



Farm Workers Rally

On hand to greet Texas farm workers in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 5 after their 1,480-mile march for human rights are, from left, Father John W. Kelly, CSSR of the Wilmington, Del. diocese, Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., and Father Lawrence McNamara, executive director of the Campaign for Human Development department of the U.S. Catholic Conference. The marchers began their long trek in Austin on June 18. It ended at the Lincoln Memorial where a rally was staged to secure support for legislation that would guarantee them the right to organize, to bargain collectively and to earn the minimum wage. (RNS)

Vatican Silences Priest On Homosexuality

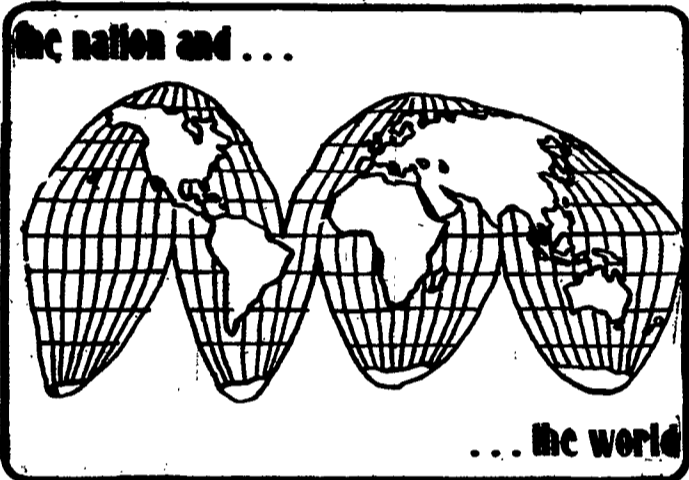
New York (RNS) — A Jesuit priest who differs with traditional Roman Catholic teaching on homosexual activity has been ordered by the Vatican doctrinal congregation to stop

speaking and writing on the subject of homosexuality.

He was charged with advocating and promoting theological views which are contrary to Church teaching and allowing "false hopes"

to be raised in the homosexual community that the Church would change its position.

The ban was imposed on Father John J. McNeill, SJ, a moral theologian and a founder of Dignity, an organization for Catholic homosexuals, just a week before he was to make a major address at the national Dignity convention in Chicago. It was issued by Cardinal Franjo Seper, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Father McNeill, in a letter to Dignity delegates, said he would obey the Vatican stricture and cancel plans to speak at the convention.



A Roman Catholic Franciscan priest, a specialist in community development programs, was installed as minister of outreach for three Lutheran churches in Houston, Texas, with a mandate to foster social service ministries in the local neighborhoods. Father Roberto Flores, OFM, a member of the Santa Barbara province of the Franciscan order based in Oakland, Calif., moved to Houston in July to begin coordinating social ministries in racially-changing areas served by the three churches, all affiliated with the American Lutheran Church. Catholic hospitals and nursing homes will mark Respect Life Week, Oct. 2-8, by focusing on how the Christian health ministry provides scientific medical care, personally administered and socially responsive, the Catholic Hospital Association has announced. A major goal of the hospitals during the observance, which is coordinated by the U.S. bishops' Pro Life Activities Committee, is to point out how Catholic health facilities provide a carefully balanced mixture of medical and spiritual programs in response to local, individual and social needs.

Four hundred persons from the U.S. and Canada are expected to take part in the sixth national assembly of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics at the University of Notre Dame, Oct. 14-16. David Cronin, chairman of the unofficial Catholic organization based in Boston, said that separation and divorce constitute "a situation that directly affects one of every four American Catholics; of the 48 million Catholics in this country, 12 million are either separated, divorced or remarried." ...The number of legal abortions obtained by Washington, D.C., residents in 1976 exceeded the number of births by about one third — 12,945 abortions compared with 9,634. It makes the second year that abortions exceeded births in the nation's capital.

'Street Priest' to Speak On Homosexuality

Father Paul Shanley, the Archdiocese of Boston's "street priest" who recently was appointed by Cardinal Humberto Medeiros to a full-time ministry to sexual minorities in the Boston area, will speak on counselling homosexuals at a clergy conference slated for Sept. 23 at Becket Hall.

Father Shanley, who was ordained in 1960, also is a member of the Young Adult Ministry Board of the United States Catholic Conference.

The event is sponsored by the office of the Vicar of Urban Ministry.

Father Shanley, who has produced two tapes, "Straight Talk about Gays," and "Counselling Parents of Gays," will also deliver a public lecture that evening at 8 p.m. in St. Luke's Episcopal Church parish hall, 17 S. Fitzhugh St.

Father Shanley's visit also coincides with the second anniversary of the local founding of Dignity, an organization of Roman Catholics dedicated to understanding the situation of homosexuals in the Church.

TV MASS CHANGE

The time of the televised Mass for shutins Sunday mornings over Channel 10, WHEC-TV has been changed. The Mass will begin at 8 a.m. as of Sept. 25.

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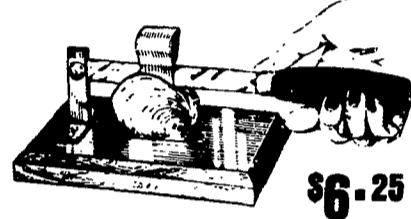
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