

# Msgr. Schwab Notes 65 Years

Elmira — The day before his 89th birthday, Msgr. Leo G. Schwab will have reached his 65th anniversary of priesthood.

Msgr. Schwab was born June 9, 1894, and was ordained June 8, 1918.

For the greatest number of his priestly years, Msgr. Schwab has served the people of Elmira, first as a curate, then pastor, and even in retirement, as a chaplain to the Dominican cloister.

His first assignment was to Immaculate Conception,

Rochester. That was followed by an assignment to St. Patrick's in Elmira, followed by an assignment to St. Thomas Aquinas in Leicester.

He was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira in 1940 and remained at the helm of the parish until his 1969 retirement.

He then moved to the rectory of St. John the Baptist Church for a time, continuing to provide chaplaincy services to the Monastery of Mary the Queen, the



**MSGR. SCHWAB**  
Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary.  
Msgr. Schwab now resides at Our Lady of Lourdes.

# Sanctity of Life On Still Another Front

By Anita Maruggi

While the U.S. bishops were at the Palmer House in Chicago grappling with the life and death issue of nuclear war, more than 400 priests and laity were also in town, at the Conrad Hilton, grappling with the same moral, ethical and practical issues of the sanctity of life of the unborn, the handicapped newborn and the dying.

In a talk to the conferees, Father Bryan Hehir, also attending the nuclear disarmament meeting, made the comparison between the moral ethics governing abortion and those governing nuclear war. He stated that is an absolute judgment with no room for disagreement that innocent life is not to be attacked whether on civilian population as in war or in the womb as in abortion. (See story, elsewhere on this page.)

The U.S. bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities' meeting had the singular purpose of exchange among directors for the implementation of pro-life activities. They discussed abortion, the issue that won't go away, and the ways and means needed

to pass the Hatch Amendment which would simply state that the Constitution

**Anita Q. Maruggi, diocesan Human Life coordinator, represented the diocese at the annual meeting of Respect Life/Pro-Life directors recently in Chicago. She has prepared this report for Courier-Journal readers.**

does not guarantee the right to abortion. Local bishops were urged to make public statements through press conferences, personal letters to senators and by encouraging Catholics to make themselves heard to senators also.

The conference also heard Thomas Marzden who presented the new legal trends in death and dying — the living will, which is based on the principle that individuals in society have an absolute right to refuse medical help. Its intended use, not to prolong life by extraordinary means and possible abuse of coercing the sick or elderly to die or to allow others to kill them, was considered and explored. Hospices, places for people who are terminally ill, also were discussed, with emphasis on the need for hospices for children.

Sister Paul Vandegaer, speaking on alternatives to abortion, drew a psychological composite of one type of sexually active

woman as one who is testing a love relationship by getting pregnant and, if left alone, will attempt to bond with the baby to heal the relationship. She may suffer personality disorders, neuroses, anguish, depression and absence or excess of guilt. Sister Paula sees the Church as helping to save not only the babies but the mothers and marriages, that religious principles are good for mental health and that nowhere in the world should there be a place where pregnant women cannot get help.

Another important area, "Infanticide: Handicapped Newborns," was discussed by Dr. Eugene Diamond. He cited the apparent deterioration of the medical profession's regard for life and society's attitude that "vita" cannot be unless it is the "dolce vita." He warned against allowing doctors to decide whose life is worth living.

Father Edward Bryce, conference director, closed with a reminder that we are doing a fundamental job — the preaching of the gospel life. We are more realistic but no less hopeful in our efforts to pass Hatch and to protect life at all stages of human development.



## Talking Things Over

The current situation in Poland was among a variety of issues discussed by President Ronald Reagan and Philadelphia's Cardinal John Krol at a meeting last week in the Oval Office at the White House.

# Vatican Officials Block Tridentine Mass Attempt

VATICAN CITY (NC) — A suspended French priest who has accused Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI of heresy tried to celebrate a Tridentine Mass in St. Peter's Basilica May 13 but was blocked by Vatican officials.

The Tridentine order of Mass was suppressed in the liturgical reforms of Vatican Council II and still is not an approved form of celebrating Mass.

The suspended priest, Father Georges de Nantes of Saint-Parres-les-Vaudes, France, went to the basilica with about 200 of his followers shortly before 9 a.m. to celebrate the Tridentine Mass.

When basilica officials told Father De Nantes that his request to celebrate Mass had been turned down, the priest and his followers — who call their movement the Catholic Counter-Reformation — participated at a Mass celebrated by Italian priests according to the currently approved rite.

Father De Nantes, 59, was suspended from priestly functions in 1968 because of his writings against Pope Paul VI and Vatican II. In his books he has accused Pope John Paul and Pope Paul of "heresy, schism and scandal."

He has also described the Polish-born Pope John Paul as "the most powerful agitator for Marxist — and more concretely, Soviet — expansion in the world, as the most active accomplice and cooperater in anti-colonialist and anti-nationalist subversion in the Third World."

After participating in the basilica Mass, Father De Nantes and five priests belonging to the Catholic Counter-Reformation met for more than an hour with Belgian Archbishop Jean Jerome Hamer, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In an official statement issued after the meeting, the doctrinal congregation said Archbishop Hamer had refused to accept copies of the two books written by Father De Nantes "because it was not possible to accept the unjustified and gravely offensive accusations against the pope, nor those formulated a long time ago against Paul VI."

