

# Plenary session held by birth control body

By ROBERT A. GRAHAM, S.J.

ROME—A new phase of the post-Vatican II examination of the Church's position on birth control was completed here when 75 members of the papal commission on the population problem gathered for a three-day plenary session in the Pontifical Spanish College, June 5-8.

Authoritative commission sources denied that any decision was necessarily imminent.

The commission, whose formal title is the Pontifical Commission for the Study of Problems of the Family, Population and Birth Control, since Easter has conducted a series of discussions by experts in related fields—ecology, medicine, philosophy, social welfare and economics. Its members include cardinals, bishops, theologians and lay and clerical specialists.

The commission met, coincidentally, in the wake of an appeal for liberalization of the Catholic Church's teaching on birth control submitted by a group of 600 Catholic intellectuals from Europe and the Americas.

Addressed to "the Magisterium of the Church" (the council body which is coming more and more obvious that in these matters, it is impossible to lay down or maintain moral directives which are too particularized on the technical or physical levels without provoking a major crisis of conscience and endangering the permanency and eminent dignity of the Christian message."

The commission session was the first full session since March 7, when Pope Paul VI created a directive body of bishops headed by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani as president, with two other Princes of the Church as vice-presidents: Cardinal John Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, England, and Cardinal Julius Döpfner, Archbishop of Munich, Germany.

It is anticipated that this smaller body will meet soon for the formulation of the commission's final conclusions that will be presented to the Pope. Commission sources, however, declined to commit themselves on any deadline.

It was asserted here that the program to date remains based on the norms announced at a similar conference on April 28. At that time, Father Henri de Reidmatten, a Swiss Dominican who is secretary general of the commission, said that while the commission was trying to move as rapidly as possible as the subject permitted, setting a predetermined deadline for itself would only arouse expectations which would not be realized.

He put it in his statement, "It is certain that a so-called decision could not simply limit itself to a reply to a point of casuistry, but would situate the

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## Guns and glitter

(AN EDITORIAL)

President Johnson has demanded that his Vietnam critics quit being "Nervous Nellies" and stand united "until the gallant people of South Vietnam have their own choice of their own government."

"I do not think that those men out there fighting for us tonight think that we should enjoy the luxury of fighting each other back home," he said.

We seriously doubt that stateside differences of opinion about the Vietnam War have any measurable effect on the morale of American battle forces, all the outpourings of Washington-inspired propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding.

There was a far deeper cleavage of public opinion in the Korean War. Ironically, most of today's "hawks" bitterly opposed the Korean War, despite the fact that it started as a clear-cut and unprovoked aggression against American occupation troops.

Today's "hawks" also were the anti-war America Firsters and Coughlinites of 1941. And in 1944 a mud-slinging presidential election was held at home while millions of Americans were fighting the most crucial battles of history's worst war.

In neither conflict was military morale impaired by home-front dissent. Our men in uniform fought with the same valor and élan with which those in Vietnam are fighting today.

Efforts to stifle dissent, however, continue to take curious turns. Just recently a presidential assistant lashed newspaper reporters for stories which, he said, made the United States and South Vietnam look bad.

The White House staffer was particularly incensed by the publication of a photograph and news story of a young Buddhist unarmed and hands raised, seconds before he was cold-bloodedly murdered and his body looted by a group of Dictator Ky's elite troops. The White House spokesman said this sort of thing disturbed the public about Vietnam. The fact that it happened did not seem of consequence to him.

Telling the truth never has damaged public morale. Hiding the truth has. Truth invariably "outs." Then confidence in those who had attempted to conceal or distort the truth is gravely impaired.

In "hawk" circles Senator J. W. Fulbright has been excoriated in terms usually reserved for traitors for having called Saigon an "American brothel." He subsequently apologized for his unfortunate choice of words.

