



Vigil Precedes "Sunday" Mass

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — The Congregation of Rites has published a notice that on Sunday, Dec. 24, the Mass to be celebrated is that of the vigil of Christmas rather than that of the fourth Sunday of Advent.

This provision is a standard one. However, the congregation also ruled that in those places where by apostolic indult attendance at the Saturday evening Mass of Dec. 23, can fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation, the Mass to be celebrated is that of the fourth Sunday of Advent and not of the vigil of Christmas.

Jesuit-Alaska Bishop

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Pope Paul has named Father Robert L. Whelan, S.J., to be coadjutor with right of succession to Bishop Francis D. Gleeson, S.J., of Fairbanks, Alaska. Father Whelan has been pastor of St. Anthony's church in Anchorage, Alaska. He is a native of Iowa.

Cardinal Departs for Africa

MONTREAL — Cardinal Leger has left Canada for Africa and given up the office of archbishop of Montreal for the life of a missionary to African lepers.

Some 1,000 persons, including Cardinal Roy of Quebec, gathered at International Airport to say goodbye to the 63-year-old prelate before he boarded an Air Canada flight for New York where he transferred to an Air Afrique plane for Dakar, Senegal.

Before leaving Montreal, Cardinal Leger received a letter from Pope Paul VI who had approved the cardinal's resignation. In the letter the Pope said:

"At this point, when you are leaving your episcopal city and native land to go to Africa to give the rest of your life to the service of lepers and the missions, we feel the heartfelt need to inform you of our profound emotion and our intimate participation in this serious and noble decision you have made."

Catholic-Orthodox at Moscow Meet

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — A Vatican delegation including two U.S. priests, has visited Moscow for talks with officials of the Russian Orthodox Church on the "social teaching of the Catholic Church."

After the news was released in Moscow the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity confirmed the fact that a delegation of Catholic theologians and other scholars had gone to the Soviet Union to meet with officials of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Vatican delegation was led by Bishop

Jan Willebrands of the Netherlands, secretary of the unity secretariat, and included Msgr. George G. Higgins, director of the social action department of the United States Catholic Conference, Washington, and Jesuit Father John F. Long of New York, an official of the unity secretariat.

Ask Israel Shrines Boycott

BEIRUT, Lebanon — (NC) — A group of 85 Americans in Beirut who founded a group called Americans for Justice in the Middle East during the July War, have called a "mockery" any attempt to observe the traditional Christmas feast in Israel-occupied Jordan.

"The Christmas message of peace on earth, good will toward men is meaningless in the present circumstances," they said. "Great hunger, cold, death, tragedy, desperation, are the lot of many hundreds of Arabs, including Christians who are now wandering and waiting for food and shelter in the face of a bitter winter."

"We ask all pilgrims to refrain from visiting the holy places in Israel-occupied Jordan," they said.

D.C. Cardinal Loosens Ban

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Cardinal O'Boyle has lifted his ban on the "Action Mass," by permitting the group sponsoring it to worship together four times yearly.

The group — known as The People — have been petitioning the cardinal to relax his opposition to the "Action Mass," which he had criticized sharply in a pastoral letter. The cardinal said in his letter that the "Action Mass" did not conform to diocesan liturgical regulations and was "destructive of the very concept of the parish."

The People celebrated Mass together on Dec. 10, for the first time since the cardinal issued his pastoral letter.

Extension Seeks New Aims

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — (NC) — The national director of the Extension Society Volunteers said here that the society has set its sights on a program of total involvement in the modern world and has turned its attention from financing church construction to touching the daily lives of people.

Father John Sullivan, whose headquarters are in Chicago, headed a recruiting team at Catholic Colleges here. He said that during its early days the society "helped build over 8,000 churches," but added that "it became apparent to us, a few years ago that what we were doing was not the most gripping program in the world. There are greater needs than for church buildings."

Sen. Sam Ervin's Bill

**Senate Passes School Aid Bill
Solon Conferences on 4 Points**

Washington — After more than a week of delay over civil rights amendments, the Senate passed a three-year, \$14.2 billion version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

A joint Senate-House conference committee met immediately to work out a compromise between versions of the bill passed by the two houses. Their hope was to have a final bill approved and on President Lyndon B. Johnson's desk by the time Congress adjourned Dec. 15 or 16.

The Senate vote came after a week of delay caused mainly by Southern efforts to water down federal desegregation standards. The threat — sometimes, but not often, carried out — that school districts which fail to meet desegregation guidelines might lose their federal aid has long angered Southern Congressmen.

The Senate listened more attentively to professional educators, who want to know well in advance what they will get from government.

The second dispute concerns the control of \$500 million for development of innovative educational programs. The House bill gave the states control of the money; a similar proposal failed in the Senate.

In its place, the Senate passed a compromise under which the

states will control one-third of the funds the first year, half the second year, and two-thirds in the final year.

The House provision was strongly opposed by representatives of church-related schools, who argued that experience has shown that many states will shut out their schools on the basis of church-state conflicts.

The Senate version gives federal authorities, private school representatives and state educators a chance to work out their differences before its full effect is felt.

A fourth difference involves desegregation. The Senate bill is silent; the senators accepted instead Gardner's assurances. The House bill contains an amendment which would prevent Gardner from cutting off any funds until a full hearing is held — a process which can take up to two years.

A final difference concerns the church-state conflict. The Senate version would permit taxpayer suits testing aid to children in church-related schools. The House version does not.

That situation is nothing new, however. Sen. Sam Ervin, who sponsored the measure, has seen similar efforts defeated four times in Senate-House conferences.



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