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Vatican Spokesman at World Meet

Slowness Seen Necessary In Population Problems

Geneva — (NC) — A Vatican spokesman, appearing at a meeting of the 18th World Health Assembly, declared the Catholic Church is not indifferent to the problems of birth regulation, but he warned that generalizations regarding a solution might do more harm than good.

At the same time, Father Henri de Riedmatten, O.P., suggested that it would be helpful to have an international body to advise nations on population problems. He said such a group should not deal in theory alone but should give "scientific advice on practical issues insofar as they come within the realm of science and medical practice . . ."

FATHER DE RIEDMATTEN gave his address a few hours before the World Health Organization (WHO) announced here that it would supply birth control information to any member nation wishing it.

Father de Riedmatten's talk was given special attention at the international meeting because he is secretary of the special papal commission established to consider population problems, as well as being the official Vatican observer at the WHO.

The Dominican priest assured the WHO that the Catholic Church does not object to responsible scientific considerations of population problems.

"THE CHURCH'S silence and apparent slowness do not mean indifference or neglect," he said. "On the contrary, they show how important these problems are in the eyes of the Church. The Church will not rashly take decisions which may have far-reaching consequences, but she sincerely wishes to cooperate, loyally and unrestrictedly, with all people of good will, and more especially with the specialists in the matter."

Father de Riedmatten said Church authorities have paid great attention to WHO studies in the field of population. He said it is unfortunate that the urgency of the situation has led the world organization to be more concerned with methods of control than with "fundamental scientific investigation." Yet he said the WHO studies may still lead to solutions "more in keeping with the process of nature."

HE WARNED THAT when population problems are seen strictly from a demographic viewpoint the need for methods of birth regulation are sometimes exaggerated.

Turning to the problems of individual parents, Father de Riedmatten acknowledged that "today a married couple must consider the creative potentiality of the marriage act, even before it is accomplished . . . This is one of the most sacred rights of man, which society must respect; but the married couple must bear in mind the serious obligations deriving from the exercise of this right."

"Undoubtedly," he continued, "the capability of a human person to assume such responsibilities will depend on his full and harmonious development . . . the accomplishment of his moral duties is often far easier for a person who is not yet acquainted with the refinements of civilization than for a person who fully enjoys them."

"THEREFORE, when we ask

that no one should upset the existing scale of values nor give undue publicity to certain techniques without first ascertaining the wisdom and the complete liberty of motivations which have led persons to choose and adopt these techniques, we do in fact express our confidence in man's capability of understanding and of acting in perfect conformity with the dig-

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CHAPEL OF Our Mother of Good Counsel, recently consecrated in the crypt area of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., is the gift of the Augustinian Fathers of the United States, and features a mosaic copy of the original painting of Our Mother of Good Counsel. (NC Photos)

Science Group Asks Study of Population

Washington — (NC) — A committee of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council has called for stepped up government and private programs to deal with problems of rapid population growth in the United States.

A 25-page report issued by the organization's committee on population declares that the federal government "has increasing responsibility" for research, education and training, and services related to population questions.

THE COMMITTEE recommended "that the federal government find a mechanism for facilitating as promptly as possible our programs in population research, education, and public service, perhaps

by the appointment of a person at a high national level with specific responsibility for leadership in implementing population programs."

Issuance of the report, entitled "The Growth of the U.S. Population," followed by slightly over two years the appearance in April, 1963, of a report on world population by the academy's Committee on Science and Public Policy.

The National Academy of Sciences, established by act of Congress in 1863 in part to advise the government on science and technology, is a private organization of scientists and engineers. The national research council was established by the academy in 1916 and includes members from academic, industrial and governmental organizations.

Asks Improved Catholic Press

NEW YORK —(NC) — While praising the Catholic press for progress in depth and literary and professional achievement, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan pointed to the need for "much improvement."

He cited incidents of "almost wholesale negative criticism" and "some startling examples of violation not only of charity but of justice."

The Archbishop of Baltimore made his admonitions at the awards luncheon of the 55th annual convention of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

Cardinal Shehan, who is former honorary president of the association, spoke before an international audience since the convention was held in conjunction with the Seventh World Congress of the Catholic Press. His remarks were given simultaneous translation into Spanish, German, French and Italian.