Yet last Sunday's Chicago Tribune, a "super-hawk" newspaper, carried a lengthy report on moral conditions in Vietnam titled "Sin, Cynicism and Corruption." It more than justified the points Fulbright was making. And, for further enlightenment on that subject, we recommend Gary MacEoin's column in this week's Criterion.

Two things really are shaking public and military morale.

One is the refusal or inability of Washington to make precisely clear what the goals are in Vietnam, how they are to be achieved, and what the price is going to be. What this country needs is an outpouring of facts rather than continued dosages of clichés and contradictions.

Both the public and our fighting men in Vietnam also are confused by Washington's repeated exhortations to "persevere and sacrifice until peace comes." Perseverance and sacrifice by whom and in what? A guns-and-glitter policy that calls for heavy fighting abroad, but a more abundant life than ever here at home?

The national economy is swollen with wealth and good life except for that one-fifth of a nation which continues to exist in the grind of poverty. Most of us 'never had it so good.'

And today most of us would scarcely know there was a war on, were it not for the news media, the determination of honest dissenting public servants to have their say, the ever-widening draft, and the increasingly frequent arrivals of flag-draped coffins in home towns across the land.

In Chicago recently a leading hotel refused admittance to a group of wounded white and Negro servicemen on the ground that the sight of them would dampen the spirits of night-clubbing customers. Adequate amenities subsequently were made by the hotel chain's owners.

However, Msgr. Charles Owen Rice, columnist for the Pittsburg Catholic, had the perfect comment about the offending hotel employee and, indeed, the sickening moral climate of America:

"He is logical," Msgr. Rice said of the hotelier. (Continued on page 4)



FATHER DEDE

## Appointed rector of seminary

BALTIMORE, Md.—A priest of the Indianapolis Archdiocese has been named rector of the nation's oldest and largest seminary, St. Mary's, located in the suburb of Roland Park here.

Very Rev. John F. Dede, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Dede of St. Margaret Mary parish, Terre Haute, will assume the new position during the summer. Since 1963 he has served as dean of studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth, Mich.

FATHER DEDE was ordained by Archbishop Schulte in 1947 and released for work in the Society of St. Sulpice, a group of secular priests engaged exclusively in directing diocesan seminaries. He served as professor at St. Mary's Seminary here for 11 years, prior to his appointment to St. John's three years ago.

He pursued seminary studies at St. Meinrad's Seminary and the Catholic University of America. Following ordination he acquired a doctorate in canon law in Rome.

Two brothers of the new rector are priests of the Indianapolis Archdiocese and five sisters are teaching nuns. The brothers are Father James Dede, administrator of St. Joseph's parish, Four Corners, and Father Paul Dede, assistant pastor of St. Michael's parish, Brownsburg.

FOUR of his sisters are members of the Sisters of Providence community. They are: Sister Angele, Sister Mary Mark, Sister Anita Thoreau and Sister Marie Arthur. The fifth, Sister Mary Helene, is a member of the Benedictine Convent of Our Lady of Grace, Beech Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Dede were honored by Pope John XXIII in 1961 when they received the coveted Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal.

St. Mary's Seminary, founded in 1791, will observe its 175th anniversary this fall. The student body represents more than 50 American dioceses.

## Adult Confirmation

Archbishop Schulte will confer the sacrament of Confirmation on adults at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 1, in St. Peter and Paul Cathedral. The sacrament will be administered during the Mass. A signed card from a parish priest is necessary for those who wish to be confirmed at this time.



NEW ARCHABBOT—Newly-selected Archabbot Gabriel Verkamp, O.S.B., is shown above with him is Abbot David Melancon, O.S.B., head of St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Bernard, La. and Abbot-President of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation of which St. Meinrad is a member. (Another photo on page 3)

## NATIVE OF FERDINAND

Prior Gabriel Verkamp elected new Archabbot of St. Meinrad

ST. MEINRAD, Ind.—Father Prior Gabriel Verkamp, O.S.B., who was born a few miles from the 112-year-old Benedictine monastery here, was elected as the sixth abbot of St. Meinrad's Archabbey on Friday, June 3, 1966.

