



From Courier-Journal Services

Poll-watching: The airlift of orphan children from Vietnam to be placed with American families is approved by 56 per cent of U.S. adults and disapproved of by 32 per cent, according to a Harris Survey. The research firm of Yankelovich, Skelly & White interviewed members of a cross section of 1,247 American families and more than 150 professional specialists in various aspects of family life to learn that today's family is "troubled" but also "strong and resilient." General Mills financed the study. . . . And U.S. Catholic, in an informal survey of its readers, reports that 57 per cent of them would approve the ordination of women to the Catholic priesthood. A breakdown of the "unscientific" survey showed that 67 per cent of laywomen favored female ordination; 54 per cent of the laymen, and 48 per cent of the clergy.

No government has the right to have a monopoly on a country's information media, Pope Paul declared in a message marking the Catholic Church's World Communications Day May 1. He said there should be a variety of information sources in any country "so that the general public can compare different versions of the news and make intelligent judgments on the reports for themselves." . . . The Protestant United Ulster Unionist Council, a three-party coalition, has won a majority of 14 seats in the 78-member Constitutional Convention that is to write a new constitution for Northern Ireland. The coalition is thus in a position to reject as it has in the past, a power sharing arrangement with the province's minority Roman Catholics.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is "a can of worms," a Catholic bishop told 900 women at the annual convention of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women in Minneapolis. Bishop Kenneth J. Povish said he had tried to keep an open mind on the issue but added he sometimes becomes "scared" when he thinks what the U.S. Supreme Court could do to an ERA amendment. . . . Meanwhile in Syracuse, Mary Therese Callahan, the director of the National Association of Laity's Women's Task Force urged all Catholics who support the ERA to demand "equal time" in their parish pulpits where priests have spoken against the proposed amendment. . . . A 21-member task force planning a November 1975 conference on the ordination of women to the Roman Catholic priesthood welcomed a recent statement by Pope Paul on the role of women, despite the fact, it said, that the Pope indicated that women were not called by Christ to the "apostolate of the Twelve." A spokeswoman said, "we certainly can agree (with the Pope) that an urgent need is the awakening and promoting of women at the grass roots in the Church, where their rights first have to be discovered before they can be respected." . . . A Melkite Catholic priest who co-founded a worldwide lay mission apostolate at Madonna House in Combermere, Ont., died May 4 at 84. But he was famous in another walk of life. Father Edward Doherty who once worked for the New York Daily News as a layman became known as the "star reporter of America" and was once was described as "the highest paid reporter in the world."

Bishop Frederick W. Freking of La Crosse, Wis., has issued a "personal interdiction" against Mrs. Mary Ann Van Hoof, a Necedah, Wis., woman who for 25 years has claimed to have had visions of the Virgin Mary. The bishop sent letters of interdiction to Mrs. Van Hoof and six officers of a group called "For My God and My Country" that promotes her visions. The interdiction cuts them off from all the sacraments, except Penance. . . . Presiding Bishop John M. Allin of the Episcopal Church has asked the nation's three million members to assist the Southeast Asian refugees arriving in the U.S. . . . About 28,000 signatures have been collected after Masses in San Diego County indicating support for Bishop Leo T. Maher's stand on abortion and against the position of the National Organization of Women (NOW) . . . meanwhile, several hundred women, most of them members of NOW and Catholics for a Free Choice, marched in a Mother's Day of Outrage at the residence of the apostolic delegate in Washington, D.C. The group, shouting pro-abortion slogans, were protesting what one organizer said was the "direct involvement" of Catholic bishops in efforts to promote a constitutional amendment to nullify the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling on abortions.

The Vatican has asked Rome police to crack down on a racket involving the sale of a phoney Holy Year souvenir, bricks that supposedly were used to block the Holy Door. The ersatz bricks, said only copies of the real things, are going for \$40 to \$100. . . . Ireland's Roman Catholic bishops have roundly condemned all forms of violence and counter-violence in Northern Ireland, where, they said "hate, vengeance, destruction and death" have almost become "a way of life." In a joint pastoral letter read at Masses and distributed to churchgoers, the prelates said "Such wrongful actions cannot be justified in the slightest degree because they have been done in the name of patriotism and defense of law and order or freedom and justice." . . . All Roman Catholic churches in Equatorial Guinea have been ordered closed and converted into warehouses for cocoa and coffee beans by President Francisco Macias Nguema. Furthermore, priests were ordered to be put under close supervision on the grounds they are "subversive agents of neo-colonialism and imperialism."

Dorothy Day, the famed 77-year-old pacifist and founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, told a rally for the United Farm Workers Union "I'm too old to march, but I'm not too old to boycott" and she said that if anyone wanted to go to jail for the farmworkers, "I'm ready to go with them." . . . In St. Paul, Minn., the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women has withdrawn from participation in activities of the Metro-Area Council for International Women's Year after the council voted support of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Missouri Asks Con-Con On Abortion

Jefferson City, Mo. [RNS] — Missouri's Legislature has formally asked the U.S. Congress to convene a constitutional convention in order to restrict abortions.

The request was voted 111 to 36 by the Missouri House after a series of close votes that first adopted, and then rejected, a provision that would have allowed abortion in cases of rape or incest.

Missouri's Senate had endorsed the request earlier in a 24 to 8 vote.

It does not need the governor's signature, and is being transmitted to Congress and members of Missouri's congressional delegation.

Although Missouri is the first state to ask for a constitutional convention, anti-abortion forces here admit that the aim of the measure is to prod action on the Human Life Amendment now pending in the Congress.

Bolivian Bishops Control Justice, Peace Unit

La Paz, Bolivia [RNS] — Bolivia's Roman Catholic bishops, who disbanded the controversial Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) after two of its priest-members were expelled from the country for allegedly meddling in politics, have reorganized the predominantly lay organization under their direct control.

Following a week-long meeting of the Bolivian Bishops' Conference (CEB), Archbishop Jorge Manrique of La Paz announced that the CEB had appointed Bishop Rene Fernandez Apaza of Oruro to be the bishops' permanent delegate to the JRC.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Jose Clemente Maurer of Sucre, president of CEB, said in a newspaper interview that while some of the six to nine members of the new JPC might be priests, they would be native Bolivians and not foreign missionaries.

Last March 14, two priests from the old commission, Belgian Dominican Father Eric de Wasseige and Canadian Oblate Father Jorge Wavreille, were expelled from Bolivia. Two weeks later, after the JPC had instigated a campaign for 100,000 signatures to call for the restoration of human rights in Bolivia, immediate reopening of the Pope Pius XII radio station, and the return of the expelled priests, the CEB's Permanent Council suspended the commission's activity.

The bishops indicated that the action was taken to avoid a possible break in Church-state relations, which had been deteriorating rapidly since the government raided and closed the Catholic-owned radio station in January and expelled the two missionaries in March.

The bishops' suspension of the JPC came shortly after Bolivia's

Minister of the Interior Juan Pereda Asbun labeled the signature campaign by the JPC a subversive, "plan of agitation" against the government of President Hugo Banzer Suarez.

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Business In The Diocese

The National Association of Accountants (NAA), has elected Gerald R. Dennis Sr. director of community affairs for its Rochester Chapter.

Dennis has been a resident of the Tenth Ward for the past 25 years. He and his wife Doloris and five of their eight children reside at Parkdale Terrace. He is employed by Rochester Savings Bank as a business development representative, and is a member of Sacred Heart Parish.

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