

### Religious Seen in State Of Confusion

Milwaukee — (NC) — A ruling from the Vatican's Congregation for Religious forbidding chapter-approved changes in the programs of the Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in Los Angeles "has thrown all of us into a state of question and confusion," a Franciscan Sister declared here.

In a statement which she was careful to point out was not an official comment of the Conference of Major Superiors — Milwaukee, the conference's chairman, Sister Francis Borgia, added that her statement reflected the group's general consensus.

As a result of the congregation's ruling, Sister Borgia said, Apostolic Religious are in a bind which might slowly choke them to death.

The congregation statement that occasioned Sister Borgia's observations ordered the Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in Los Angeles to return from lay clothes to a uniform habit, to reinstitute daily prayer in common, to keep education as their primary work of the community, and to obey local bishops.

The ruling came after a conflict between the Sisters and Los Angeles' James Francis Cardinal McIntyre escalated into a crisis that made front pages across the nation.

Commenting on the Rome ruling, Sister Borgia pointed out a conflict between the Second Vatican Council's decree on religious life and the ruling of the Congregation for Religious. The decree and the norms for its implementation say that the most important role in the renewal of religious life belongs to the communities themselves.

Yet, Sister Borgia added, the congregation continues to issue rulings on "significant aspects, like common prayer," as well as "less significant aspects, like the garb. To further complicate the issue, religious are bound in all these matters by the laws, decrees and ordinance of the local bishop."

Lying behind the Los Angeles conflict are two very different concepts about the manner of life of Apostolic Religious, Sister Borgia said. General chapters, through prayer, study and discussion, are finding that a whole new life style is evolving.

#### FIRST MALE LEADER

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — Thomas Smith of Westerville, Ohio, has been elected 1968-69 Student Governor at St. Mary of the Springs College. He is the first male ever elected to head the student body at the 57-year-old former women's college, which became coeducational in 1964.



PHAN THIET, Vietnam — Bishop Francis Xavier Thuan of Nha Trang, Vietnam, and his pilot, Major Lynn S. Grove of St. Augustine, Fla., arrive at the airport here, where the Bishop supervised distribution of relief supplies from Catholic Relief Services-USCC. Major Grove is with the 5th Air Commando Squadron at Nha Trang. (NC Photos)

### Catholics, Protestants Meet on Liturgy Texts

Chicago — (NC) — Representatives of Protestant and Catholic groups working for liturgical renewal met here (March 11-12) to explore avenues leading to the adoption of common texts for the Our Father and other prayers used in worship services.

Described by participants as the first of its kind, the meeting stemmed from an action by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship last November which suggested a joint meeting and led to invitations to the other groups to name representatives.

Delegates came from the Lutheran group, from the Catholic International Committee on Eng-

lish in the Liturgy, and the Commission on Worship of the Consultation on Church Union.

Pointed up in both the advance material and the subsequent discussions were scriptural, liturgical, pastoral, and linguistic problems associated with the use of contemporary English style.

The participants added that the study also showed that "there was far more similarity among the texts examined for possible common usage than some had thought possible — even in the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed."

Content of the discussions will

## Texas Bishops Laud Report on Rioting

Austin, Tex. — (NC) — The ten bishops who comprise the board of directors of the Texas Catholic Conference issued a statement here praising the report of the commission appointed by President Johnson which studied causes of riots and disorders in American cities.

Released after a meeting of the board, the statement asserted:

"The March 3 report of the President's national advisory commission on civil disorders, according to press accounts, contains one of the best reasons and one of the most forceful and intellectually honest statements of the root cause of urban riots and disorders yet to come to our attention. The chief blame is rightly placed on white racism.

"Members of the commission deserve the gratitude of all Americans for facing the issues squarely, and the President is to be congratulated for naming as members of the commission a bipartisan group of citizens courageous enough to say what so urgently needed to be said, painful and distasteful though it might be for the white majority of this country.

"We commend the report for

careful and serious study by all citizens. If it is studied with an open mind and heart it will surely help turn the thoughts and energies of this country away from hate and violence and toward doing the things that are necessary to be done, at all costs, to insure unity and peace among Americans.

"The Church has repeatedly condemned racism as a grave sin against our brothers. The President's commission finds that it is precisely this evil which is the root cause of civil disorder in our land. With this we fully agree. Until racism in its awful effects are eliminated it will be in vain that Americans call for law and order. They must first call for equal economic, social and political justice for all citizens. Injustice itself is the worst form of disorder. It inevitably brings every sort of disorder in its wake. Let us proceed now to purge our nation of racism and the injustice which it breeds. This is the first step toward insuring order and respect for law."

#### REQUIEM HELD

Scranton, Pa. — (NC) — Father Arthur Cunneen, M.M., 67, a Maryknoll missionary once known as "The Radio Priest of the North Pole," died here (March 9). Father Cunneen was ordained in 1932 and became a China missionary. During World War II he was a Navy chaplain in the Pacific.

chairman, and Father Gerald J. Sigler of Washington, D.C., head of the Catholic committee as secretary.

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