

CATHOLIC COMMENT

from around the globe



LOUIS HEUNG SAI-KIT, 12, a student at Bishop Ford Memorial Center school in Hong Kong welcomes Atty Gen. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy in the city's Kowloon resettlement area. Father Howard Trube, M.M. of New York (left) and Msgr. John Romaniello, M.M. of New Rochelle, director of Catholic Relief Services-NCWC Hong Kong, do some interpreting. The Kennedy's later distributed noodles made from U.S. surplus food to Chinese refugees. (NC Photos)

Priest Notes Absence Of Catholics in Office

NEW YORK — (NC) — Father Bernard P. Donachie said here it seemed "a bit strange" that only the Catholic Church should be accused of trying to violate "the wall of separation between Church and State."

Preaching at a Mass in St. Patrick's cathedral, Father Donachie said:

"As far as I know there are no Catholic priests on the New York Board of Education or at the head of any city-operated college. I

don't ever remember hearing Catholics cry out against the fact that there are Protestant ministers in such positions."

This was an apparent reference to Rev. Gardner C. Taylor, former president of the Protestant Council of New York, who was a member of the Board of Education, and to Rev. Buell G. Gallagher, a Congregational minister, who is returning March 1 to the presidency of City College after an absence of eight months.

Most Catholic Seniors Eye Secular Schools

BUFFALO, N. Y. — (NC) — How much need is there for Newman Clubs at secular colleges? A survey taken here offers one answer.

It shows that 51 per cent of local Catholic high school seniors who planned to attend college hoped to enroll in non-Catholic institutions.

The percentage was much higher among Catholic seniors in public high schools. A full 89 per cent of them planned to enter secular colleges.

The survey was made last year by the Newman Club Directorate of the Buffalo diocese and its results recently released. A total of 3,981 students responded to the questionnaire. Of this number, 2,815 were from Catholic schools and 1,166 from public schools.

The study also showed that 61 per cent of the respondents from Catholic high schools intended to enter college. Of those in public schools, 39 per cent intended to pursue higher studies.

North Ireland Bishops Fear Land Seizure

LONDON — (NC) — Northern Ireland's Catholic Bishops have buttressed their public protest against a bill authorizing seizure of church lands by sending a delegation to the government here.

Bishop Eugene O'Doherty of Dromore and Auxiliary Bishop William Conway of Armagh, Ireland's primate, brought the fears of the Northern Irish Hierarchy before the Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmuir.

The Lord Chancellor is speaker of the House of Lords. At the time the Bishops' delegation approached him, the bill was under debate in the House of Lords and within a step of becoming law.

Growth In Hierarchy Cited in Dictionary

NEW YORK — (NC) — The phenomenal growth in numbers of the American hierarchy during the past 25 years will be revealed in the new edition of the "Dictionary of the American Hierarchy."

Msgr. Joseph B. Code, the book's author and director of the St. Paul Guild, New York, said the volume will contain 830 biographies as against 498 in the first edition of 1939—an increase of 332.

In addition, he said, the new volume will have more than 100 brief biographies of prelates who are not of the U.S. hierarchy itself, but who have had some connection with this country's hierarchy.

It will also have a complete list of titular Sees given American Bishops, information on the various ecclesiastical jurisdictions pertaining to the United States and a complete necrology of American bishops of the past 175 years, he said.

Argentine President Says His Nation Is Catholic

CORDOBA, Argentina — (NC) — President Arturo Frondizi declared here that Argentina is Catholic and democratic and therefore cannot be materialistic or communistic.

The President rejected charges that Argentina's striving for economic development is being made at the cost of its spiritual values.

The true materialists, he said, are those who deny the possibility of progress, and thus aid the communist cause.

Frondizi asserted that there can be neither spiritual development nor cultural progress in a poverty-ravaged nation.

Education Aid Plan Subject of Criticism

ST. LOUIS — (NC) — The president of Citizens for Educational Freedom has charged that Rep. Cleveland Bailey's Federal aid proposal is "the Pontius Pilate approach."

David LaDriere, in a statement from CEF's headquarters here, said the West Virginian legislator's proposal transfers "the burden of discrimination from the Federal government to 50 state agencies."

The Bailey approach, on which congressional hearings will begin February 27, proposes letting the states determine how to spend any Federal school aid funds given them.

Bailey has said this will "take the heart out of the religious issue" since each state would have to decide whether to aid private schools.

Sterilization Measure Opposed in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. — (NC) — A bill authorizing voluntary sterilization was passed by the Courts of Justice Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates and sent to the House floor over Catholic objections.

In public hearings Catholic groups had opposed the measure, which would make it lawful for a

surgeon to perform a sterilization operation on an individual requesting it in writing.

The committee approved the bill by an 11-5 vote after adopting amendments which eliminate authority for the sterilization of juveniles except those with hereditary defects.

Earlier, the State Senate's General Laws Committee killed two other sterilization bills aimed at unwed mothers. Catholic spokesmen led the attack on the bills during public hearings February 12, arguing that they were immoral and unconstitutional.

610,000 People Visit Museum in Vatican

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — More than 610,000 people visited the Vatican Museums during 1961, about 5,000 more than in the previous year.

The recently published yearbook "Activities of the Holy See in 1961," reported also that the section of the museums devoted to Etruscan pieces has been rearranged so that its collections of gold jewelry, Etruscan art and Greek vases are now more handsomely displayed.

Other improvements include further restorations of the Raphael frescoes which were begun in 1943. Steps have been taken to strengthen the walls on which the priceless frescoes are painted. Earlier restorations of the frescoes have also been removed and the original outlines recovered.

Priest Says Function Of Press Is To Teach

MILWAUKEE — (NC) — "A socially responsible newspaper teaches or it is a nuisance, or worse," a priest said at the "by-line award" breakfast of Marquette University's College of Journalism.

Father Edward J. Drummond, S.J., the university's vice president for academic affairs, said that both the newspaper and the universities "must teach or they deny their fundamental responsibilities."

"Both the university and the press must seek the truth and transmit it without distortion and in a context which makes it meaningful," said Father Drummond. "Both are recipients of a public trust and confidence which can be forfeited if they abuse their freedom or are careless in their handling of the truth."

Recipients of 1962 by-line awards were: Ted Knap, a reporter for the Indianapolis Times; John F. Loosbrock, editor of Air Force Magazine and Space Digest, Washington, D. C.; Joseph P. Wright, vice president of Prince and Company, Detroit and New York advertising agency.

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