

# North Carolina Catholic

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**FIRST CURSILLO FOR WOMEN** — Thirty-nine lay women and five Sisters were candidates at the first Cursillo for women in the Diocese of Raleigh held at Notre Dame High School, Greensboro, January 21-24. Rev. Martin J. Gamber, Notre Dame Motherhouse, Baltimore, Maryland, served as Spiritual Director, and Rev. J. Paul Byron, Priest-Director of Cursillos in the Diocese of Raleigh,

was Assistant Spiritual Director. Miss Betty Sweeny, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Baltimore, Rector, was assisted by a group of women from Baltimore who made up the team. Bishop Waters addressed the assembled group of men and women Cursillistas at the closing. Notices will be forthcoming relative to future Cursillos for women in the diocese. (J. Harold Smith Photo)

## Priest's Ad Backs Alabama Vote Drive

Selma, Ala. — (NC) — A Catholic priest took out a full-page advertisement in the Sunday newspaper of this racially-divided community to outline the Catholic position on civil rights and to praise the Negro voter registration drive.

The advertisement appeared in the Selma Times-Journal following a week of demonstrations and mass arrests during which the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., spent five days in jail for leading the voter demonstration.

Signed by Father John P. Crowley, S.S.E., director of the Society of St. Edmund missions in Alabama and northern Florida, the advertisement declared that "the problem in Selma is that neither as a man nor a citizen are the rights of the Negro fully respected."

IN CALM TONES the article described the Negro's dignity as See Alabama Vote, page 4A

May 14-16

## Winston-Salem Council to Host KC Convention

Winston-Salem — The 45th North Carolina State Council Meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be held at the Sheraton Motor Inn, here, May 14 through 16.

Alphonse D. Daye, Convention Chairman, states that the Santa Maria Council No. 2829, which will host the meeting, is already hard at work. All committees have been appointed and are functioning.

Registration will begin on Friday, May 14, at 12:00 noon, and the business meeting will be held that evening. The Convention Mass will be offered at St. Leo's Church on Saturday morning.

Harry C. Pierotti, Supreme Director from Memphis, Tennessee, will be the guest speaker at the Convention Banquet Saturday evening. State Deputy, Donald Cole, will preside over the banquet, and Past State Deputy, Raymond W. Rohlfs, will serve as toastmaster.

A tour of Old Salem, and a luncheon to be followed by a fashion show are the highlights of the program for the women, which is being arranged by Mrs. Virginia Rohlfs, as Chairwoman of Ladies' Activities.

## 'Perfect' System For Regulating Cycle Claimed

BOSTON —(NC)— A medical process which can potentially bring the human reproductive cycle to a point of "perfection" has been announced by Dr. Harold M. Groden, an obstetrician of Walpole, Mass.

In an article in the *Linacre Quarterly*, a magazine for Catholic physicians, Dr. Groden said that tests of his technique have been 100% effective in regulating the menstrual cycle. He also "speculated" that use of his system to promote conception may reduce birth defects caused by "premature ovulation."

In an interview Dr. Groden said he submitted his findings to a number of theologians and all, he said, found his system compatible with Catholic moral principles.

## Vatican Negotiates Agreement With State of Lower Saxony

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — A draft agreement dealing mainly with the settlement of Church-State problems concerning education has been drawn up by representatives of the Holy See and Lower Saxony state after several years of negotiations.

It will not go into effect until it has been approved by the Papal Secretariat of State and the Lower Saxony government.

THE AGREEMENT states it will regulate Church-State relations in Lower Saxony while recognizing the continuing validity of the Vatican's concordat with Germany of 1933.

Although Germany's Supreme Court has held that the concordat is binding on the national government, it has also held that the various German states are sovereign in matters of education and

that they can decide whether or not to abide by the concordat's educational provisions.

THE NEW agreement provides that Catholic religious instruction will be offered as a regular part of the curriculum of all state schools and that state-supported Catholic schools may be set up at the request of parents if adequate organization of the requested schools appears assured and the educational area of non-Catholic pupils is preserved.

One of the state's teacher training colleges will become a Catholic institution and a Catholic theology faculty will be established at the University of Goettingen as soon as a sufficient number of students is assured.

STATE RECOGNITION and final support for Catholic institutions for adult education is also provided for.

Besides education, the agreement covers the field of radio. Its provisions in this matter aim at preventing broadcasts offensive to Catholics and giving adequate time for Catholic broadcasts.

LOWER SAXONY has agreed to pay an annual subsidy as salaries for priests and for diocesan administrations.

of our times toward pluralism. The requirements of human nature demand that the political development of peoples be aimed at a system which will increasingly guarantee a legitimate diversity of belief and opinion within the framework of the common good.

"Such pluralism exists in Spain. It is up to the government to channel it normally, not necessarily all of a sudden, but without losing time, without interruptions."

