

Cardinal O'Boyle Attacks Georgetown Sex Manual

By WILLIAM H. MARSHNER

(Special to the Wanderer)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six medical students at Georgetown University wrote a 46-page booklet called *Human Sexual Response-Ability* for the benefit of their fellow students. They were guided by a faculty advisor named Fr. Robert C. Baumiller, S.J., who is an associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Fr. Baumiller has already made the pages of the *Wanderer* (12-2-71) on this little book on sex. They claimed that the booklet was "purely informational" but that line did not wash with their Bishop, Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle. He read the thing and called it "potentially dangerous to spiritual welfare." He got on the back of the Georgetown administration to have the booklet withdrawn as incompatible with the Catholic character of the University. The only response, however, was from school president, Fr. Robert J.

Henle, who said the administration was not responsible. It was a student project and hence, not "official" he said. Nobody here but us chickens.

The Cardinal was not buying it. The booklet had a faculty advisor; it was paid for out of student body funds and distributed through regular university channels. No doubt, as Fr. Henle said, "the booklet does not represent official positions of Georgetown University; it was not prepared nor has it been approved by the medical faculty or by the University administration." But then the obvious question is, why not? Does a Catholic college just let kids run off at the mouth about important moral subjects and then extend them every facility and courtesy to publish and distribute seriously erroneous materials? Is that the way a Catholic institution exercises its vocation of forming and

(Continued on page 8)

O'Boyle Attacks Sex Manual

(Continued from page 1)

guiding young people? Isn't it the worst kind of legalism for an administrator to claim he is not responsible for a project, when in fact he has promoted it and deliberately refrained from "officially" approving it precisely so as not to be "responsible," should anyone ask embarrassing questions?

And here are some more embarrassing questions. Is it to be believed that *nobody* in a position of authority read this booklet before it was distributed? No. Is it to be believed that certain people read it and saw nothing wrong with it? Alas, yes. For Georgetown is a Jesuit university. Is it possible that a Catholic could have read this booklet and seen nothing wrong with it? Absolutely not. For instance, it endorses homosexuality: "careful reflection might very well indicate that this type of lifestyle is the most honest and healthy for him or her." By gad: healthy yet! And the booklet endorses contraception: "Emotional and sexual relationships can 'happen' to all of us. So, to those romantically involved couples, to the recreation-minded, and to the would-be William (and Wilhelmina) the Conquerors, we must emphasize the responsibility to learn about and to use (my emphasis) any of the proven contraceptives available."

Cardinal O'Boyle said that denial of Catholic dogma "is there for any reasonable alert person to grasp. It is clear from the manner of the placement of material and the use of innuendo. And it follows from the general tone of the booklet." The Cardinal is undeniably right.

Next question: What was the matter with Fr. Baumiller? Not alert or not a Catholic? Neither one, says the Jesuit. I just don't know beans about morals. Now the reader might suspect that the priest is being unfairly paraphrased here. So let me quote Fr. Baumiller's exact words, as found in the preface of the booklet: "Moral questions, so important in this area, were not able to be handled because of lack of time and expertise and because the strict informational quality of this endeavor would be overwhelmed."

Cardinal O'Boyle got a charge out of that one. Said he: "(The) reference to a lack of expertise in the area of moral teaching does no credit to himself and reflects

adversely on his own Jesuit community and priestly training. If Fr. Baumiller is inferring that there is a lack of such expertise on the campus at Georgetown, it was available to him from many other sources, including the Archdiocese of Washington."

After the Cardinal's attack on the sex booklet was published in the *Catholic Standard, NC News* managed to get Baumiller's reaction. He claimed that the "lack of time and expertise" referred to the students, but this answer was both dishonest and insulting. It was dishonest because the students had all the "expertise" they could possibly have wanted in the person of their advisor, Fr. Baumiller. It was insulting because it claimed that college-age Catholics don't know enough about morals to write that fornication, contraception, and overt homosexuality are sins. How much so-called expertise could one possibly need in order to state such obvious truths?

Quite a bit, according to Baumiller. He told *NC News*, that "it would take a moral theologian" to present sexual morality in the booklet and added that moral theology "is a very difficult area to publish in." Everyone, he said, has the obligation and the training to handle questions of sexual morality personally, but not everyone is capable of writing on them for publication.

