

Catholic Action

'Live Options' Facing Laymen

Milwaukee—(NC)—The Catholic layman today stands "eyeball to eyeball with" a wide range of "live options" concerning his role in the Church and the world, a national Catholic lay leader said here.

The Church today has "thrown open its doors and its windows. . . . As always, new choices become possible as our knowledge of ourselves, of our religion, of the world increases," declared Martin H. Work, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Men.

WORK SPOKE at the Wisconsin Catholic Action convention, which was attended by some 10,000 high school students from Wisconsin and neighboring states.

Basic to all the options facing laymen today, he said, is the answer to the question: "Do we opt for the God of the gospels or for atheism?"

Work described atheism as being "like an actor that plays many parts."

"AT ONE TIME," he said, "he flatly denies God; at another he says that man can know nothing about Him. Then he appears on the stage as the brilliant scientist who says that everything can be explained by scientific reasoning alone—or that there is no absolute truth.

"He then changes his costume and says that man is so exalted that God is an anemic figure of pre-history. Lately he's come on stage as the 'God is dead' theologian."

The NCCM official said that "as an actor atheism is pretty tricky. For example, he will create such a false idea of God that when he declaims against Him it is not the God of the gospels that he's talking about at all but a straw-filled figure to stick pins in."

WORK WARNED that atheism is a threat even to those who profess themselves to be Chris-

tians. "Far too many Christians," he said, "are in some degree practical atheists already—and ill prepared to meet the crisis of faith that the world faces nearly all of us with at some time in our lives."

He urged his audience to be concerned for the welfare of the Church and the world, and said:

"You can choose to be a vital member of the community of the faithful that is our Church, working together with Sisters, Brothers, priests and bishops in mutual co-responsibility for the church's mission, or you can refuse to accept your responsibility in the Church and become one of the modern day foot-draggers or gun-jumpers — which usually means ending up as a boring, destructive critic."

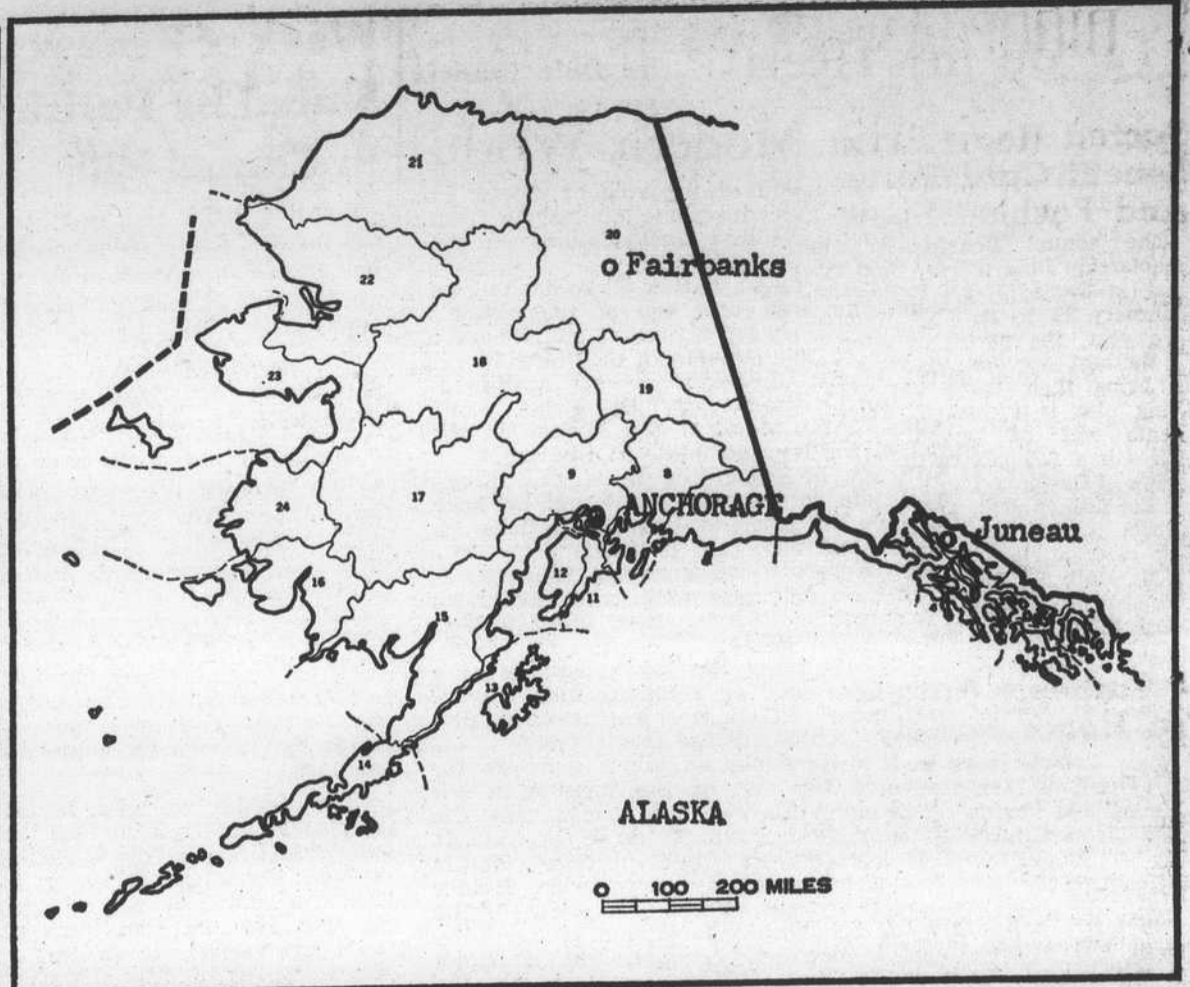
In another convention address, Father Emmanuel Sprigler, C.P., of Chicago warned the teenagers against the "sin of indifference—the worst sin of all."

