



**MY SISTER THE DOCTOR** — Sister Rose Leon, a Maryknoll nun-physician, begins a rough Thursday schedule by giving a little African a check-up. The Sister, who maintains three clinics at missions near Buhangija, Tazania, East Africa, has had as many as 500 patients queue up on a single Thursday — and never less than 300. Among other things she teaches school girls on how to brief women on sanitation, child care and balanced diets. Not too long ago, Sister Rose Leon found the girls had been a bit unspecific in teaching new mothers, — the women were coming to the nuns' kitchen to bathe their babies in spotless dishpans. A Maryknoll aide reports that Sister Rose Leon is also a busy obstetrician — an average of 52 deliveries a month. (RNS Photo)

## Bishops in Meeting On Priestly Training

Conception, Mo. —(NC)— Fourteen bishops attended a meeting at Immaculate Conception seminary here to discuss the Vatican council's decree on priestly training.

The bishops were invited by Abbot Anselm Coppersmith, O.S.B., of Conception Benedictine abbey, and Father Conrad Falk, O.S.B., rector of the seminary.

They were asked for opinions on proposals for updating seminaries and planning for the future, especially in regard to teacher training, the apostolic program, student enrollment and the coun-

cil's directions on spiritual training of seminarians.

Attending the meeting were: Bishops Charles H. Helmsing of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.; Cyril J. Vogel of Salina; Joseph M. Marling, C.P.P.S., of Jefferson City; John L. Paschang of Grand Island; Marion L. Forst of Dodge City; Lawrence M. DeFalco of Amarillo; George J. Biskup of Des Moines; Leo C. Byrne, coadjutor bishop of Wichita.

Also Bishops Ignatius J. Strecker of Springfield-Cape Girardeau;

# Training in Mental Health Work for Clergymen Urged

New York —(RNS)— Churches and synagogues were called upon by a noted Catholic theologian and educator here to accelerate their efforts in training clergymen to counsel congregation members with mental health problems.

The appeal was made in an interview by Father John A. O'Brien, research professor of theology at Notre Dame University and an ecumenical leader. He was in New York to attend a board meeting of the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry.

**FATHER O'BRIEN** stressed that the "ravages of mental illness in our country should be of deep concern to church and synagogue."

Noting that a government study showed that 42 per cent of all people with emotional troubles first turn to their clergyman rather than to their doctor, the priest said churches and synagogues "must be prepared to meet these calls for their help."

Father O'Brien has been active for several years in the inter-religious foundation started in 1937 to train clergymen in counseling and to operate out-patient mental health clinics. Its main clinic is in New York, with others in various parts of the country.

**WHILE THERE** are some 200 church-related counseling centers in the U.S., observed Father O'Brien, more are badly needed since there are only about 15,000 psychiatrists in the country to serve hundreds of thousands of mentally disturbed persons.

"Some surveys have shown that employee absenteeism alone costs \$10 billion a year," he said, "with 50 to 80 per cent of this loss blamed on mental disturbances. The hospitalization of the mentally ill costs nearly \$2 billion

Thomas J. Drury of Corpus Christi; John L. Morkovsky, Coadjutor Bishop of Galveston-Houston; Victor J. Reed of Oklahoma City-Tulsa; Albert R. Zuroweste of Belleville; and Auxiliary Bishop Frank Greteman of Sioux City.

a year in lost purchasing power, and more than \$1 billion is lost by business and industry each year because of alcoholism.

"Mental and emotional disturbances are estimated to be related to 75 per cent of all accidents. Such accidents cost industry \$3 billion a year.

"Particularly disturbing is the fact that 225,000 persons enter our mental hospitals every year and the total number of people in these institutions runs in excess of 600,000 a year. In addition to the cost of the private institutions, our tax-supported institutions cost us nearly \$2 billion a year."

## Italian Lawmakers Shelve Divorce Bill

Rome — (NC) — A bill to introduce divorce into Italy has been shelved by Italian lawmakers.

Strong resistance by the Christian Democratic Party, backed by Italian Catholic Action and by the Italian Bishops' Conference, was believed responsible for an indefinite postponement. However, the justice committee, in putting off further consideration of the bill, pleaded that the press of other important legislation made it impossible to fix a date for discussion of the bill.

**THE SPONSOR** of the legislation, Socialist Deputy Loris Fortuna, said it was the 11th legislative attempt since 1887 to introduce divorce into Italy but the first to get to committee. However, in the early 19th century those parts of Italy under Napoleonic domination — and therefore under Napoleonic law — had divorce.

Fortuna's bill envisages divorce in five cases: desertion for at least five years, separation because of clinical mental illness for at least five years, foreign divorce or annulment by a partner not of Italian nationality, life imprisonment or a jail term of at least five years for a moral offense, a moral offense punishable by that term in jail but not liable to prosecu-

tion because the culprit is unfit to plead.

**DISCUSSIONE**, a review of the Christian Democratic Party, published an article by Father Giuseppe De Rosa of the Rome Jesuit fortnightly Civiltà Cattolica opposing the bill. The title of the article summed up its sentiments: "A Bill Against Society and Against Family."

Father De Rosa stated that indissolubility "belongs to every legitimate marriage, even if contracted between non-Christians." He declared, "everyone who professes himself to be a Catholic and appears as such in public life . . . must do everything in his power, within the bounds and the means permitted by the political system in which he lives, which in our case is the democratic system, to prevent the thesis of divorce from prevailing and to reassert the indissolubility of marriage instead."

**THE LEADERSHIP** of Italian Catholic Action, following a recent meeting in Rome, urged all Italian Catholics, including politicians, to oppose the divorce bill.

The Italian Women's Center, which groups women's organizations with a total membership of three million, issued a statement of opposition to any form of divorce.

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