Speaking of the influence of communism in the country, Ruiz-Gimenez said that there is still "great tension among the social classes of Spain."

"UNLESS WE PROCEED with a true sense of justice and charity," he added, "the class struggle will, unfortunately, break out again some day."

"In this atmosphere of tension it is not surprising that Marxist ideas continue to be strong, though clandestine. For this reason it is important to understand and aid Catholic-oriented labor leaders who untiringly strive to make their fellow workers see that the movement for a profound renewal of the world of work is not only compatible with religious faith, but also a requirement of that faith."

## Former Ambassador Calls for Religious Freedom in Spain

By Manuel Mira (N.C.W.C. News Service)

MADRID — The need for religious freedom in Spain was stressed here by a Spanish leader who served as a lay auditor at the ecumenical council last year.

Joaquin Ruiz-Gimenez said this country's Catholics have no right to oppose "a principle which is important to the Church," but conceded that religious liberty could be put into practice gradually.

An ex-minister of education and former Spanish ambassador to the Holy See, he noted that Marxism is

still strong in Spain and urged support for Catholic labor leaders who are trying to combat it.

RUIZ-GIMENEZ said he supports the proposed law to give more freedom to Spanish Protestants, calling it an important but not final step toward full religious liberty.

No action has been taken since the proposal was first announced at a cabinet meeting last Sept. 10 following three years of talks between the government and representatives of the bishops. When the ecumenical council failed to

act on its own declaration on religious liberty before recessing last Nov. 21, it was announced that Spain would follow suit and delay passage of the proposed law.

At present, most Spanish Protestant services take place in private homes which cannot display signs showing they are places of worship. Non-Catholic Bibles and publications are banned. Protestants may not have seminaries. Protestants have no military chaplains and Protestant clergymen are not exempt from the military draft.

THE PROPOSAL to give Protestants full freedom has brought opposition, especially from conservative Catholic circles, who say it would harm the nation's Catholic unity and that the overwhelmingly Catholic Spanish people are not ready for it.

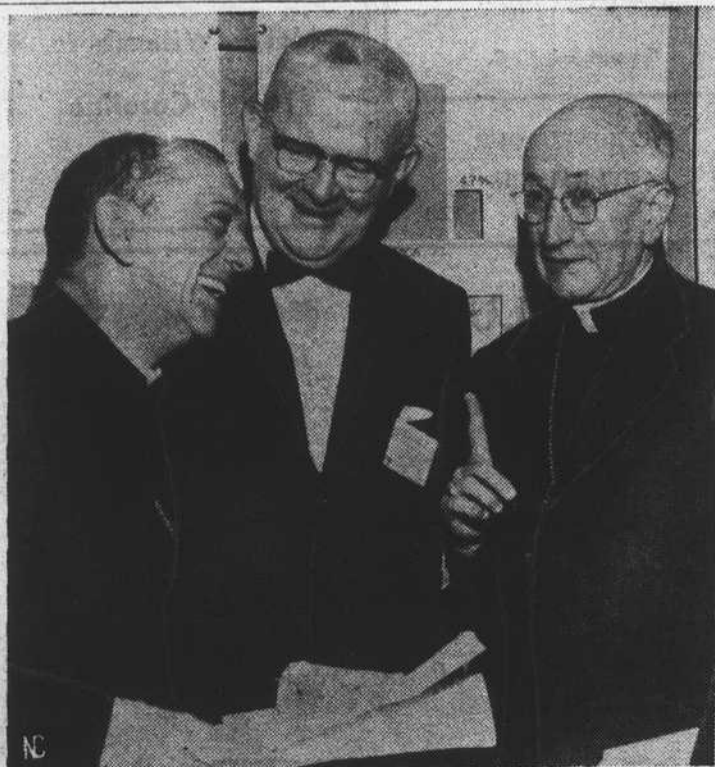
Ruiz-Gimenez said, however, that "we Spanish Catholics have no right to oppose for purely domestic reasons a principle which is important to the Church, particularly to day when solidarity among all nations and among all Christians is so strong."

"To say that the Spanish people are not ready for religious freedom — which is accepted in countries very similar to their own like Venezuela and Chile — is to underestimate them."

"Perhaps religious freedom should be put into practice gradually. That is what the proposed law for non-Catholic confessions would do. It is not conclusive, but it is an important step. It is difficult to explain the opposition it is meeting."

Ruiz-Gimenez urged that pluralism replace totalitarianism. He said:

"THE HARSH EXPERIENCE of the totalitarian states, both capitalist and Marxist, has had the immense value of directing the Catholic social and political thinking



A LIGHT MOMENT at the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program conference in Chicago (Jan. 27-29), brought together (left to right) Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Recife, Brazil; Dr. Gerard Griffin, president, National Federation of Catholic Physicians, and Bishop Manuel Larrain Errazuriz of Talca, Chile, who is president of CELAM, the Latin American Bishops' Conference.