

People and Events Of the World and Nation

High Court Sets 5 Abortion Cases During Next Term

Washington (RNS) — In a series of actions which may indicate significant changes in thinking on one of the country's most volatile social issues, the Supreme Court announced here that it will review abortion laws from two states and a city during its next term.

By agreeing to rule in five separate cases from Akron, Ohio, Missouri and Virginia, the high court seems poised to issue its most comprehensive findings on abortion since its landmark 1973 decision striking down abortion laws in some 40 states.

Those decisions, among the most disputed ever handed down, held basically that a woman in consultation with her physician possesses a constitutional right to have an abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The court further ruled that during the second trimester, the state has an escalating interest in protecting fetal life and may thus impose some regulations. During the last three months, the state's interest is so compelling as to permit an outright ban on abortions, the court ruled.

Anti-abortion activists, reacting to those decisions, have successfully pushed state legislatures and city governments to impose new regulations to restrict the availability of abortions while working on the federal level for a constitutional amendment to ban all abortions except to save the lives of mothers.

Planned Parenthood Quits United Way In Pa. County

Reading, Pa. (RNS) — The Planned Parenthood Center of Berks County has decided to withdraw from the local United Way because of objections to the abortion counseling program.

James Sterganos, president of the Planned Parenthood board of directors, asserted that the decision to pull out stemmed not from pressure from the United Way or from local Catholic priests.

A resolution passed by the board said the decision to withdraw at the end of this year was made because of concern "with respect to the freedom of operation of the center, with respect to option counseling and other patient services."

The center had been receiving 20 percent of the funding, about \$60,000 a year.

Last year, area priests urged Catholics not to contribute to United Way because of Planned Parenthood. A year ago, they said the agency had violated a 1974 pledge not to offer abortion counseling while a member of the umbrella group.

A United Way spokesman said the clergy appeal had "significant impact" on its fundraising, resulting in the loss of some \$200,000.

Canon Lawyer Named Second in Command Of Bishops Panels

Washington (RNS) — Father Donald E. Heintschel of Toledo, a former president of the Canon Law Society of America, has been named associate general secretary of the National Conference of Bishops and its social action arm, the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Father Heintschel, who is a pastor and vicar for religious in Toledo, will succeed Father Daniel F. Hoye, now general secretary of the NCCB.

Father Heintschel, 57, served as president of the Canon Law Society from 1972 to 1974: A native of Toledo, he interrupted studies at Loyola University for a medical career to enter the priesthood.

Soviet Takeover Seen Not as Bad As Nuclear War

Brooklyn (RNS) — A leading Church opponent of nuclear arms says a Russian takeover of the United States would not be as terrible as this country's participation in a nuclear war.

"The Russians may destroy our bodies," said Seattle Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen, "but our willingness to use nuclear weapons ultimately will destroy our souls."

The archbishop, who gave a boost to the "Taxes for Peace" movement when he announced on Feb. 1 that he would withhold half his federal income taxes to protest the arms race, made his remarks in response to questions at a peace service at St. James Cathedral here.

If unilateral disarmament by the United States "means that we would be subjected, overridden or destroyed by the enemy," he said, "I do not see that as nearly as fatal as our willingness to destroy them in return."

The 60-year-old archbishop said unilateral disarmament will probably not lead to a Russian takeover, but he acknowledged that "it could happen. We could lose our freedom and our country as we know it. If that happened, I would see it as a crucifixion but we would still have the opportunity to resist."

Billy Graham Says Media Distorted His Moscow Talk

New York (RNS) — "I would like to announce that I'm not a Communist and have not been asked to," evangelist Billy Graham told reporters here on his return to the United States from a controversial visit to the Soviet Union.

The evangelist was obviously annoyed at press reports and commentary in the United States which suggested he had been too favorable to his Soviet hosts in his public statements. "It seems to me that I have been expected to solve all problems and be an expert. I am not."

He said he had been misquoted in news stories quoting him as saying he had seen persecution of religious people in the Soviet Union. He admitted saying this but explained that it was after having been asked by a reporter if he had personally seen any examples of persecution.

"There is religious persecution in the Soviet Union," he said, "but I didn't see it."

Chinese Catholics Can't Look to Rome: Constitution

Peking (RNS) — Chinese Catholics will soon be forbidden by law from recognizing the pope as head of their Church.

Later this year, China will formally adopt a constitution that among other things restricts foreign control of domestic religious practice. Article 35 of the new draft constitution states that "no religious affairs may be dominated by any foreign country."

The clause puts an end to Roman Catholic hopes of reuniting the Chinese church with the Vatican.

Corpus Christi To Host Reunion

Preparations are under way at Corpus Christi School, 880 E. Main St., for the 5-Year ReBirth-Day Celebration, Sunday, June 6. As a parish school, Corpus Christi first opened its doors to students in 1888, and in 1977 became an independent parent-operated community school under the coordination of the Diocese of Rochester.

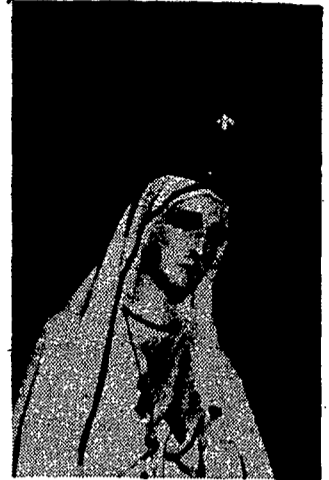
Since then a dedicated group has joined together — financially, spiritually and emotionally — to make Corpus Christi Community School what it is today; a viable alternative to public

education in the center city for grades K-8.

The principal, Sister Eileen Daly, students, faculty, staff and volunteers will open their school to all former students and friends on this day in celebration of the past five years. There will be a special Mass at 12:15 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church, celebrated by Father James Callan. An open house will follow from 1 to 4 p.m., with refreshments and displays of student work throughout the school.

Much effort and countless hours have been given to

Corpus Christi School to make it a successful educational experience for city youths. All members of the Rochester community are invited to participate in this celebration. For more information, call 325-5850.



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