



WELCOME SIGNS abounded when an estimated 20,000 Catholic educators gathered in Atlantic City, N.J., for the annual convention (March 28-31) of the National Catholic Educational Association. (NC Photos)

Pope Asks 'Concrete Action' To Aid Emerging Nations

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has appealed for "concrete action" to foster man's development and the development of all mankind to combat the growing imbalance between richer and poorer nations.

In an 18,000-word encyclical made public March 28, the Pope has taken the Catholic Church's social thought another step forward. The encyclical letter, *Populorum Progressio* (Development of Peoples), in its very title captures the Pope's central concern since it deals precisely with the development of peoples and countries.

The letter is addressed both to Catholics and to all men of good will. In effect, it is an appeal to the world's community of nations to meet the urgent social, cultural and economic problems of the day in the developing countries. The alternative, he warned, is the "grave temptation" to violence and revolution.

No Commitment

Despite some press interpretations of the text of the letter, the Pope did not seem to commit himself on the subject of birth control or family limitation any further than the Second

Vatican Council's stand taken in its Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. The Pope devoted a lengthy paragraph to the subject of demography but based it on the council's constitution.

Following is the full text of the paragraph:

"If it is true that too frequently an accelerated demographic increase adds its own

difficulties to the problems of development; the size of the population increases more rapidly than available resources and things are found to have reached an apparent impasse: From that moment the temptation is great to check the demographic increase by means of radical measures. It is certain that public authorities can intervene, within

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Bishops' Conference Hierarchy to Meet

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Members of the hierarchy in the United States will assemble in Chicago beginning April 10 for the first semi-annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. More than 200 cardinals, archbishops and bishops are expected to be present.

It will be the first time that the American prelates have come together as the NCCB. They met in Washington last November as the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and at that meeting formed the NCCB,

a purely spiritual organization, and the USCC, a corporation to deal with matters touching the Church in the world today.

Matters expected to be taken up include:

—Establishment of interdiocesan offices, through which appropriate resources in two or more dioceses would be pooled in order to deal more effectively with certain projects on regional and perhaps national levels.

—Establishment of pastoral councils composed of priests, Religious and lay persons to assist responsible Church authorities on parochial diocesan and national levels. Pastoral councils already have been established in some parishes, and preliminary development has begun in some dioceses, but the establishment of a national pastoral council is believed to be some way off.

—Changes in diocesan and provincial boundaries. The Vatican council called upon national conferences of bishops around the world to enter into a study of this matter, with certain

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Editor's Desk

"Apropos" was a column feature of this newspaper back in 1954. The word, it was said, means "to the point." The last we heard from "G. O'Vannev," who wrote it, was 10 years ago this month.

Perhaps the editorial columns can sufficiently "make the point" in the weekly dosage. However the editor has a notion that a weekly spot devoted to the lighter side would be appreciated.

In a travel feature he once wrote weekly from Rome, the story was told of a columnist's reply as to how you go about writing a weekly article, and the answer was frankly, "It's not the original cost. It's the upkeep!"

We would like to give it a try anyway and so the first trial balloon rises from the Editor's Desk. . . .

THIS ISSUE of the NCC highlights topics of promoting interest in a religious vocation for our young people and news of the National Catholic Educational Association convention at Atlantic City.

Six years ago the Bishop sent us there as a member of a committee of two. The experience of seeing the magnitude of it all has become a part of our overall appreciation of the efforts put into Catholic education. We would enjoy hearing from Father Frank Smith of Wilson on his reactions to this latest convention.

Two years ago the delegates took a conservative, reactionary stand after Mary Perkins Ryan's book and now her point seems to have been made before the flood.

Twenty years ago the lead NCC story told of the two "brave" priests who safely removed the Blessed Sacrament from the burning St. Paul's Church at New Bern. . . . Fathers O'Mara and "things go better with you know who."

At Annual Convention

Challenges Offered Educators

ATLANTIC CITY — (NC) — Challenges were strewn about like confetti at the 64th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association, but bouquets were in short supply.

Bishop Ernest J. Primeau of Manchester, N.H., president general of NCEA, identified himself as an optimist on Catholic education, then proceeded to say his optimism would fast evaporate unless the educators came up with answers to some rather pointed questions. First question: "Why should the Church be operating schools at all?"

