

Area Code 219
Phone 284-7367

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC INFORMATION

James E. Murphy, Director - Richard W. Conklin, Assistant Director

From: Conklin 7/19/67

67/60

For Immediate Release:

A major factor which should prompt a reconsideration of required celibacy for priests is the profound change which has occurred in recent years in the Church's thinking on marriage, according to a well-known theologian, the Rev. John A. O'Brien.

Writing in the July-August issue of Pastoral Life, a publication for priests, Father O'Brien argues that from the fifth century to very recently St. Augustine's disparaging views of marriage and sex pervaded Catholic marital theology, including the influential writings of St. Thomas Aquinas.

"With marriage regarded as a concession to human frailty and lust, and virginity a form of asceticism and heroism, it is easy to see how the ideal of permanent celibacy came to be applied to ecclesiastical ministers," wrote Father O'Brien, a research professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

"If Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, Aquinas or virtually any of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church were to read the (Vatican Council's) Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, and especially the sections on the sanctity of marriage and the family and on conjugal love, they would see little resemblance to their own writings," he added. "With (this) statement before them, what group of churchmen would wish to deny to priests or bishops the right to such a sacrament to assist them not only in living upright and holy lives but also in achieving sainthood?"

Much of his article is devoted to a review of the history of celibacy in the Western Church, which points out that clergy in the early Church—including an estimated 40 Popes—were married and that compulsory celibacy was imposed over the years only with great difficulty and with many violations.

more

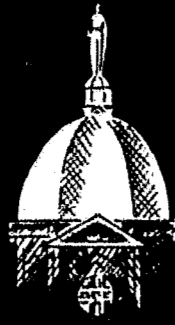
In making his case for optional celibacy, Father O'Brien points to recent surveys which indicate a strong support for such a policy among younger priests. He also attributes the drop in vocations to a policy of tying celibacy to the ministry.

"This does not mean that marriage is to be thrust upon anyone," he writes.

"There will always be a place—and an honorable one—in the ministry for the celibate priest. It simply means that the basic human right and fundamental freedom of every man to decide for himself will be respected.

"In his recent encyclical, *The Development of Peoples*, the Pope himself upheld this right, saying: 'Where the inalienable right to marriage and procreation is lacking, human dignity has ceased to exist.'"

The article was written before the appearance of Pope Paul's latest encyclical reaffirming celibacy, but Father O'Brien has cited commentaries in Catholic publications, such as *America*, which interpreted the encyclical as calling for continuing discussion. Father O'Brien is an advisor to the recently formed National Association for Pastoral Renewal, an organization of priests which favors optional celibacy.

Area Code 219
Phone 284-7367

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC INFORMATION

James E. Murphy, Director - Richard W. Conklin, Assistant Director

67/61

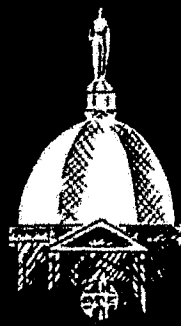
For release Sunday, July 23:

Notre Dame, Ind., July 22 -- The appointment of Miss Monica Jeffers as executive secretary of The Notre Dame Library Association was announced here today by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president.

The Association, founded in 1958 and sponsored by the Women's Advisory Council of the University, has a membership of more than 5,000 women from coast-to-coast with organized chapters in eight major cities. Through lectures, programs and in other ways, it provides a cultural affiliation with Notre Dame and acquaints members with the University and its library. One of the Association's objectives is to augment and improve the library's collection of 824,000 volumes.

Miss Jeffers, whose offices are in the 13-story Notre Dame Memorial Library, has been associated with the University for more than ten years, most recently as secretary to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Earlier she was associated with the Notre Dame Foundation, the Office of Research Administration and the Department of Public Information. A native of Chicago, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Jeffers, 3703 Brentwood Drive, South Bend.

end



Area Code 219
Phone 284-7367

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC INFORMATION

James E. Murphy, Director - Richard W. Conklin, Assistant Director

From: Conklin

67/62

For Release in AM's Sunday, July 23:

A University of Notre Dame College of Engineering research proposal has been approved by the Department of Defense in a competitive program designed to establish "new academic centers of excellence in research."

While contracts with the government have yet to be negotiated, the Notre Dame proposal calls for \$1,041,000 in federal support over the next three years, according to Dr. Harry C. Saxe, head of the department of civil engineering and acting dean of the College of Engineering until the appointment last month of Dr. Joseph Hogan. Saxe will serve as manager of the research program.

A total of 171 institutions submitted 479 proposals in the Defense Department's "Project Themis," announced last January. (Themis was a Greek goddess of law and harmony of physical phenomena.) Its objective was "to strengthen the nation's universities, increase the number of institutions performing research of high quality, achieve a wider geographic distribution of research funds, and thus enhance the United State's academic capability in science and technology."

Investigations were solicited in research areas involving the physical, engineering, environmental, medical, social and behavioral sciences. Some specific problems—such as surveillance, navigation and control, and information processing—were singled out, and universities were given more responsibility for overseeing the research. Fifty Themis proposals were finally accepted by the Defense Department.

Notre Dame's proposal was for multi-disciplinary research in the defense-related area of military vehicle technology with emphasis on deep-sea engineering and high-speed vehicular performance.

more

Project Themis...2

Heading research groups under Dr. Saxe will be Dr. Bernard D. Cullity, professor of metallurgical engineering; Dr. Lawrence H. N. Lee, professor of engineering science; Dr. Kwang T. Yang, professor of mechanical engineering; and Dr. Francis M. Kobayashi, professor of engineering science.

"This proposal represents the most promising involvement we could conceive of in relation to the University's well-developed plan for the improvement of instruction and research in our College of Engineering," the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of the University, said. "With a commitment to expand graduate programs, to build research facilities, to add faculty strength, and to revitalize the undergraduate curricula already well-established, the conjunction of this government program and our plans holds bright promise," he added.

NO.

DATE

NEWS RELEASES FOR JULY

67/60

7/19/67

Father O'Brien, celibacy

67/61

7/23/67

Appointment of Monica Jeffers

67/62

7/23/67

Project Themis-College of
Engineering