



At a meeting in San Francisco, an official of the Catholic Hospital Association (CHA) predicted that by 1980 there will be fewer but larger Catholic hospitals providing a wider number of services. Sister Grace Marie, chairman of the CHA board of trustees, said institutional members of the association have dropped from 796 in 1970 to the present 669. She said that the average size of the hospitals will increase from 241 beds to 270. . . . Massachusetts Congressman Father Robert F. Drinan has declared that the Catholic right to life movement, while compassionate toward the earliest stages of life, lacks perspective on other life issues facing the nation and is overly "politicized" on abortion. He has refused a request from the Worcester diocesan Senate of Priests to lobby for additional congressional hearings on the proposed anti-abortion amendments to the Constitution. Religious News Service reports that the Boston Priests' Senate may follow the Worcester group's lead with its own request of Father Drinan. . . . A parish priest fatally wounded a 19-year-old man who, the priest said, broke into the rectory of Mother of Sorrows parish, June 8 in Stowe Township, Pa. Father Ralph J. Esposito told police he heard a noise from his upstairs room and called police. Then, he said, he heard footsteps outside his room, opened the door and fired the weapon at a man lunging at him. The mother of the slain youth said she would not permit the Catholic Church to bury her son.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta, famed foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, will be a member of the Vatican delegation to the World Conference of the International Women's Year, sponsored by the United Nations, June 19-July 2 in Mexico City. . . . In Quebec, 116 doctors have signed an admission that they have been involved in illegal abortions in an apparent link to the trial of Dr. Henry Morgenthau of Montreal. A spokesman said, "We 116 doctors feel the law on abortion is bad. I'm ready to go to jail." The Right to Life movement had collected a million signatures on a petition calling for an end to abortions except when the mother's life is threatened. Canada permits legal therapeutic abortion at the discretion of a local hospital, three-doctor committee, when the life or health of a woman is in danger. . . . Evonne Goolagong, one of the world's finest woman tennis players, wants to be married in the cathedral in Sydney, Australia. One problem — neither she nor her husband-to-be, Robert Crawley, are Catholics. A church spokesman said the situation is a case of "two Christian people who wish to marry in a Christian church which has pleasant associations for one of the parties" (some of Miss Goolagong's friends were married there). The Catholic Church is moving slowly, however, to avoid offending the Anglican Church in Australia. Both parties are Anglicans.

A Gallup Poll reveals that 67 per cent of American adults favor registration of all firearms, but 55 per cent are opposed to banning the possession of handguns by private citizens. The poll also showed that 44 per cent of U.S. households have at least one gun. . . . And poll-watchers will be interested in another recent Gallup survey which revealed that 51 per cent of U.S. adults believe it is morally wrong to commit suicide even when the individual "is suffering great pain and has no hope of improvement."



George Beahon

Pro hockey has peaked, and perhaps saturated. Blame it all on television. Or the fact that hockey fails to grab general audiences (with anywhere near the same numbers as other sports. Including, believe it, tennis.

NBC became disenchanted with hockey ratings this past season, to the extent that Sunday game-of-the-week programming will become a casualty. Network television will be confined to Stanley Cup play.

Hockey addicts will have trouble absorbing this, but the fact is that hockey doesn't come across that well on the tube. TV's only advantage is that it can replay goal-scoring. Many fans in pro hockey arenas do not actually see the scoring of many goals. Deflections, and screening and the quickness of the action, make it difficult to follow. The late sports columnist Matt Jackson once wrote off hockey-watching with one line:

"I don't need the game if they have to turn on a red light to tell me something has happened."

It is a fact of life that any TV

program director will verify that entertainment will outdraw sports programming. A decent movie will bring in far more viewers than almost any general team sports program. Exceptions, of course, are NFL playoffs, Super Bowling, World Series, and other biggies.

Hockey doesn't sell to TV markets in the South and Southwest, and network people count those votes as much as any in Detroit or Boston or Philadelphia. Ratings in the Midwest and West Coast are almost as bad.

Ratings prove that tennis, though behind hockey, is bringing in increasing viewers, and tennis on TV is relatively new. Hockey is sagging, and this trend in comparisons apparently convinced-NBC it does not need much hockey.

The net result means the Establishment National Hockey League will have to live without any added help from TV. That means the Establishment won't be able to peddle expansion franchises with third-rate players in new territories.

The hockey boom is history.

Footnote: Philadelphia Flyers' coach Fred Shero, whose Stanley Cup champions feasted on brawling and fighting during the regular season, says he deplores the violence in kids' hockey, and can't watch it for that reason.

Sub Footnote: The St. Louis Reporter quotes researchers for a major insurance company reporting that the five most dangerous sports, in order, are football, skiing, baseball, swimming and basketball.

Women in Religion

The Sister Is a Doctor

By MOLLY JUDGE

Dr. Mary Sullivan is an associate professor of language and literature in the College of General Studies at Rochester Institute of Technology. She is chairperson of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Judicial Process Commission, an educational volunteer at the Monroe County Jail and a consultant and annual evaluation team member on the Commission on Higher Education, Middle States Association. And Mary Sullivan is also a Sister of Mercy.

Sister Mary is the only nun to be on the full-time faculty at RIT.

"I think there is a value to being a religious on a secular campus. Many of the students were turned off to religion in the past, my presence there gives these people the opportunity to talk over their religious problems with me. And besides, it's good for them to know that I'm a nun and that I will always be on hand to help them just in case they need someone to talk to," she said.

Although she doesn't wear the traditional habit, Sister informs her students of her religious commitment. Many address her as "Sister" as well as "doctor."

"I believe that my mission in life is to teach people of college age. And I became especially interested in teaching at RIT since I think it's important for science and technology students to have a solid experience with the humanities," Sister said.

Normally, Sister Mary teaches Literature and the Visions of Man; Imagination Understanding and Creativity; Great World Novels; Literature and Man's Religious Experience and Modern Poetry. She also teaches Three Great Religious Literary Artists — Dante, Newman and Dostoevski, at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Being a magna cum laude graduate of Nazareth College, her congregation suggested that she continue her studies at the University of Notre Dame. There, she eventually received her doctorate, writing a dissertation on the Descriptive Style of Joseph Conrad.

Prior to her work at RIT, Sister Mary taught at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester and was president from 1965 to 1968 of Catherine McAuley College, a three-year institution conducted by the Sisters of Mercy which was closed in 1968. She then was an assistant professor of English at Marymount College in Tarrytown and taught at the Malcolm-King Harlem Community Extension College during the summers of 1969 and 1971.

Along with her full-time duties at RIT, she is chairperson for the Judicial Process Commission. The commission's major function is to create public awareness of the justice system and to cause justice agencies to evaluate their purpose and function.

"Through the Judicial Process Commission, I get acquainted with many inmates serving time

at the Monroe County Jail and State Correctional Facility. I have a pass to get into the jail which enables me to visit these prisoners. I may give educational counseling to the inmate or just talk to him on a one-to-one basis. It does the prisoner good to talk to someone from the outside and if I can help that person, I will," she said.

Sister Mary is also a representative on the Central Administration of the Sisters of Mercy, a member of the Modern Language Association, the Joseph Conrad Society, the American Academy on Religion, the Society for Religion in Higher Education, the American Association of University Professors, the Conference on Christianity and Literature and the College English Association.

The wide scope of Sister Mary's work seems to reflect the broad roles opening for women religious.

"There is room and need in the nature and mission of the Church for a variety of apostolates and it is helpful for the human community to have ministers in their midst," Sister said.

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