

University of Notre Dame
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In The News

In Vatican City - The Sacred Roman Rota, Vatican court of appeals from decisions of diocesan marriage tribunals, handed down 251 decisions during the year of 1955. Of these decisions, 247 dealt with petitions for declarations of nullity of marriages. Declarations were issued in 108 cases; but in 139 the validity of the marriage was sustained. Almost 40% of the cases in which a declaration of nullity was issued were handled free of charge -- that is: the Vatican itself paid the legal fees of those who could not afford to hire a lawyer. In 1954 this amounted to \$30,000.

Records such as this help to destroy the calumny leveled against the Church, even by well-meaning, misinformed Catholics, to the effect that it takes a lot of money to get an annulment. It takes no money -- just evidence.

But why would anyone be asked to pay? The answer is fairly obvious. Lawyers in all civil cases deserve to be paid for devoting their time and talents in behalf of their clients. So, too, when marriage cases are presented, the time and talents of lawyers skilled in Canon Law are required by those seeking annulments. A lawyer can't live on skill and knowledge. Hence, he should be paid by those who engage and utilize his talents.

Yet the Church, bent on justice, will deny no one a fair hearing, and so pays the expenses when the plaintiff cannot do so.

From the "Voice of St. Jude": "The National Catholic Conference on Family Life once again at its convention this year repeated its support of a National Family Allowance Act to alleviate 'many of the serious economic hardships that beset large numbers of American families.' None of these experts or groups is suggesting that the state take over the support of our children. They are only saying that a person with a large family usually needs financial help in raising that family. There, the Federal Government, which through subsidies supports many special groups, should also give some support to the very backbone of our nation -- our families. At present, the United States is the only large industrialized nation which doesn't have a family-allowance system. Over 40 other industrial nations do have such systems."

The Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference points out that we the people are not making serious efforts to provide special assistance to families with children. It notes with satisfaction that there is a resolution before the U.S. Senate calling for a complete study of the Canadian Family Allowance Act with a view toward establishing a similar system in the United States for the promotion of the health and well-being of children.

Former-President Truman: "If you want my opinion -- which you did not request, but which I gladly volunteer -- the best cure for juvenile delinquency is for the mamas and papas to stay at home and raise their families. The responsibility of bringing up the next generation rests squarely on their shoulders. I do not believe in baby-sitters, or sending children to boarding schools just because the parents are too lazy to look after them. Besides, children nowadays have too many gadgets to fool with and not enough chores."

-- Letter to Senator Kefauver

PRAYERS -- Deceased: grandfather of Jerry Brady of Badin; sister of Brother Anselm, CSC (Ava Maria Press). Ill: a benefactor of the University (operation). Special intention for an alumnus who is going blind.