambodian, coadjutor apostolic vicar of Phnom Penh, with the right of succession. Catholics in Cambodia number about 20,300 out of a total population of 7.5 million. The Pope also named a bishop for Hong Kong after a two-year vacancy. He is Father John Baptist Wu Chen-chung of Taiwan. And three times more Holy Year pilgrims have visited Rome during the first three months of 1975 than in 1950, the last Holy Year. Retired Cardinal Charles Journet, a Swiss, died recently at 84.

Senate Rejects Banning U.S. Funds for Abortions

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The U.S. Senate, by a vote of 54 to 36, defeated an amendment designed to bar the use of federal funds to pay for abortions for the poor.

Proposed by Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett (R-Okla.), the amendment would have barred the use of federal Medicaid or welfare funds to "pay for or encourage the performance of abortions except those necessary to save a mother's life."

While rejecting the Bartlett proposal, the Senate unanimously approved an amendment by Sen. Henry L. Bellmon (R-Okla.), to prohibit government officials from coercing welfare recipients into being sterilized or having abortions.

The amendments were raised in connection with the nursing and health program bill under consideration by the Senate.

Sen. James L. Buckley, (Conservative - Republican - New York), who strongly supported the Bartlett proposal, argued that 28 per cent of all abortions in the U.S. are now financed by the federal government.

Government statistics reportedly indicate that from \$40 million to \$50 million in federal funds was spent in 1973 to

help finance some 270,000 abortions, according to a New York Times report.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), a leading opponent of the Bartlett amendment, argued that the Senate floor was not the place to resolve the abortion issue. He said the abortion question had not been fully explored by any committee or Congress.

Sen. Kennedy charged that the proposal would discriminate against the poor and was so loosely worded that it would bar use of federal funds for the intrauterine device (IUD) or "morning after" pills.

Sen. Bartlett retorted that his proposal "has nothing to do with birth control or IUDs. We're talking about \$150-\$200 abortions."

Under questioning by Sen. Bartlett, Sen. Kennedy said he was personally opposed to abortion, but that under the Social Security law, funds could be used for abortion when "medically necessary."

Also calling for defeat of the Bartlett proposal was Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), who argued that the amendment was a "back-door" effort to nullify the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.



Tears of the Homeless

Two refugee children, one in Phnom Penh (left, in a photo taken by White House photographer David Hume Kennerly), the other in Yung Tau, South Vietnam, weep the tears of homeless. The Cambodian girl wears a dog-tag as a trinket; the Vietnamese child hangs on to a bag of rice as she suffers yet another hardship, losing her parents in refugee-clogged Vung Tau. (RNS).

Bishop Maher Reaffirms Anti-Abortion Stand

San Diego [RNS] — The Catholic bishop of San Diego reaffirmed his condemnation in a pastoral letter of "certain organizations" who publicly promote abortion and stated that Catholics who espouse pro-abortion views "have separated themselves from the Church" and are to be "refused the Eucharist."

Emphasizing that the denial of Holy Communion to pro-abortion Catholics "does not mean excommunication" from the Church, Bishop Leo T. Maher told a press conference that those people affected by the pastoral "are still free to attend worship services and otherwise participate in the life of the Church."

He told reporters that his Pastoral Letter on Abortion, released prematurely while he was out of the country, still stands. He added that Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert Chavez of San Diego "correctly clarified that letter as a condemnation of the pro-abortion stand taken by certain organizations."

In his pastoral, the bishop had told Catholics throughout the diocese: "No person who claims or professes views contrary to Church teaching can claim to be a practicing Catholic. Nor are they to be admitted to the sacraments. One who admits publicly to be a member of an organization that promotes abortion, such as the National Organization for Women (NOW), must be refused the sacrament of the Eucharist by priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers (of the Eucharist)."

He told reporters, however, that Catholic members of such organizations as NOW who remain "totally opposed" to abortion may still receive Communion and "are not separated from the Church."

The bishop acknowledged that NOW was singled out in his pastoral letter because "its active pro-abortion stand in this diocese has caused a problem of example to youth."

Noting that Catholic Church teaching on abortion is very clear, Bishop Maher said young people are asking "how a person could publicly promote abortion and be a practicing Catholic. The purpose of my letter was to bring a

unity of teaching to show the honesty of the Church's position."

Bishop Maher said that supporting a woman's right to choose an abortion is a pro-abortion stand. "It is divine law, not Church law, that tells us that no one has a right to that much control over their own body. To assert that is to take the law into your own hands."

In a brief statement to reporters, the bishop made it clear that his statements were a matter of Church teaching and that he has the "pastoral responsibility to speak out clearly on moral issues."

Declaring that "it was not my purpose to excommunicate but to teach," Bishop Maher said "the Church is united in its belief in the sanctity of human life. Those who would reject so fundamental

a belief separate themselves from the unity of faith symbolized in the Eucharist."

On the Sunday before his press conference, several protests and demonstrations were held by NOW and other pro-abortion groups at three Catholic churches in the diocese.

Meanwhile, a spokesman reported, "largely Protestant" right-to-life groups, including the San Diego Right to Life chapter and the Pro-Life League, issued statements supporting Bishop Maher's position and declaring that abortion is "not a Catholic issue."

The anti-feminist League of Housewives, also described as "predominantly Protestant," supported Bishop Maher and urged ministers of other Churches to take similar positions on abortion.

N.Y. State Right to Life Supports Bishop's Act

The State Right to Life Committee has issued a statement supporting Bishop Leo T. Maher's action in barring from Communion anyone who admits publicly to being a member of an organization that promotes abortion, such as the NOW organization.

The Right to Life statement compares the present situation in the United States to that of Nazi Germany. It states that "the Catholic Church was severely criticized for its alleged lack of moral commitment to defend innocent human life in 1930 Germany."

The statement says that at the Nuremberg trials, a Hitler official testified that the "end of the mass euthanasia program was attributable to the Churches of Germany and specifically to the Lutheran bishop of Wurtemberg and the Catholic bishop of Muenster."

The statement then says, "Bishop Maher's declaration clearly expresses moral horror at abortion on demand, infanticide and euthanasia in 1975 America. His statement points out that

membership in a pro-abortion organization actively advocating and encouraging the legalized killing of innocent human beings is inconsistent and incompatible with membership in a Church organization dedicated to protecting those same human beings."

Referring to NOW activities across the country, the Right to Life Committee stated that "last month in Pennsylvania a NOW organization issued a statewide anti-Catholic publication. The NOW group in Pittsburgh issued a pamphlet urging its members to attend a 'Day of Outrage' in Washington to lobby against the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church because of its attempts to save the lives of unborn babies."

It concluded its defense of Bishop Maher by urging those who would criticize the bishop's action to ask themselves, "What would I have done in Nazi Germany to help those innocent human beings, and further what am I doing now with knowledge of the slaughter of over 1 million aborted babies in the United States each year?"