

# Erroneous Philosophies Challenge the Nation

WASHINGTON — (NC) — The Bishops of the United States have said that many of America's goals remain unfulfilled, but are within reach if Americans unite in a common effort to attain them.

In their annual statement, entitled "Bonds of Union," the Bishops warned that the nation's people face grave challenges from erroneous philosophies.

But they said a review of the nation's moral values and "renewed dedication to our common goals may help us to face the present trials as a people truly one nation under God."

In their statement, the Bishops re-studied the nation's heritage of moral and political principles, pointed to threats facing it today

The complete text of the Bishops' Statement will be found in the Sunday Visitor section of this issue.

and expressed confidence Americans will meet the challenge.

The Bishops said: "A national examination of conscience would reveal today that we are in danger of becoming a people weakened by secularism in our social philosophy, materialism in our concept of the good life and expediency in our moral code."

THE BISHOPS said secularism, which regards God and religion as irrelevant to everyday life, is enjoying "increasing establishment as an official American view of life." They said it can be found in education, marriage, business and recreation.

Materialism, they continued, is reflected increasingly in moral values. "Security in the comforts of living is too often our major, even our controlling, concern," they said.

They added that "as an affluent nation, we are unfortunately acquiring the vices associated with irresponsible materialists; over-indulgence, excessive gambling and

## OFFICIAL

By virtue of special faculties, granted by the Holy See, the Most Reverend Bishop is pleased to dispense the faithful of the Diocese of Raleigh from the law of abstinence on the Friday following Thanksgiving, November 29, 1963.

James E. McSweeney  
Chancellor

the insatiable demand for excitement."

The third problem they characterized as "the frequent use of expediency rather than principle in meeting our social problems."

Typical of this defect, they said, is the "confusion and tension surrounding the so-called 'race question'."

Social justice, they charged, under the influence of secularism and materialism, "becomes merely a political matter and we remain as a nation morally tortured by racial injustice in schools, jobs, housing, See *Philosophies*, page 2A



MISS MADELINE TRIPP, Supervisor of Elementary Education of the State Department of Public Instruction, addressed the Home School Association of Our Lady of Lourdes, Raleigh, last week. The largest gathering in the history of the Association heard Miss Tripp discuss the latest innovations in elementary education. Shown with Miss Tripp is Sister Joseph Gertrude, School Principal, and Mr. Ed Hollowell, Program Chairman of the Association.

## Why Haven't They Told Us?

By Rev. Francis R. Moeslein

Breathes there an American who does not know what faith Ngo Dinh Diem professed? If so, he has a twofold title to our sympathy, for the poor man must be both blind and deaf.

For three months and more the wire service reporters fed the U.S. public a distorted account of the conflict in Vietnam. Flatly contradicting the findings of Congressman Zablocki, and ignoring the protests of the Buddhists themselves, the newsmen insisted that religious persecution was the basis for the suicides and riots which shook the country. No dispatch failed to label President Diem and his government Roman Catholic. It would be equally fair to associate the name of Protestant Governor George Wallace with every report of racial disturbance in the State of Alabama.

With the death of Diem we thought the truth would come out. Alas, we underestimated the determination of the conspirators! They dutifully announced that the President had committed suicide. When the provisional government realized that no one would swallow such nonsense, it came up with a new version, which the news corps reproduced under the headline of "Accidental Suicide." We held no brief for the late president, nor did we find much that was Christ-like in his intransigence, but in his death at least, Diem imitated the Master. How did the release go? Oh yes: "While the guards were sleeping. . ."

Religion was but a minor issue in the Vietnamese uprisings. The trouble was specifically political. If this was not apparent amid the confusing and conflicting reports that preceded the overthrow of the Diem regime, it is certainly verified by these facts:

1. Father Paul Cao van Luan has been reinstated by Vietnam's provisional government

as the rector of the state university in Hue. Over 1,500 Buddhists welcomed him back to Hue and formed a parade in his honor.

