



War Threat Troubles Pope

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI, making his second public appearance since his operation, said that he is "pained to see that the offers of negotiation are turned down and that the atrocious hardships of war are growing tragically worse."

The Pope appeared (Nov. 26) for a Sunday blessing of the crowd in St. Peter's square. He revealed that in his long convalescence his thoughts turn often to the world's crisis areas of Vietnam, Cyprus and the Middle East.

Pupil Enrollment Declines

New York — (NC) — Enrollment in Catholic elementary schools in the New York archdiocese has declined for the fourth consecutive year.

The 333 elementary schools have an enrollment of 165,590, a drop of 4,600 pupils from the 1966-67 school year. The 99 high schools of the archdiocese had an increase of 201 new students for a total of 50,037.

The decrease in elementary students occurred in each of the seven counties within the archdiocese. Several possible factors contributing to the enrollment drop, including dislocations of inner city schools caused by urban renewal projects, and the encroachment of commercial, industrial and institutional establishments upon residential areas were cited. Other factors are the continuing efforts to reduce class size and a decline in births.

Cite Serra Anniversary

Mexico City — (NC) — As part of its contribution to the observance in 1969 of the 200th anniversary of San Diego, Calif., the Mexican government will build a replica of the ship that carried Spanish-born Franciscan Father Junipero Serra from Mexico to California.

The replica of the ship will be launched next March from San Blas, Mexico, where Father Serra set sail 200 years ago.

Announcing the plan, the Mexican Tourism Department said that the ship will become a museum in San Diego dedicated to the work of Father Serra and the Spanish missionaries in early California.

In addition to the San Diego mission, Father Serra (1713-1784) founded nine other missions in California, including San Francisco and Santa Clara.

Protest Clerics 1-A Draft

Ithaca, N.Y. — (NC) — A protesting Protestant chaplain at Cornell University here and an equally protesting Catholic chaplain wound up in the same category — reclassified 1-A in the draft.

The Rev. Paul E. Gibbons, 34, who serves five Protestant denominations at the university, received his reclassification notice (Nov. 27), five weeks after he returned his draft card as a protest against U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war.

A week earlier Father David Connor, Catholic chaplain, received the same "greetings" after he too had turned in his draft card. Both previously had been classified in 4-D, normal classification for

HEROICITY STUDIED

Vatican City — (NC) — The Congregation of Rites has examined the heroicity of virtues of the Italian nun, Maria Caterina Troiani of St. Rose of Viterbo, foundress of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

clergymen. The two clergymen returned their draft cards to the board following an Oct. 16 protest march against the Vietnam war.

The new classification means the two clergymen must be available for possible induction into the armed services at any time. Their new status is 1-A delinquent — the "delinquent" designating failure to carry a draft card as required by law.

3 Memorials at Shrine

Washington — (NC) — The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here will dedicate three memorials in the space of one week.

Cardinal O'Boyle will dedicate the west apse, featuring the 3,600-square foot mosaic of Mary Immaculate, on Dec. 3 and the east apse, highlighting the mosaics of St. Joseph and of the Second Vatican Council, on Dec. 9. Archbishop J. Fitzgerald, O.M.I., of South Africa will dedicate the third memorial, the Chapel of the Queen of the Missions, on Dec. 8.

Boycott School over Reform

Buenos Aires — (NC) — Dissatisfaction of well-to-do parents over the greater emphasis being placed on social problems has caused a Catholic girls high school to move from an exclusive Buenos Aires suburb to one in which middle and low-income families reside.

Assumption College, conducted by the Sisters of the Assumption in Palermo Chico, gave indications last year that a curriculum reform at the 30-year-old institution would orient the girl students' education toward a "true view of Argentina, with all its virtues and vices, miseries and problems."

Making social problems the backbone of their teaching, they encouraged many students to volunteer for social work in slum areas here and in factories and hospitals.

However, a number of the wealthy parents of girls in the school were unhappy over the new approach.

The principal said the families who withdrew their girls this year "closed their eyes" to current conditions.

1,106 Priests Nazi Victims

Augsburg, Germany — (NC) — The Augsburg diocesan paper, has disclosed that 39% of Catholic priests imprisoned in the nazi concentration camp at Dachau under the Third Reich were killed during that period.

Dachau now is the cemetery for 1,106 Catholic priests, according to the paper's figures.

The statistics show that of the 2,812 clergymen of various nations who were imprisoned at Dachau, 95% were Catholic.

Daughter of Minister

Marriage in Presbyterian Rite Approved by Church

Ogdensburg, N.Y. — (NC) — Andrew Walker, a Catholic, and Suzanne Cummins, a Presbyterian, exchanged marriage vows before the Rev. Varre Cummins, a Presbyterian clergyman and father of the bride in the chapel of nearby St. Lawrence University.

The marriage ceremony had approval of the Catholic Church. Father James D. Phalon, a Catholic priest and Newman chaplain at the university, was present and bestowed his blessing on the newlyweds.

A statement concerning the ceremony issued by the Ogdensburg chancery office said:

"The essential requirement for a Christian marriage is that two baptized people exchange their matrimonial consent and it is the teaching of the Catholic Church that in this very act each is the minister of the sacrament to each other. When Catholics enter a marriage the Church requires that this consent be exchanged in the presence of a priest and two witnesses. She requires this in order that the sacramental aspect of Christian marriage shall be safeguarded.

"Since the Rev. Varre Cummins was naturally anxious to celebrate the marriage of his own daughter," the statement continued, "the bishop of the diocese of Ogdensburg presented the matter to the Sacred Doctrinal Congregation. In view of the exceptional circumstances and on learning that the Catholic upbringing of any children was assured, the congregation granted the Bishop the faculty to relax Church law and enable Rev. Cummins to witness the marriage of his daughter."

S.C. Clergy Backs Community Uplift Group


Columbia, S.C. — (NC) — Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston was among 14 South Carolina religious leaders who signed a statement supporting a new statewide group dedicated to "community uplift and to preserve and expand racial harmony."

Gov. Robert E. McNair also endorsed the organization, which grew out of a proposal made by the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was organized by a group of industrial, educational, communications and business leaders. The group is known as the South Carolina Task Force for Community Uplift.

In their statement the religious leaders asserted they "welcome every effort to improve the conditions of life for all people of our state." They endorsed the purpose of the organization — "to stimulate action designed for community uplift and to preserve and expand racial harmony."

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