

# 'Nullity Scandal' Charged by Wanderer Forum

St. Paul, Minn. (RNS) - The National Wanderer Forum, an annual gathering of conservative Roman Catholics, charges that a "nullity scandal" exists in the U.S. Catholic Church and it wants the bishops to do something about it.

A resolution adopted at the close of the three-day forum here said that "thousands" of annulments are now granted annually by diocesan tribunals, thus permitting divorced Catholics to remarry in the Church.

The forum, attended by more than 300 conservative-oriented Catholics, called for an investigation by the bishops to "determine whether false norms are ... creating this situation."

A LeMoyné College political science professor, Charles R. Pulver, told the convention that the Roman Catholic Church is suffering from an identity crisis.

"Millions of Catholics right now are unsure of what the Church does teach - and, as a result - cannot firmly identify themselves as 'Catholic,'" said Pulver, a regional director for Catholics United for the Faith.

He said many bishops, clergy and religious "have fallen under the spell of would-be theologians who place their own 'expertise' in dogma, morals and Scripture above the voice of Peter."

Another resolution deplored the "increasing instances where pastors are summarily removed from office, a development which creates grave concern among the Catholic laity."

It asked the bishops "to be

more communicative with the faithful regarding reasons for the removal of pastors and to consider fully the rights of both pastors and people."

In other resolutions, the forum:

- Urged the bishops to call for defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment "as a matter of both prudence and protection of the rights of conscience."

- Called on Congress to "reject all efforts to extend the time limit for approval of the Equal Rights Amendment beyond the traditional seven-year period."

- Opposed exception clauses in legislation that is intended to cut off Department of Health, Education and Welfare funds for tax-supported abortion.

- Asked Congress to bar any public or nongovernment agencies or advisory groups which support abortion, contraception and sterilization. The resolution specifically named Planned Parenthood.

- Urged Catholics to withdraw their support of such public charitable agencies as the Community Chest and United Way if they support abortion and "contraceptive family planning." Catholics were asked to give their support to agencies which "do not offer the risk of the use of donations for immoral purposes."

- Recommended the "widest possible participation" in the March for Life.

- Called for a "complete treatment" of both the Catholic Church's history and social doctrine in all church catechetical programs in order that Catholics can contend with the "false philosophies of government and society."

## CDA Lists Charities Receiving Assistance

New York (RNS) - The Catholic Daughters of America has contributed more than \$6.5 million to a wide range of charitable and religious projects during the past five years, according to a financial report issued to members in connection with the CDA's mid-July 75th anniversary convention here.

Beneficiaries included patients in medical clinics in Latin America, Asia, Africa; flood victims in Honduras and Johnstown, Pa.; earthquake survivors in Guatemala and Italy, and battered wives who turned to the CDA-sponsored House of Ruth in

Washington, D.C.

The largest single CDA contribution was the funding of the \$750,000 Bicentennial Chair in American History at the Catholic University.

Speakers scheduled for the convention which will end Friday, July 21, will include Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen; Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly, national president of Stop ERA; Dr. Mildred Jefferson, national president of Right to Life; and Bishop Michael McAuliffe of Jefferson City, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Women in Society and Church.

## Catholic U. Names New Prexy

Washington, D.C. (RNS) - The Catholic University has chosen Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, president of the Yale-New Haven Medical Center, as the new president of the national university of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The action made Dr. Pellegrino the school's 12th

president but only the second layman to hold the post.

Dr. Pellegrino succeeds Dr. Clarence C. Walton who served for 10 years as the first lay president in the university's 89-year history. Dr. Walton is returning to his former teaching position as professor of business and economics at Columbia University.

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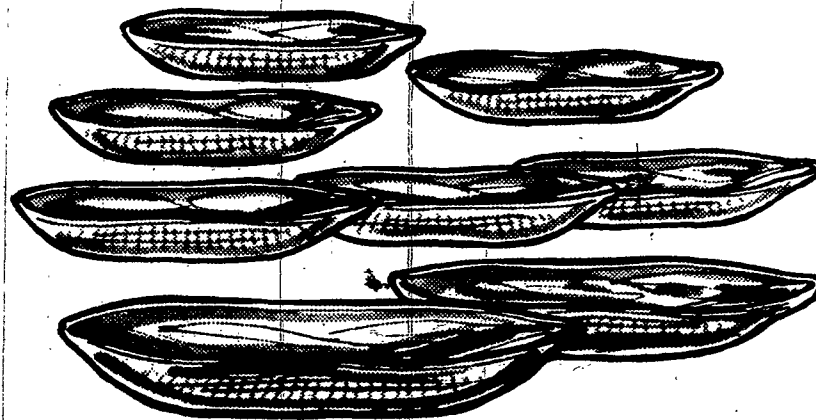
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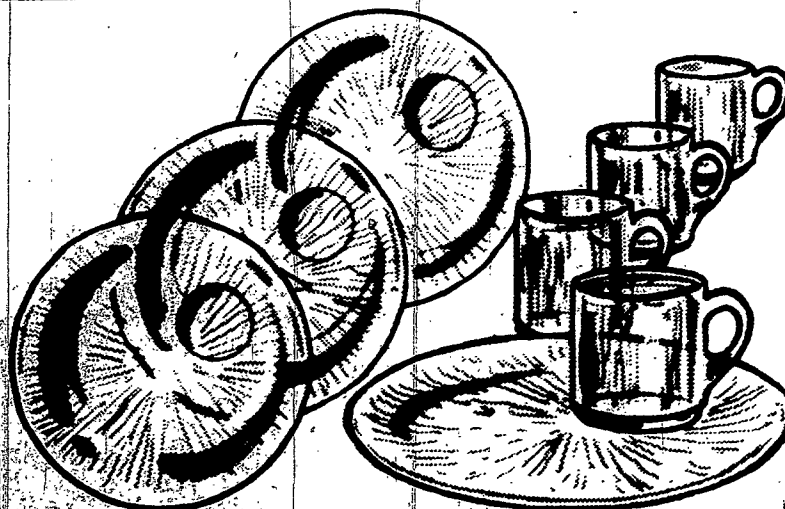
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