Very well. We have here a group of six Catholic medical students who are perfectly capable of writing that homosexuality is healthy and that contraceptives should be used, but somehow incapable of writing that contraception is a sin. An interesting and paradoxical distribution of talents, n'est ce pas? Of course, it is not hard to see what Fr. Baumiller is getting at, though he can't openly say it. The average student, indeed the average priest, has not mastered the delicate art (oh, very delicate art) of disguising moral turpitude as a development of Catholic dogma. It is a notorious fact, as plain as all daylight, that large numbers of Catholic priests, especially Jesuits, no longer believe that masturbation, contraception, or fornication are always sinful or even usually sinful. They have rejected the entire Catholic moral position and will be happy to tell you so, as long as the Bishop isn't listening. Only a few dialecticians

of rare talent, geniuses, if you will, in the art of obfuscation are willing to publish these moral theories in cold black and white. Not everyone is gifted. Not everyone is a Charlie Curran. Humbler folk have to pretend that what they write about sex is "purely informational" and hope that the Church is fooled.

Well, Cardinal O'Boyle isn't fooled, God bless him; but then he rarely is. After all, he wasn't fooled by Charlie Curran, and no doubt Robert Baumiller would have done well to remember as much.

It is disagreeable to end on a sour note, but as of this writing, Car-

dinal O'Boyle has received no assurance whatsoever that the offending booklet will be withdrawn. President Henle is off in Rome and says he is not responsible. Fr. Baumiller says the students are not to blame. The students have not so much as wished the Cardinal good morning. The situation might give a Prince of the Church reason to wonder whether, for the good of souls, he wants a thing like Georgetown in his Diocese. After all, those dormitories would make pretty good housing for poor Blacks and other minorities (e.g., Roman Catholics).

'Pro Fide' Pilgrims In Rome

(Continued from Page 1)

couragement from a considerable number of important prelates; that the authorities reserved place for 4000 members of *Pro Fide et Ecclesia* in St. Peter's for the Beatification of Blessed Sister Agostina Pietrantoni on November 12th; and, above all, that the Holy Father, himself, took public notice of their presence there, declaring, in French, that he rejoiced to see "a large number of pilgrims whom we would also like to greet. We know of their concern for fidelity to the Catholic Faith, to the Church, and to the Chair of Peter. So it is with all our heart that we invite them to join with us..." Furthermore, it was electrifying to note the joyous warmth with which His Holiness responded to the applause and acclamation he received from the *Pro Fide et Ecclesia* group when he turned to leave the high altar, opening his arms and waving in fatherly blessing.

John Cardinal Carberry, of St. Louis, and Archbishop Humberto Medeiros, of Boston, sent cables of encouragement and blessing to Professor Schwarz, cables which arrived in time to be read to the 5000 persons who crowded the great E.U.R. Auditorium near Rome on that Saturday morning.

Representatives from Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ewald, of Alpena, were granted a private audience with His Eminence, John Cardinal Wright, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, and with Franjo Cardinal Seper, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Faith. Mr. and Mrs. Ewald brought to the Cardinals documentation and petitions from hundreds of

Catholics in Michigan and from other Midwestern States.

Several days later, in Paris, the CUF group was invited to the office of l'Assemblée des Silencieux de l'Eglise (The Silent Faithful of the Church) and was addressed by Professor Balduin Schwarz, president of *Pro Fide et Ecclesia*.

Professor Schwarz pointed out that there was a crisis in civilization and within the Church and that it would require a genuine spiritual renewal to even begin to solve such a crisis.

Professor Schwarz also stressed the need for parents to take up the catechetical task themselves and to see ways and means to instruct parents in teaching the Faith to their children.

Those affiliated with *Pro Fide et Ecclesia* were urged to distribute and promote the weekly discourses of the Pope and to become more familiar with the *General Catechetical Directory*. While there are many problems which require the attention of parents, Professor Schwarz stated, at the same time Catholics must launch into a two-pronged program to promote the Catholic Faith and to develop a spiritual renewal within themselves.

He compared the present situation in the Catholic Church to a tree which always has some dead wood and, even though the leaves wither and blow away periodically, eventually there comes a Spring.

Professor Schwarz urged all those attending to make the life and force of Christ a living reality in the hearts, minds, and souls of all Catholics.

The Pope's words to the *Pro Fide et Ecclesia* pilgrims immediately following his