The statement called on Father De Nantes to retract his accusations if he wants the doctrinal congregation to "believe in the seriousness of his desire for reconciliation."

# Abortion, Warfare Connected

Chicago (NC) — The U.S. bishops have forced the American public to look at the abortion and warfare issues in relationship to one another, Father J. Bryan Hehir, the chief adviser to the bishops' committee on war and peace, told pro-life directors.

Looking at the Catholic Church's stand on abortion and war, "there is almost no one else in the American political spectrum that holds those two positions the way we hold them," he said.

Father Hehir, director of international justice and peace for the U.S. Catholic Conference, spoke May 4 at the annual Diocesan Respect Life-Pro-Life Directors Meeting in Chicago. By a vote of 238-9, the U.S. bishops had approved the war and peace pastoral letter the previous day.

Father Hehir said that to put the abortion and warfare issues together "is to force our culture to look at what it means by defending life and to look at its policies in both areas, and it is to give the Catholic Church the opportunity to demonstrate what a consistent ethic of life means."

Medical ethics and nuclear ethics face a similar problem, Father Hehir told the proliferators. "In this age of galloping technology, when we can do almost anything, the decision about what we ought to do is the key moral question."

The bishops are critics on the nuclear war question in the same way they are critics on the abortion question, Father Hehir continued. "They have a distinct place, they don't want to be co-opted by any political movement. They have their own word to say and they say a word that is very significant in the midst of the choices we must face."

The Catholic Church has the capacity for a consistent, coherent ethic in the protec-

tion of life, Father Hehir said. "It is a centuries-old tradition with a coherent set of values, a consistent set of principles and a public potential today that is unique. "We take the value of life and we run it through

several issues, not one," he said. The Church's principle of condemning any direct attack on innocent life guides its teachings on abortion, on the targeting of civilian populations in war and on the care of the terminally ill.

# 4 Men Convicted, Including American, Of IRA Gun-Running

NEW YORK (NC) — Three Irishmen and an American were convicted in federal court in New York on May 13 of running guns to the Provisional Irish Republican Army, an outlawed guerrilla organization fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The 12-member jury reached the verdict after 4 1/2 days of deliberation.

Those convicted were Gabriel Megahey, 40, Colm Meehan, 36, Eamon Meehan, 34, all of Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Andrew Duggan, 49, of New York.

Arrested on June 21, 1981, by undercover agents of the FBI, the four men were charged with violations of U.S. neutrality laws and the munitions and gun control acts.

The indictment charged the men with "conspiracy" to buy and ship arms and explosives to the IRA with the knowledge and intention "that the explosives would be used to kill, injure and intimidate."

The four men face maximum prison terms of 35 years each on separate counts. But as the sentences will run concurrently the maximum period served would be about 10 years.

The defendants remained free on bail pending sentence set by U.S. District Judge Charles Sifton for July 1.

The indictment said the four men entered into the conspiracy in June 1981. When the four were arrested,

FBI agents said they had sought to buy \$1 million in arms, including surface-to-air missiles, for shipment to Northern Ireland.

# Battle Named 'Sportsman Of the Year'

Sam Battle, a parishioner at St. Rita's, Webster, will be honored as "Sportsman of the Year" at the 10th annual Butterhole Sports Night reunion at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 26, at Sweet's Party House.

Battle was a football fullback of the 1935-43 era, starring with the Tartars, Oxfords and Trojans, local sandlot teams. He also was a standout catcher in baseball.

Ed Rutkowski, former Buffalo Bills star and current executive manager of Erie County, will be the guest speaker. Other featured guests will include Carmen Basilio, boxing great, and local media representatives Rich Funke, Bill Beeny and Jack Slattery. Monroe County Manager Lou Morin also will be on the dais.

Former Butterhole honorees are Joe Meehan, Nick Schaubert, "Shifty" Gears, Toddy Yaekel, Heinie and Bill Fackelman and Chuck Dobner.

Tickets are \$15 and are available from Ed Mosta, 467-8101; George Casey 544-5060; Chuck Dobner 454-4068, or Bill Pero 266-0044.

# Papal Aide Praises U.S. Bishops' Pastoral

VATICAN CITY (NC) — The president of the Pontifical Academy for the Sciences has praised the bishops of the United States for their pastoral on nuclear war because it opposes America's military buildup.

Carlos Chagas, a Brazilian physicist on the faculty of the University of Rio de Janeiro, spoke at a press conference ending a four-day meeting which brought 12 specialists from nine nations to the Vatican to discuss the effects

of ionized radiation. "They went farther than we did, but they were in a different position," said Chagas, comparing the U.S. bishops' document with a report done by the Pontifical Academy in 1981.

The academy report, which detailed the effects of a nuclear war, was presented personally by academy representatives, with the approval of Pope John Paul II, to heads of several governments, including the United

States and the Soviet Union.

"The U.S. bishops were dealing with a more specific problem," said Chagas, "namely, President Reagan's military development program, which was ruining the country's social development program."

"I believe," he added, "that a government's obligation to guarantee national security goes hand-in-hand with its obligation to provide for the welfare of its citizens."