"Indifference kills — it doesn't burn faith to death, it freezes it to death," the Passionist missionary said.

"You are the light of the world because Christ invites us to be like himself," Father Sprigler said. "Our witnessing of Christ must be visible to all men not only in church but everyday in the work-day world."

CHURCHES COLLECT

Vienna — (NC) — All the Catholic churches in Austria took up collections on Septuagesima Sunday (Feb. 6) for needy persons in North and South Vietnam. The money is being forwarded through International Catholic Charities office in Paris. Hope was expressed that the International Red Cross can forward some of the funds to North Vietnam.



ALASKA NEW CHURCH PROVINCE — Alaska, which became a state of the Union in 1959, has been made a separate province ecclesiastically with the appointment by Pope Paul VI of Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan to be Archbishop of Anchorage, with suffragan Sees of Fairbanks and Juneau. The Church of the Holy Family in Anchorage will be the cathedral. (NC Photos)

Rome's Diocesan Set-up Changed

Rome — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has divided the administration of his own diocese of Rome into five parts, each to be administered by a bishop.

But the diocese of some two million people remains subject to the jurisdiction of his vicar for Rome, Luigi Cardinal Traglia.

The historic core of Rome, much of it still circumscribed by ancient walls, will be administered by the See's vicegerent, Archbishop Ettore Cunial.

The Pope made these arrangements in a decree entitled *Romanae Urbis*, dated Feb. 2. Its publication was withheld until two additional auxiliary bishops were named, Bishop-elect Oscar Zanera, formerly of the papal secretariat of state, and Bishop-elect Dino Tralbalzini, pastor of a parish in Rome.

Each auxiliary is given power throughout the entire diocese to administer the sacraments and sacramentals, to assist at and bless marriages and to carry out whatever the vicar decrees. The Pope specified this power is given to the auxiliaries notwithstanding Canon 1096-1 of the Code of Canon Law, which limits jurisdiction for marriage ceremonies.

The other auxiliaries are Bishops Filippo Pocci and Giovanni Canestri.

Bishop-elect Zanera was born in Rome Nov. 14, 1915. He studied at Rome's Gregorian University and was ordained Feb. 3, 1940. He entered the service of the state secretariat in 1947 and at the time of his nomination was a secretary in its section for ordinary affairs. He has been appointed to the titular See of Surista.

Bishop-elect Tralbalzini was born at Montepulciano, about 100 miles to the northeast of Rome, on April 28, 1923. He was ordained April 5, 1947, after studies at Rome's Lateran Atheneum (now university). He has been in parish work ever since his ordination.

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