

Today's Courier July 26, 1978

Making a Home 16

A group home for troubled girls will soon be operating in Steuben County. Operated by Kinship Group Home, the house in Tyrone will provide residential care for teenage girls. The Kinship company also operates Kennedy House in Perkinsville for boys.



Pope Scores USSR 3

Pope Paul VI has sharply criticized the trials and convictions of three Soviet dissidents for "ideological infractions." He said their sentences were too severe.

'Seek New Roles' 2

A Vatican document tells women religious to seek out new roles in their expanded ministries to the outside world. The document on the relationship between bishops and religious also says the Sisters should "seek out and propose new forms of apostolic service."

Bishops Ask Reversal 1

In an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief, the bishops of the United States have asked the Supreme Court to reverse its 1973 decisions liberalizing abortions because those decisions were made for societal rather than legal reasons.

Winners 19

Mary Ellen Britt, Bary Beth Gerbino and Carolyn Pestke have been awarded \$500 scholarships by the Women's Board of St. Mary's Hospital.

Church Notes 125 6

St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville has an anniversary coming up, the 125th of the setting of its cornerstone by Bishop John Timon. The parish has slated a number of activities to observe the event.

Friends Meet 6

Two priests visited together last week, two priests who have, between them, devoted 120 years of service to the Church. Msgr. William J. Donovan, a Geneseo native and priest of the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., is 94 years old and has served 65 of those years. He visited Rochester's Msgr. John Duffy who recently celebrated his 55th anniversary and 85th birthday.

Political Sights 12

Mary Beth Erb, Nazareth, and Jeanette Lucy from Bishop Kearney attended the Empire Girls' State Conference at Cazenovia College. In analyzing this political learning experience they both said women are becoming more politically aware. They also learned the importance of forming committees to achieve goals and the need to delegate work and power within the committees.

Vatican Document Tells Sisters

By PAMELA MENDELS
RNS Correspondent

Vatican City (RNS) — Perhaps the most striking aspect of a recent Vatican document on the relationship between bishops and religious orders is the call for new roles for women religious.

The 47-page document, "Directives and Criteria for Relations between Bishops and Religious in the Church," issued jointly by the Congregations for Bishops and of Religious and Secular Institutes, does not break any new ground in bishop-religious relationships. Religious are still accorded their measure of independence from the diocese, by asked to cooperate closely with the bishop.

However, the introduction to the document emphasizes the importance of Sisters in the Catholic religious world. "It is astounding if one reflects on the fact that women religious in the

entire world number more than one million, or one sister for every 250 Catholic women," the document notes. This compares with 270,000 male religious.

In a section on the duties and responsibilities of bishops and religious, the document urges women religious to seek new activities, in keeping with their expanded role in the outside world. "In the pastoral field of the Church," the document states, "a new and relevant post has been awarded to women. Already, industrious helpers of the apostles, women must contribute their apostolic activity today within the ecclesiastical community by faithfully realizing their created and revealed identity, and by carefully turning their attention to women's growing presence in civil society."

"Women religious, therefore, in faithfulness to their vocations and in harmony with their specific character — that of

woman — and in response also to the concrete necessities of the Church and the world, should seek out and propose new forms of apostolic service." The validity of traditional work in schools, hospitals and missions is reaffirmed.

Urging religious to form associations among themselves on various

regional and international levels, the Vatican document warns that statements on social, economic or political matters should be submitted to the local bishop before being issued.

Above all, the document calls for cooperation between bishops and the religious orders.

Bishops

From 1

court then rejected biological criteria on the beginnings of life, substituting instead "a definition of human life for constitutional purposes that rejects life science and extends recognition as life only to that which societal consensus can agree is human."

"It does not follow from the court's reference to the uncertainty of various segments of our society as to when human life begins that there is any confusion on this point in the life science community," it said. "There, a uniform consensus exists that the fetus is a human being, a member of the human species which is living."

"However, since the court mandated a sociological criterion, there is no no legal criterion for deciding which human lives are to be protected and which are not."

"If there are no legal indications, only sociological consensus then there is literally no human life which cannot ultimately fall victim before such a consensus."

The brief asserted that the Supreme Court "has chosen to abandon a constitutional

mandate to protect human life — a mandate existing through the 5th and 14th amendments — in the hope of solving the social problem of women with unwanted pregnancies. It is surprising that the court should think so amorphous a condition as unwantedness to be susceptible of solution by judicial adjudication."



Inside

Bishop Hogan 5
Calendar 16
Child 7
Classified 18
Cuddy 8
Editorial 4
Liturgy 15
Opinion 4
Pope Paul 5
Rap Around 12
Shamon 8
Southern Tier 16

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