

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XLI, No. 8

Monday, October 9, 1961

Notre Dame, Ind.

OUT OF LUCK

In an atomic attack, is the Christian required to give up his family fall-out shelter to an unprepared neighbor or a passing stranger? Rev. L.C. McHugh, S.J., writing in the Sept. 30th issue of America magazine, says "No". In conscience, he said, the Christian cannot risk the welfare of his wife or children, and may turn the unprepared neighbor away. The father of a family, he asserted, "cannot carelessly squander" the welfare of the family and call this irresponsibility an act of charity. Father McHugh said that when a man builds an atomic fall-out shelter for his family, that family has the right to use it. For the father to "crowd this haven to the hatch in the hour of peril would be misguided charity." "It is the height of nonsense to say that the Christian ethic demands, or even permits, a man to thrust his family into the rain of fall-out when unsheltered neighbors plead for entrance. Father McHugh added that he doubted any Catholic moralist would condemn the householder who used violence to repel "panicky neighbors who applied crowbars to the shelter door." "Nowhere in traditional Catholic morality," he said, "does one read that Christ in counseling non-resistance to evil, rescinded the right of self-defense which is granted by nature and recognized in the legal systems of all nations."

NEW CHAPEL


Holy Cross chapel in Sacred Heart Church has been completely renovated now. The remains of the late Cardinal John O'Hara have been interred there. All are reminded of the long years this great priest spent at Notre Dame, and are urged to take a few steps out of the way and pause there for a short prayer. The chapel is just to the left of the high altar. The entrance to the chapel is marked by the Mestrovic sculpture of "The Prodigal Son".

NOVEMBER 4TH

November 4th will mark the official observance of the 80th birthday of Pope John XXIII. As a token of our affection for the Holy Father, we will present him with a spiritual bouquet. We want this to be a fitting tribute to a great pontiff, so begin now to plan what you will offer when you are approached.

IN YOUR CHARITY

Please pray for the following. Deceased: Father of Paul Carroll of Dillon; father of George Jessop of Walsh; brother of John Winkopp, Off-Campus; uncle of Mike Hart, Off-Campus; cousin of Dave Facini of Dillon; William V. O'Hara, '28. Ill: Father of Richard Sinnott, '58; father of J.T. Phillips of Walsh; Mrs. Clara Taylor, of the Students' Accounts office; Catherine Crahan; Robert Duras. Two special intentions.



The Bookstore has received additional copies of the encyclical "Mater et Magistra". If you haven't yet picked up a copy, do so soon. Here is a document that is being discussed wherever Catholics gather. A couple of excerpts are printed here.

Offers a Safe Path

We reaffirm strongly that the Christian social doctrine is an integral part of the Christian conception of life.

While We note with satisfaction that in several institutes this doctrine has been taught for some time, we feel urged to exhort that such teaching be extended by regular systematic courses in Catholic schools of every kind, especially in seminaries.

It is to be inserted into the religious instruction programs of parishes and of associations of the lay apostolate.

It should be spread by every association of the lay apostolate.

It should be spread by every modern means of expression — daily newspapers and periodicals, publications of both a scientific and a popular nature, radio and television.

To this diffusion, Our beloved sons, the laity, can greatly contribute by knowing this doctrine, making their actions conform to it and by zealously striving to make others understand it.

They should be convinced that the truth and efficacy of this teaching is most easily demonstrated when they can show that it offers a safe path for the solution of present day difficulties. In this way they bring it to the attention of those who are opposed to it because they are ignorant of it and they may even cause a ray of its light to enter into their minds. — Pope John XXIII, "Mater et Magistra" encyclical, May 15, 1961.

Population Explosion

To tell the truth, considered on a world scale, the relationship between the population increase on the one hand and the economic development and availability of food supplies on the other, does not seem — at least for the moment and in the near future — to create a difficulty. In every case the elements from which one can draw sure conclusions are too uncertain and changeable.

Besides, God in His goodness and wisdom has diffused in nature inexhaustible resources and has given to man the intelligence and genius to create fit instruments to master it and to turn it to satisfy the needs and demands of life.

Hence, the real solution of the problem is not to be found in expedients that offend the moral order established by God and which injure the very origin of human life, but in a renewed scientific and technical effort on the part of man to deepen and extend his dominion over nature. The progress of science and technology, already realized, opens up in this direction limitless horizons.

We realize that in certain areas and in the political communities of developing economies really serious problems and difficulties can and do present themselves, due to a deficient economic and social organization which does not offer living conditions proportionate to the rate of population increase and also to the fact that solidarity among peoples is not operative to a sufficient degree.

But even in such a hypothesis, We must immediately and clearly state that these problems must not be confronted and these difficulties are not to be overcome by having recourse to methods and means which are unworthy of man and which find their explanation only in an utterly materialistic concept of man himself and of his life. — Pope John XXIII, "Mater et Magistra" encyclical, May 15, 1961.
