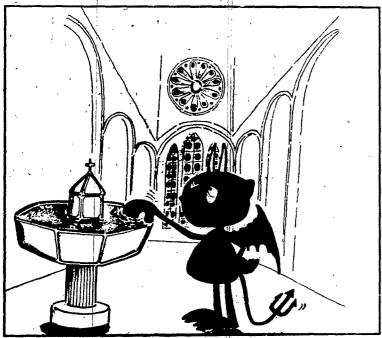


Mrs. Ruth Bell Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham recently announced a task force to mobilize Protestant women "in defense of life." She was among 25 Protestant leaders who took part in a two-day meeting at the headquarters of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to plan strategy to change the situation created by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 abortion rulings. Dr. John J. McLaughlin, the former Jesuit priest who was a speech writer for President Richard Nixon, was married in a civil ceremony to Anne Lauenstein Dore, a Catholic divorcee who managed his unsuccessful 1970 race for the U.S. Senate. A Jesuit spokesman said that Dr. McLaughlin was released from his clerical and religious vows by the Vatican on Aug. 20.



The politics of "compromise" by F. Del Vaglio of Italy, from the 28th International Cartoonists exhibit held recently in Bordighera, a costal town near Genoa. (RNS)

The World Council of Churches is urging national councils to give serious study to Vatican guidelines for Roman Catholic participation in local, national and regional ecumenism. Copies of the Vatican document were sent to all member bodies in the World Council... Some 5,000 gypsies from all over Europe arrived in Rome for a special Holy Year observance of reconciliation among gypsy bands and between gypsies and non-gypsy Germans [more than 500,000 gypsies were exterminated in Nazi camps during World War II]... Dutch Catholics are awaiting the appointment of a new Archbishop of Utrecht. Great concern has been voiced over the selection of the man who will succeed Cardinal Bernard Alfrink, whose resignation will be announced formally at he time of the naming of his successor. Cardinal Alfrink is generally regarded as a moderate liberal in regard to Church disciplines; and many are fearful of a conservative replacing him.

Accept Church's Authority, Cardinal Tells Charismatics

Detroit [RNS — Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit told some 6,000 participants in the first Midwest regional conference on the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church to accept the "authority Christ established" through the Church and to give their fullest cooperation to the bishops.

He said such acceptance and cooperation will "give strength and substance to what you are doing. It will help to bring into unity ... into the mainstream, the dynamism and strength reflected in what you are."

The archbishop of Detroit, a former president of the U.S. Catholic bishops' conference, preached during a Mass concluding the three-day conference in Cobo Hall.

Cardinal Dearden, in his homily at the concluding Mass which he concelebrated priests, said the Scripture readings which dealt with not particularly chosen for the day but were scheduled according to the Church's liturgical calendar. "But they are pertinent to what you represent as a living movement, reflecting a dynamism, strength and depth of conviction that is extraordinary," he commented.

"It is imperative that all that is done (in the Charismatic

Renewal) be related directly and positively to the authority in the Church," he stated.

Responding to a lengthy applause, Cardinal Dearden said, "This is the conviction of almost all of you, perhaps every one."

He noted that the Gospel passage of the day concerned Christ's telling Peter he was the rock upon which the Church would be built, and the prelate said Christ gave Peter an authority which has also been conferred on his successors. "This is the mind of Christ, clearly set before us, and an indication of the way He constituted His Church and wishes it to continue its mission."

The Spirit works in the Church according to the mind of Christ," Cardinal Dearden declared.

Family Liturgy Scheduled

A special afternoon has been planned at St. Anne's church on Mt. Hope Avenue. On Sunday, Sept. 14 the Celebrate Life Group from Horseheads, will visit the parish, and beginning at 2:30 p.m. there will be entertainment followed by a family liturgy. Father Joseph Hart will be the celebrant.

USCC, Girl Scouts Announce 'Cooperation'

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A national "Plan of Cooperation" has been announced by the Girl Scouts of the USA and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC).

"It is our sincere hope that the Plan of Cooperation will serve as a model for dioceses and Girl Scout Councils," said Mrs. William McLeod Ittmann, Girl Scouts National President, and Father Rudy Beranek, USCC representative for the youth activities, in a joint letter.

The plan calls for the appointment by the Girl Scouts of National Religious Consultants, one of whom will be recommended by the USCC. These consultants will serve the Girl Scouts president and advise the board of directors on policy matters that have religious implications.

"The responsibility for an atmosphere of religious awareness" for Catholic girls in Girl Scouting is jointly shared by the USCC and Girl Scouts of the USA, according to the plan. "The communication of denominational values, ethics, dogma and religious heritage is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders."

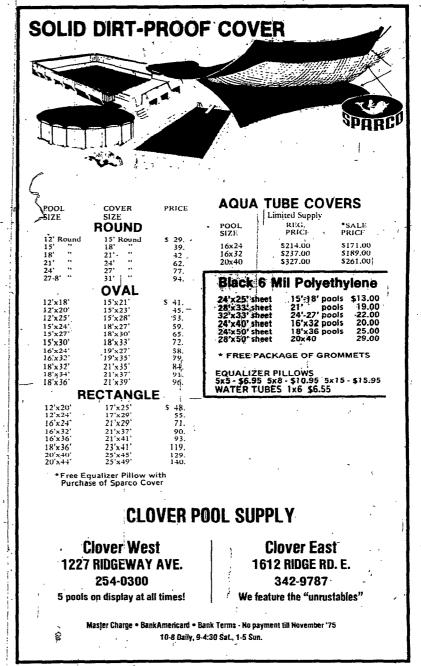
Under the plan, national materials dealing with issues that may have a religious dimension will be submitted to the religious consultant for reaction before being published by the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scouts and the USCC will exchange "mutually beneficial materials and training programs." Information on religious recognition programs developed by the USCC for Catholic girls will be made available by the Girl Scouts.

In conjunction with the USCC,

the Girl Scouts of the USA will assist Girl Scout Councils and dioceses in developing a closer relationship and a local plan of cooperation. Troop sponsorship procedures and agreements are developed and administered at the local level.

To promote closer relationship and to facilitate implementation of national programs, a continuing dialogue will be maintained by Girl Scouts with the USCC's desk for youth activities.



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