

# National/International Report

## Philippine officials credit Church influence for 'yes' vote

Manila, Philippines (NC) — Top Filipino Catholic officials are giving the Church credit for swaying the public to vote overwhelmingly for a new constitution over objections from the political left and right.

But one bishop warned against throwing out what he called the left's legitimate issues in the aftermath of the Feb. 2 referendum. An estimated 78 percent of voters endorsed the constitution.

In a press conference, Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila said that "75-80 percent of the population listened to the voice of the Church, perhaps 15 percent to that of the government and at maximum 10 percent" to the communists.

"If one considers that today the Church is allied with the government, one understands that the maneuvering room of the communists is extremely reduced," Cardinal Sin said.

The Philippine Catholic bishops' conference decided last November to campaign for a "yes" vote on the constitution. It was the first time in modern history that the Philippine Church has openly taken sides in an election or plebiscite.

The overwhelming endorsement of the new constitution shows Filipinos are rejecting "extremist positions both of the left and of the right," said Jesuit Father Joaquin Bernas who helped draft the document.

The Jesuit was appointed to the constitutional drafting committee by Philippine President Corazon Aquino. He also is president of the University of Manila. He made his comments in an interview with Vatican Radio.

Father Bernas said the results and the high voter turnout were endorsements not only of the principles of the constitution, but also of Mrs. Aquino. However, he warned that many problems still must be faced by the government, including the unequal distribution of wealth and land.

"The constitution reflects a consciousness of the socio-economic problems that beset

the nation and it sets out certain guidelines on how these problems should be tackled," he said.

"The constitution is a real challenge to the present administration," the priest added. "I would hope that the very popular president would realize that popularity means power and also responsibility."

If the government appears to be conscientiously addressing these problems, he said, the rebel insurgency will be, if not halted, at least "considerably diminished."

While a "yes" was a vote against extremists on the right and left, it should not be interpreted as a rejection of issues such as land reform and justice for workers, which the left has raised, said Bishop Francisco Claver, retired head of the Diocese of Malaybalay. He is a leading figure in the Institute on Church and Social Issues at Ateneo de Manila University. He said a group of bishops would meet soon to discuss Church support of land reform and other issues affecting the poor.

"Right now, many land reform programs are being pushed, but which one the farmers want is unclear," he said. "We'll try to determine what they want and then work for it."

Cardinal Sin, the religious superiors of men and the bishops' conference all have spoken in support of a strong land reform program.

Bishop Claver said President Corazon Aquino is being cautious on such reform because many of her supporters are landlords.

The new constitution makes all agricultural land subject to land reform, but leaves it to the legislature to work out such details as the manner of payment.

The document also contains strong guarantees for civil rights and encourages the participation of poor people's organizations in government decision making. It sharply limits presidential powers, especially the power to declare martial law, prohibits military involvement in partisan politics and



NC photo

An estimated 78 percent of Filipinos voted in favor of their country's new constitution during a referendum February 2. Nuns, seminarians and priests were among hundreds of volunteers who guarded ballot boxes to prevent election fraud.

increases the powers of the judiciary.

The constitution provides for a bicameral legislature similar to that of the United States, but limits senators to two consecutive terms and representatives to three.

It calls on the government to pursue a nuclear-free policy, but permits the legislature to allow nuclear weapons if

consistent with national interest.

Nuns, seminarians and priests were among those who monitored the referendum for the National Movement for Free Elections, a citizen's watchdog group.

More than 85 percent of registered voters reportedly went to the polls, and there were few reports of election fraud.

**4TH ANNUAL PARENTS' CONVENTION**  
**MAY 1, 2, 3, 1987 Rochester Plaza Hotel**  
 NEW YORK FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS  
 HOST CHAPTER: ROCHESTER FEDERATION  
 945 NORTH GREECE ROAD • ROCHESTER, NY 14626 • (716) 227-2577

**WORKSHOP REGISTRATION**

Pre-registration for the Saturday Workshops is required; admission will be by ticket only. Indicate three (3) choices and one (1) alternate below.

**A. Making PG Kids in an X-rated Society:** Mrs. Mary Gore, wife of the Senator from Tennessee, has been in the forefront of lobbying to have record albums rated for parental guidance.

**B. Pre-Paid Tuition:** Eliminate tuition delinquencies, be assured of cash flow! A proven system explained by Mr. Leonard Fine, of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

**C. Development:** The Path to Catholic School Financial Stability: The same Mr. Fine as above will present one or two sessions on practical financial planning and marketing of your school.

**D. Drug Recognition and Counseling:** A team from the Greece, N.Y. Police Dept. will help you to identify different chemical substances being abused by our society, as well as describe intervention techniques. Presenters: Det. Debbie Dwyer and Frank Ardino, Guidance Counselor.

**E. Grass Roots Lobbying:** Do elected officials really respond to your opinions? How can you be most effective in bringing about legislation helpful to our schools? Presenter: Mrs. Mary Quinn, the driving force behind many efforts!

**F. Regents Action Plan:** What is it? What's its impact on our schools? Of importance to all parents, this is a "must" for school board members. Presenter: Mrs. Joan Arnold Bourgeois, Asst. Commissioner of Education for Non-Public Schools, State Ed. Dept., Albany.

