

No Official Repercussions, Father Gallagher Reports

By WELDON WALLACE
[Religion Editor of The Sun]

The Rev. J. Joseph Gallagher said yesterday there is no evidence that measures will be taken against him in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for his opposition to Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control and his unusual decision to resign his title of "monsignor."

Father Gallagher returned to Baltimore Wednesday from a three-week tour which he conducted through Greece, Israel and Turkey. He stated his position on the encyclical Sunday during a stop in Rome.

It is his understanding, he said yesterday, that the chancery (headquarters) of the Baltimore Archdiocese is taking a "gentle" attitude toward him in this matter.

He explained that while he had had no direct communica-

tion from archdiocesan authorities and no summons to appear at the chancery, the indications suggested "forbearance and understanding," and no desire to do "anything drastic."

It is his impression, also, that his superiors at St. Mary's Seminary, Paca street, "would like to have me stay on." Father Gallagher joined the faculty last year to teach philosophy and poetry, and he lives at the seminary.

It is not sure, however, that he will resume his teaching at St. Mary's when the fall term opens on September 11.

The uncertainty of his re-
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everything

Father Gallagher Not Summoned

Critic Of Encyclical Reports No Word Of Penalties

By WELDON WALLACE

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maintaining at Paca street is not related to the stand he has taken on the encyclical, Father Gallagher said. Before he left for the Middle East, he added, he had notified the Rev. William Lee, rector, that he might not stay.

Writing Offers Cited

The priest said he has had "journalistic offers from Catholic magazines" and that three Catholic publishers have approached him about writing books.

He said they are interested in having him write on such subjects as the problems of church renewal and change.

Msgr. Gallagher was only one of many priests throughout the world to voice opposition to the Pope's encyclical. What made his case different was his decision to relinquish the title of "monsignor."

This is an honorary title signi-



REV. J. JOSEPH GALLAGHER

fying that its holder is a "papal chamberlain."

Father Gallagher said he felt it would be inappropriate to retain such a position in view of his opposition to the Pope on the encyclical.

Generally the title is conferred by the Pope at the request of a bishop. Father Gallagher received this honor

through Cardinal Shehan in the spring of 1965.

To relinquish it is so unusual a gesture that Father Gallagher is uncertain how to proceed. What he will do, he said, is to communicate his wish to Cardinal Shehan.

Father Gallagher was associated with *The Catholic Review*, the weekly publication of the Baltimore archdiocese, for seven years, advancing to the position of executive editor.

Left "Review" In 1966

Known as a liberal and progressive, he aroused widespread interest and comment by his frank editorials, including one critical of George P. Mahoney's campaign for governor, which aroused particular controversy.

He left the *Review* in December, 1966, reputedly because he and Cardinal Shehan held different views on its editorial policies.

He then accepted a position as co-editor of *Corpus Instrumentorum, Inc.*, which publishes scholarly Catholic books in Washington.

He gave up that position to join the seminary faculty on Paca street.