The 66-year-old native of Ferdinand will succeed Archabbot Bonaventura Knachel, who resigned as monastic superior on May 10, 11 years after his election.

Archabbot Gabriel, who will be solemnly blessed in the office later in the summer, brings to the position 37 years' experience as a monk, seminary professor and official, pastor and religious superior. Since 1963 he had served as prior of the Benedictine community at St. Meinrad.

THE NEW Archabbot received his elementary education in a small county school north of his birthplace at Ferdinand, founded more than a century ago by German immigrants. He was graduated from Huntington High School before entering the seminary at St. Meinrad in 1919.

Five years later he was sent to the international Benedictine center in Rome, Sant' Anselmo, where he completed his seminary training and acquired a doctorate in philosophy in 1930, and a doctorate in theology in 1932. He was ordained in 1929 at Monte Cassino, Italy, and offered his first Mass at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, the "mother abbey" of St. Meinrad at the time of its foundation in 1854.

Upon completing his studies, the young Benedictine returned to St. Meinrad where he taught philosophy in the major seminary for 11 years. He served as vice rector of the major seminary from 1937 to 1942.

In 1942 he was appointed pastor of the community parish at St. Meinrad, a post he held for 10 months. He was then assigned pastor of St. Benedict's parish, Evansville, one of the Evansville largest parishes in the Evansville diocese. Father Gabriel

THE ELECTIONS last Friday, held in the St. Jude Guest House, were presided over by Abbot David Melancon, O.S.B., of St. Joseph's Abbey, Covington, La., abbot-president of the Swiss-American Federation to which St. Meinrad Archabbey belongs.

All members of the Benedictine community in solemn vows participated in the election, either in person or by proxy.

The date of the solemn blessing, or installation ceremony for Archabbot Gabriel will be determined after the election results have been confirmed and approved by the Holy See.

OTHER MINISTERS include Father James Hillman, assistant pastor of St. Augustine parish, Jeffersonville, deacon Rev. Mel Bertram, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs parish, subdeacon.

Father Bernard Gordon and Father Stephen Hay, pastor and assistant of Holy Trinity New Albany, will serve as Masters of Ceremonies. Speaker will be Father Kenneth Waller, O.F.M. Conv., Prefect of Students at St. St. Francis Seminary.

Three temporary altars will be erected on the line of the solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament, with a blessing of the processions will be directed by Benedictine. An honor guard will be provided by the Father Badin General Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

General chairman of the Clarksville event is Vincent Voll, Navilleton. Marshall of the procession will be Edward Day, president of the New Albany District Council of Catholic Men, sponsors of the observance.

At St. Meinrad, a Mass will be celebrated by Father Peter Bertram, O.S.B., pastor, at 8 p.m. The ceremony will be directed by Right Rev. Gabriel Verkamp, O.S.B., newly-elected archabbot of St. Meinrad Archabbey.

A solemn procession through the town will follow the Mass. Participating will be represented. (Continued on page 9)

## Participate in Project Equality

LANSING, Mich.—Four Michigan Catholic dioceses—Grand Rapids, Lansing, Marquette, and Saginaw—will commit their purchasing power to promoting racial justice and equal job opportunities for the entire state of Michigan at the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice announced here.

The four dioceses announced their intention to implement the Project Equality program of the NCCIJ, which requires companies doing business with the dioceses and their institutions to adopt equal employment policies and practices.

TOGETHER with the archdiocese of Detroit, which began the program last year, the four dioceses cover the entire state of Michigan and form the Michigan Catholic Conference, which supervises and implements the program.