**G. State Services to Non-Public School Students:** Mrs. Bourgeois (see "F") will discuss state services, such as text books and parents' role/rights, programs for the gifted, etc.

**H. To Parents! You are appreciated, needed, valued, and most of all loved by your kids and so we "toast" YOU!** A real uplifter with Fr. Joe Six, of Pocono, PA. Catholic High.

**I. How To Get Media Coverage:** Practical suggestions to get your school and its programs into the news. Presenter: Mr. Bill Klein, Public Affairs Dir., Station WVOR.

**J. Questions You Should Be Asking:** Get the most out of parent-teacher conferences! Presenter: Merrilyn Parks, Director of Rochester Area E.P.I.C. Program.

**K. Motivating Your Children To Learn:** Take the hassle out of helping your children to make the most of their abilities. Presenter: Mr. Joseph Fitzgibbons, Guidance Counselor.

**L. How To Have Efficient and Effective Meetings:** Step by step presentation of agenda development and of how to participate meaningfully in committee meetings. Presenters: Sr. Roberta Tierney, Dir. of Education, Rochester Diocese; Mrs. Gina Ouwelen, Rochester Parents' Federation.

**LUNCHEON KEYNOTER:** Rev. William O'Malley, S.J.  
 "What Makes a School Catholic?"

**MASS CELEBRANT:** Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, Bishop of Rochester  
**DINNER ENTERTAINMENT:** Georgetown University "CHIMES"

**WORKSHOP/HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**

**DO MORE THAN MAKE COPIES**

- ▶ Reservations must be received by April 8, 1987 with payment in full. After that date, rooms will be charged at the regular hotel per diem rates: \$69/Day + \$57 Per Person For Plan Three.
- ▶ Specify name of person with whom the room is to be shared. (Each must register separately.) If not indicated, we will assign someone unless you are reserving a single room.
- ▶ Rooms may not be available for check-in until 3:00 p.m.
- ▶ Check-out time is 1:00 p.m.
- ▶ Make checks payable to and mail to:  
**FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS**  
 69 Keswick Road Rochester, NY 14609

**CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PLANS:**

<p>( ) <b>PLAN ONE: \$130 per person, double occupancy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday, Saturday night room.</li> <li>• Friday wine and cheese reception.</li> <li>• Saturday and Sunday continental breakfast.</li> <li>• Saturday lunch, coffee break, dinner.</li> <li>• Workshops.</li> </ul> <p>( ) <b>\$198 single occupancy.</b></p>	<p>( ) <b>PLAN THREE: \$57 per person.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday cont. breakfast, lunch, coffee break, dinner.</li> <li>• Workshops</li> </ul> <p>( ) <b>PLAN FOUR: \$37 per person.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday cont. breakfast, lunch, coffee break.</li> <li>• Workshops.</li> </ul>
<p>( ) <b>PLAN TWO: \$98 per person, double occupancy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday night room.</li> <li>• Saturday and Sunday continental breakfast.</li> <li>• Saturday lunch, coffee break, dinner.</li> <li>• Workshops.</li> </ul> <p>( ) <b>\$132 single occupancy.</b></p>	<p>( ) <b>PLAN FIVE: \$20 per person.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday dinner only.</li> </ul>

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**3 WORKSHOP CHOICES:**  
 (Indicate by letter)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

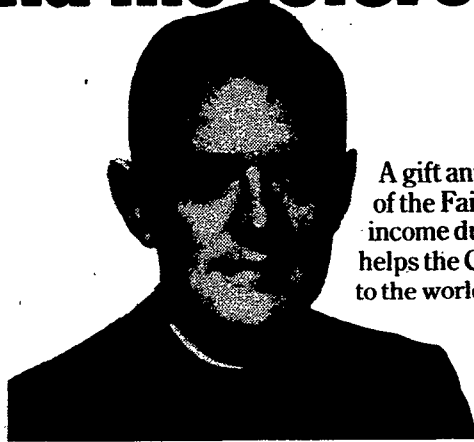
CITY/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

DIOCESE: \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM SHARED WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Separate reservation with payment must be received by April 8th

# Let me help you provide for your future... and the future of others.



A gift annuity with the Propagation of the Faith gives you a generous income during your lifetime and helps the Church carry on Jesus' mission to the world.

Your investment is safe and guaranteed. Falling interest rates do not affect a gift annuity and it gives you substantial tax savings.

Would you like to know more about an annuity, or about remembering the Propagation of the Faith in your will? If you are 50 years of age or older, write to me for more information. I will keep your inquiry in total confidence.

*William J. McCormack*  
 National Director

**Dear Bishop McCormack:**  
 Please send me detailed information about a Gift Annuity with the Propagation of the Faith.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Considered: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (required information) \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on how I can remember the Propagation of the Faith in my will.

Please mail coupon to me: Bishop William J. McCormack  
 National Director, Propagation of the Faith  
 G.P.O. Box 1950, New York, NY 10116 (Dept. C)

**The Propagation of the Faith**  
 Supporting the Church's worldwide mission work #344, 2/12/87

Your gift is tax deductible