At the outset Cardinal Shehan defined the purpose of the Catholic press as "to present in an objective and interesting way the truth about the Church and the facts of the contemporary world which have a bearing on the Church, with the good of the Church always in mind."

"The Catholic press can no more

be indifferent to the good of the Church than can the general press be to the public good," the prelate added. "This does not mean that we expect it either to suppress or distort facts; but it does mean that we expect facts always to be presented in a way that conforms with the overall purpose of the press."

"In the pursuit of its purpose we applaud, encourage, and expect candor in the Catholic press, in conformity with the responsibility it bears," he continued. "On the other hand, a runaway appetite for color which breeds sensationalism for its own sake is not competent reporting in any journalist league . . ."

At Roanoke Rapids

Father Colgan Marks 25th Year as Priest

ROANOKE RAPIDS — Tuesday, May 18, marked the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Father Thomas J. Colgan, pastor of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Roanoke Rapids.

On Monday afternoon at 3:45 p.m., the children in the School of Religion were presented by the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart of Farmville, in a pageant honoring Father Colgan's anniversary.

The children presented him with spiritual gifts. Also, each grade presented its own tableau and children in the upper grades wrote letters of congratulation to Father Colgan.

A skit depicting imaginary incidents from Father's youth was presented by Mary Missioners. Those taking part were Misses Barbara Harrison, Wilmington, Del., Kathy Przybylek, Wilmington, Del., Pamela Williams, High Point, Mary Gasperini, Derby, Conn., and Marie Drobinske, Oakland, N.J.

The program was followed by the crowning of the Blessed Mother as May Queen and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Refreshments were then served in the Parish House at a class party which closed the school year.

On Tuesday, at 5 p.m. Father Colgan was host at a dinner, served in the Parish House by the Fishers of Roanoke Rapids, which was attended by His Excellency, the Rt. Rev. Vincent S. Waters, Bishop of Raleigh and approximately 25 priests.

At 6:30 p.m. Father Colgan offered a Mass of Thanksgiving in the church. Father Thomas Kerin of Rocky Mount, Dean of the area, preached the sermon. Father Robert McMahon of Newton Grove was the lector and Father James McHugh was Master of Ceremonies.

Immediately after Mass, the members of St. John's Ladies Guild held a reception in the Parish House honoring Father Colgan. Mrs. Frank B. Fondren, Jr., Guild President, greeted the guests at the door and Mrs. Frank W. Hank invited the guests to sign the register. Mrs. Mamie Fisher poured punch. Assisting in serving were Mrs. Stanley C. Armitage, Mrs. Margaret Curran and Mrs. John John Roberts. Over 100 attended the reception.

Special guests for the two-day celebration were Father Colgan's sister, Mrs. Margaret Esser, and his brothers and sister-in-law, John W. Colgan and Mr. and Mrs. William N. Colgan, all of New York.

OFFICIAL

The following appointments are announced by the Most Reverend Ordinary through the Diocesan Chancery: Effective Tuesday, June 1, 1965:

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Manley is appointed Pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa.

Rev. Michael O'Keefe is appointed to residence at St. Pius X Church, Statesville, and Pastor, effective Tuesday, June 15, 1965.

Rev. Arthur L. Duncan is appointed Director, Western Division, of the Home Missions Apostolate.

Rev. John M. Breunig is appointed Pastor of St. Elizabeth Church, Farmville.

Rev. Gordon J. Kendall is appointed Pastor of St. Eugene Church, Wendell, and Chaplain to the Catholic Students, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

Rev. Henry J. Becker is appointed Administrator of Sacred Heart Church, Dunn.

Rev. William N. Pharr is appointed Administrator of Sacred Heart Church, Wadesboro.

Rev. Ambrose Rohrbacher is appointed Assistant Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point.

Rev. Richard Holleman is appointed Assistant Pastor of St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte.

Rev. James A. Mobbs is appointed Assistant Pastor of St. Eugene Church, Asheville.

Mission of St. Anthony, Benson, is transferred from the jurisdiction of St. Ann Church, Smithfield, to the jurisdiction of Sacred Heart Church, Dunn.

Effective Thursday, June 10, 1965:

Rev. Francis M. Cintula, newly ordained, is appointed to the Diocesan Missionary Apostolate, Newton Grove.

Rev. Kenneth R. Parker, newly ordained, is appointed to the Diocesan Missionary Apostolate, North Wilkesboro.

James E. McSweeney
Chancellor