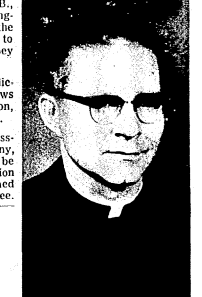
In a joint statement for Bishops Allen J. Babcock of Grand Rapids, Stephen Woznicki of Saginaw, Thomas Noa of Marquette and Alexander Zaleski of Lansing, Bishop Zaleski said the bishops consider it "a self-evident truth that every person has God-given inherent right to use his or her talents and abilities, skills and knowledge, for self-fulfillment and to provide the necessities of life for himself or herself and for their families."

THIS RIGHT "has not been implemented universally in practice," he said, and the bishops "conceive that we have a moral obligation to ascertain that our Catholic institutions are hiring in a moral manner and to provide the necessities of life for their funds in a moral manner."

At the recent White House Conference on Civil Rights in Washington, Project Equality was frequently cited as a model of effective action by church groups to foster interracial justice and its extension was urged.

A special appendix to the recommendations prepared by the conference's coordinating council outlined the plan. It put the total purchasing power of religious institutions already covering that to the program at "well over a half billion dollars annually."

## Rev. Peter D. Fox, Jesuit ordinand, sets Mass June 19



REV. PETER D. FOX, S.J.

An Indianapolis native, ordained a Jesuit priest Thursday, will offer a Mass of thanksgiving for family and friends Sunday, June 19, in the chapel of Breuhel Preparatory School, 2800 W. 86th St.

Father Peter D. Fox, S.J., the son of Mrs. William J. Fox and the late Mr. Fox of St. Luke's parish, Indianapolis, was ordained June 9 in St. Joseph's church, Aurora, Ill., by Bishop Loras T. Lane of the Rockford diocese.

A 1951 graduate of Cathedral High School, the ordinand attended Xavier University one year before entering the Jesuit novitiate in Milford, O. He pursued seminary studies at West Baden College and Woodstock College in Maryland. Teaching assignments included Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Ill., and St. Xavier High School, Cincinnati.

Severely handicapped from the effects of polio, contracted after starting his seminary studies, Father Fox received dispensations from the Holy See to be ordained.

'State of alert' BUENOS AIRES—Catholic school authorities placed their institutions in the greater Buenos Aires area in a "state of alert" in order to inform parents and the rest of the public "about the intolerable situation of subsidized institutions" caused by the delay in receiving state subsidies. In some cases the delay has been for as long as six months.

## Corpus Christi rites set at three sites

The Feast of Corpus Christi, which traditionally honors the Blessed Sacrament, will be solemnly observed in three Archdiocesan deaneries on Sunday, June 12.

Observances will be held in Terre Haute, St. Meinrad and Clarksville.

Father Morand A. Widloff, pastor of St. Michael parish, Charlestown, will be celebrant at the Clarksville Shrine Section of Oakland Memorial Gardens Cemetery on Road 37, north of Indianapolis, at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 15. A 4 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 8 p.m. Sunday on the grounds of St. Francis Seminary.

## Clarification

In reply to many inquiries regarding the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine Section of Oakland Memorial Gardens Cemetery on Road 37, north of Indianapolis, the Shrine Office states that this cemetery is outside of its jurisdiction, because it is in the diocese of Lafayette, Indiana.

Bishop Raymond J. Gallagher of the Lafayette diocese has issued a statement in which he pointed out that any permission previously granted for the Catholic section of the cemetery does not imply, nor does it now imply, any interest of the Lafayette Diocese in the promotion of the erection of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine Mausoleum.



EVANSVILLE BISHOP to be installed—The Most Rev. Paul F. Leibold will be installed as the second bishop of Evansville during ceremonies Wednesday, June 15, at 4 p.m. in St. Joseph's Church here. Archbishop Schulte, as metropolitan of the Indiana province, will install Bishop Leibold. The new ordinary, who formerly served as auxiliary bishop of the Cincinnati archdiocese, succeeds Bishop Henry J. Grimmelmann, who resigned last October. Bishop Grimmelmann, Evansville's first ordinary, was consecrated for that diocese in 1949 when the 12-county diocese was detached from the Indianapolis diocese.