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Pope Questions Motive of Humanae Vitae Foes



Five Fathers Bluett

When Father Anthony Bluett (center) arrives in the Orlando diocese in August, it will be the first time that three brothers have served as priests in Florida parishes. The priest-brothers, left to right, are Fathers Patrick Bluett of Middleborough, Yorkshire, England; John J. Bluett, vice-chancellor of the Orlando diocese; Anthony Bluett, ordained this year in Thurles, Ireland;

Garrett Bluett, dean of students at St. Munchin's College, Limerick; and James Bluett, assistant pastor of the Cathedral in St. Augustine, Fla. The five brothers celebrated Mass in the parish church of Effin, Kilmallock, Limerick, where their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Bluett, live.

(NC Photo)

Sees Effort to Make Life Easy By Abolishing 'Hard Law' of God

Vatican City (NC) -- Christianity is at once easy and far from easy, Pope Paul VI told a general audience here in a discourse in which he reaffirmed the traditional teaching that artificial birth control is evil.

He said that work and sacrifice purchase the ability to do worthwhile things easily. But he denounced the fact that many men today are trying to make Christian living easy without effort.

It was in this connection that he reaffirmed the teaching of his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, by inquiring "whether, among the motives of the objections raised against the encyclical... there was not also that of a secret thought: abolish a hard law to make life easier."

He then asked: "But if it is a law, which has its foundation in God, how can that be done?"

He opened his discourse at a general audience by observing that one of the basic convictions of the postconciliar mentality is that Christianity is easy.

"Easiness: the word is seductive. It is also, in a certain sense, acceptable, but it can be ambiguous."

"It can constitute a very lovely apology for the Christian life, if understood as it should be understood."

"And it could be a distortion, a convenient notion, a 'minimalism.'"

Sorting out the elements of the seeming paradox, the Pope first touched on the positive:

--That Christ had called His yoke sweet and His burden light.

--That Christ reproached the pharisees for imposing heavy burdens on men;

--That one of St. Paul's "master ideas" was to relieve new Christians "of the difficult, complicated and therefore superfluous observance" of the Old Testament.

--That Christ Himself "condemned" all the law and the prophets "to the highest precept of love of God and into what follows from it, love of neighbor."

But gradually his tone shifted.

"To simplify and spiritualize, in other words to make it easy to adhere to Christianity, that is the outlook that seems to spring from the council. No juridicism, no dogmatism, no asceticism, no authoritarianism, it is said too offhandedly..."

"In that way it is hoped to emancipate Christian life from the so-called structures. It is hoped to give to the mysterious truths of the faith a dimension containable in current language and comprehensible to the modern mentality, unchaining them from

the traditional scholastic formulations sanctioned by the Church's authoritative magisterium. It is hoped to assimilate our Catholic doctrine to that of the other religious conception. It is hoped to dissolve the bonds of Christian morality, bonds vulgarly styled 'tabus'....

"What is wanted, we repeat, is a Christianity that is easy in faith and in morals."

At this point Pope Paul recalled

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Catholics At ASU To Have Center

Little Rock -- His Excellency Bishop Albert L. Fletcher has acquired two plots of residential property, close to the campus of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, for use for Catholic student activities, sponsored by the Newman Foundation.

Bishop Fletcher said the property at 1812 and 1814 Aggie Road was purchased after consultations with The Rev. Louis J. Janesko, pastor of Blessed Sacrament parish, Jonesboro, his assistant, The Rev. Thomas Keller, and several interested laymen.

Specific plans for the use of the two buildings have not yet been formulated, Bishop Fletcher said, but some modifications will be needed before students will be able to utilize the property. It is hoped, he said, that alterations can be completed in time for the Fall semester.

Father Janesko, as pastor of the Jonesboro parish, is in overall charge of Catholic student activities at the University. It was he, his assistant, Father Keller, and a group of laymen who located the property, which is about four blocks from the University's Student Union Building. Blessed Sacrament Church is about two miles away.

Tentative plans are presently being drafted for remodeling the property, but these are not yet ready for submission to an architect, Bishop Fletcher said that when plans are finalized, the details will be published in *The Guardian*.

The Arkansas state legislature gave University status two years ago to what till then had been Arkansas State College at Jonesboro. Substantial increases in student enrollments are anticipated in the years ahead.

Vocation Weekend Slated July 18-20

Little Rock -- To encourage vocations to the priesthood, the Little Rock Diocesan Vocation Office will sponsor a special renewal weekend at St. John's Catholic Center here July 18-20.

The three-day gathering will be open to young men of high school and college age who are interested in the priesthood and who register through their pastors by Saturday, July 12.

The Serra Club of Greater Little Rock and Arkansas seminarians recently studying for the priesthood will collaborate with the vocation office in conducting the program.

In overall charge will be the diocesan vocations moderator, The Rev. Joseph L. Fallo, Assisting Director. He will be the diocesan director of seminarians, Msgr. James E. Connell, helping arrange the

program are Stanley Gray, president of Serra, and J. Edward Smith, the program chairman.

Father Fallo said the weekend will give young men an opportunity to become acquainted with seminarians of the diocese, with members of the pre-seminary program and to join with them in three days of renewal. The program will include talks, film discussions, the liturgy and an afternoon of recreational activities.

Any qualified young man interested in attending the weekend program should contact his pastor for a reservation. All reservations must be received at the vocations office by July 12. To defray the cost of the program, a contribution is being requested from each sponsoring parish.

Those attending the weekend will be housed in Fletcher Hall at the Catholic Center, 2500 North Tyler Street.

A renewal weekend is a new vocations enterprise in the Little Rock diocese. One of its aims is to provide an opportunity for seminarians to renew acquaintances and for prospective seminarians to meet and talk with those presently studying for the priesthood. The program will provide opportunities for interchanges of ideas, and will give young men entering the seminary this fall an indication of what they may expect. In addition to priests and lay members of Serra, several seminarians will be featured on the program, details of which will be announced next week.

Collection for Latin America Scheduled

Little Rock -- The U.S. Bishops' Annual Collection for Latin America has been scheduled in the Diocese of Little Rock for Sunday, July 20.

Msgr. John M. Bann, secretary to His Excellency Bishop Albert L. Fletcher, announced the date and pointed to updated approaches to the Latin American apostolate.

A feature story on the apostolate is published on Page 13.

Benedictine Brother Dies

Subiaco -- Funeral services were held last Monday at New Subiaco Abbey for Brother Robert Fritz, O.S.B., who died June 27.

Brother Robert was born at Paris, Ark., October 21, 1893, and entered New Subiaco Abbey, making his monastic profession November 11, 1951. Abbot Michael Lensing, O.S.B., was the principal celebrant at the funeral Mass. Burial was in the abbey cemetery.

Before his entrance into the monastery, Brother Robert was employed in Paris as a carpenter, blacksmith and miner. After his profession, he served the monastic community as blacksmith and gardener until his retirement several years ago.

Brother Robert is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Anna Johnson of Paris and Mrs. Mary (Leo) Neihouse of Fort Smith.

Part-Time Priest Ordained in Germany

Muenster, West Germany (NC) -- One of 27 priests just ordained here will continue as a business executive and serve as a priest in his spare time. He is a 52-year-old widower, with two children, who has already worked as a deacon.

The recent pastoral council of the Muenster diocese recommended that the employment of part-time priests be examined. At the same time, the council expressed serious reservations on the re-introduction of the lay diaconate.

The Sentry Says:

The United States of America . . . ?

Lessons from Waterloo.

(For Details, Read Qui Vive? on Page 4)