"Please note that the simple asking of the question in no way implies the answer, 'the Church should not be operating schools,'" Bishop Primeau said.

Convention-goers applauded Msgr. James C. Donohue, the major challenge-maker of the day, when he reassured them that Catholic schools would not be phased out or curtailed. Their enthusiasm was more subdued

when the bishops' chief education spokesman told them to make war on de facto racial segregation in the schools, a task which thus far has almost completely eluded their public school counterparts. Msgr. Donohue is director of the Department of Education, United States Catholic Conference.

Noting that Catholic schools reflect segregated housing patterns as much as do public

schools, Msgr. Donohue commented, "We cannot say we love our brother if there are only white children in our classrooms."

For the educator who came here thinking she had problems teaching geography, it must have been an eye-opener. She learned that the leadership of Catholic education confidently expects her to shoulder the whole globe. It was a sobering convention.

Atlantic City's Boardwalk Turns to Black and White

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — (NC) — Atlantic City sits near the head of a long sandy island, separated from the New Jersey mainland by seven miles of brackish swamps, 120 miles south of New York City and 55 miles southeast of Philadelphia.

And for four days after Easter it was almost totally inhabited by 20,000 of the nuns who comprise the backbone of the vast American Catholic school enterprise.

For the eighth time in 64 years, islanders prepared for the tidal wave of Religious attending the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association. NCEA conventions here are exceptionally well attended since one-third of the nation's population lives within 500 miles; 40 million are within 300 miles.

Nuns Everywhere

Nuns were everywhere. Most, sound in body, scurried along the boardwalk faster than school children escaping for Christmas vacation. Others, confined to crutches, had to be content with a mere brisk pace.

A few of the more modern nuns sported some of the most stylish hairdos seen at the Shel-

burne Hotel since Lillian Russell stayed there at the turn of the century.

At dawn they soaked up the mist from the sea. At noon they could be heard arguing amiably with local innkeepers over the price of a bowl of fruit salad.

For these Sisters, the NCEA convention was more than a chance to compare notes on Catholic education. It was an opportunity to review old ac-

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Asks One Rite For Baptisms

NEW YORK — (NC) — The president of the American Lutheran Church has proposed that the Christian communions, including the Catholic Church, adopt a common Baptismal rite.

Writing in the spring issue of *Una Sancta*, a theological quarterly, Dr. Frederik A. Schiotez of Minneapolis said there is little difference between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran services in the actual administration of Baptism.

"If Baptism is commonly regarded as the door of entrance into the Church, the sacrament by which we are born again and become members of the body of Christ, what should stand in the way," he asked, "for finding a common rite of administration."

Senate of Priests Called for Agenda By Bishop Waters

RALEIGH — The first meeting of the Senate of Priests of the Diocese was called last Thursday by His Excellency, The Most Rev. Vincent S. Waters, D.D. Bishop of Raleigh. The Senate is composed of the Diocesan Consultors, an appointed position by the Bishop and an elected seven clergy, so designated by the diocesan priests from among their number.

Divided by subject, a ten minute presentation of opinion was given on the following topics. The implementation of the diocesan pastoral council; the spiritual apostolate of the priests; the retirement and care of aged and infirmed priests; the promotion of Catholic High School education and the preparation of agenda for future meetings of the priests senate.

Six-Point Approval Given For Offering of Masses

RALEIGH — A six-point approval for immediate usage involving the offering of Mass was received by the clergy in the Diocese last week from the Most Reverend Bishop.

The directives affirmed the use of a Supplementary Week Day Lectionary for the newly approved list of readings which may be used as optional alternatives as those already found in the Missals; copies of a new prose translations for the Sequences of the Masses for the Octave of Easter and Pentecost

and the Feast of Corpus Christi; that the entire Canon of the Mass may be recited aloud or according to the pattern for concelebrated Masses, chanted.

The Sequence (Dies Irae) of Requiem Masses is left to the choice of the celebrant in those Masses in which the present rubrics require its use. The Nicene Creed may be recited without chant in Masses which are otherwise considered to be sung Masses.

Lastly, the Apostles Creed

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