Observation: To prove that the Buddhists were struggling against religious oppression, U.S. newsmen underscored the number of Catholics (van Luan included) who held prominent positions under Diem, but little notice was given to his dismissal by Diem in August. No account of his reinstatement has appeared in the secular newspapers or in the national news-magazines. Why?

2. There are 14 generals on the Military Revolutionary Committee which now governs Vietnam. Two of the generals are Catholics, but how many Americans know this? None who depend on the secular press to provide them with the truth.

3. When the Gia Long Palace fell and the coup was complete, the residents of Saigon took to the streets to demolish government offices, monuments, and other symbols of the regime which had oppressed them. Yet, not a single Catholic church was damaged, nor was any priest or nun abused in the melee. Our friends, the reporters, thought it best to pass this over in silence, and to our knowledge, no editor in this country has had the courage to point out the reason why.

Vietnam will long stand in the memory of Americans as a land of repression. But few Americans will ever realize that truth was repressed with far greater determination and more effectively than the natives. The conspiracy will not die, for strangely enough there is a certain honor among our correspondents in the Far East. What one reporter fabricates another will never deny. After all, they have to protect the image of the corps.

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My dear Brethren:

Lest we forget, in our well-being in the United States, that the rest of the world is not so well provided for, the Bishops of the nation annually appeal to Catholics for assistance to the needy world over.

As we Americans prepare to observe our national day of Thanksgiving, there can be no more meaningful expression of our gratitude to God than by sharing our material blessings with those who, through no fault of their own, do not have sufficient clothing, food or medicine.

In 1962 the Thanksgiving Clothing Appeal amassed more than 8,000 tons of clothing, bedding, blankets and shoes, and the contributions of American Catholics to the Overseas Relief collection enabled the Catholic Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to provide help in the form of food and medicine valued at \$166,000,000.00! Surely, in view of the blessings which we Americans enjoy, we can do no less in 1963 as our expression of giving to our Lord's least brethren.

Assuring you of the gratitude of the needy and hungry throughout the world, and with prayerful best wishes from the Council in Rome, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Vincent J. Maher*

Bishop of Raleigh



SEVENTH SON in his immediate family to become a Jesuit, Mr. Louis E. Scerri, (above) who is from Malta, pronounced his vows at West Baden College in southern Indiana. He is taking a three year course in philosophy there as part of his preparation for the priesthood.

## Council Fathers Split On Ecumenism Schema

Vatican City — (NC) — The ecumenical council began discussion of the draft proposal on ecumenism (Nov. 18) with the Fathers split three ways. Some opposed the inclusion in the schema on Christian unity of the chapter on Christian-Jewish relations. Others expressed caution concerning an ecumenical dialogue of Catholics with Protestants, and some stressed the necessity of discussing all the issues.

Before discussion began a vote was taken to indicate the Fathers' mind on the way the liturgical commission had rewritten its schema. The results showed a sweeping victory for the schema — 2,066 in favor and only 20 opposed.

DEBATE BEGAN on the ecumenism schema after a presentation of it was read by Amleto Cardinal Cicognani. The schema is composed of four chapters: The

Principles of Catholic Ecumenism; The Implementation of Ecumenism; Christians Separated from the Catholic Church; and The Attitude of Catholics Toward Non-Christians, and Particularly Toward the Jews.

Ignace Cardinal Tappouni, Syrian Rite Patriarch of Antioch, opened discussion by saying that neither the Jews nor Religious liberty should be treated in the schema. He said:

"It is the task of an ecumenical council principally and primarily to treat only of Catholics and indirectly of other Christians . . . no one denies the supernatural motivation of those who prepared the text, but present-day political situation is such that this text is likely to engender confusion."

ERNESTO CARDINAL Ruffini of Palermo, Italy, objected to the word "ecumenism" which he said See *Council Fathers*, page 2A