

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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November 1, 1965

Liberty Statement Wins
Clearance By Catholics

By W. Barry Garrett

VATICAN CITY (BP)-- The Declaration on Religious Liberty by the Vatican Council in session here is now in its seventh revision after being overwhelmingly approved by the Catholic bishops from all over the world.

Changes in the declaration will be made on the basis of suggestions made by 543 bishops in their qualified vote of approval. Although the basic positions of the document cannot be altered, minor changes can be made when it is brought back for final approval.

The declaration says that the Catholic position is for freedom of conscience for all men and that no person or group can be coerced in matters of religious practice.

It also states that full religious liberty must be guaranteed to all religious groups in both private and public exercise of their religion. It says it is the function of the state to guarantee these freedoms.

Bishop Emile Josef De Smedt of Bruges, Belgium, in the name of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, explained the new text on religious liberty to the Council. The changes in the text consist largely in the addition of a section designed to win the votes of traditionalist bishops who have been reluctant to favor the new position of the Catholic Church.

De Smedt's speech was reported by Fr. Edward Heston, a Council press representative, as emphasizing that "the right to religious liberty does not free either the individual or society from its moral duties toward the true religion." By the "true religion" the Council means the Roman Catholic Church.

The report further emphasized: "Since religious liberty consists only in human and juridical immunity from coercion, it dispenses no one from his moral duties toward the truth and the True Church."

An unofficial translation of a key passage in the document was given by a Council expert at the U. S. Bishops press panel. It says, "Since all men are bound to search for truth especially in those things which concern the worship of God (religion) and to serve it, they are bound by sacred duty to profess and embrace the Catholic faith insofar as they are able to know it."

Although this is standard Catholic doctrine, it was obviously irksome to many of the Council experts that it was repeated in the context of religious liberty. One of them told Baptist Press privately that this language was inserted as a "tranquilizer" for the conservative bishops in an effort to win their support for the document as a whole.

Msgr. George Higgins, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D.C., at the afternoon press panel, said that he was sure that enough bishops would object to the new wording to cause it to be reconsidered during the revision process. He did not predict what changes might be made.

A major objection to the emphasis on the Catholic Church as the true religion in a document on religious liberty was that it was "irrelevant" to the subject.

A new subtitle was added to make it clear that the document does not treat the problem of freedom within the church. The subtitle is, "The right of persons and communities to social and civil liberty in religious matters."

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Another addition to the declaration on religious liberty met with strenuous objection from some Council experts. An effort is being made to delete it in the revision. It says that states should not oblige children to attend schools where anti-religious matter is taught. Another warns against state school systems that exclude religious training.

In a series of voting on the declaration concluded on October 26, the substance of the document was overwhelmingly approved by 2,000 bishops. However, 543 voted approval with reservations. This means that no change can now be made that is contrary to the substance of the declaration.

The Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity is now working on the revised document. A member of the Commission said that the tentative schedule calls for completion of the revision by mid-November. He predicted possible promulgation by November 18, but said it would more likely be at the end of the Council which is expected to be about December 8.

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Catholic Church Avows
Positions On Education

(11-1-65)

By W. Barry Garrett

VATICAN CITY (BP)-- A Declaration on Christian Education with far-reaching ecumenical and political consequences was promulgated by Vatican Council II here October 28.

The Council said that "the public power, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children."

In making this statement the Council avoided saying categorically that public funds should be given to parochial schools. The point of emphasis was that the state should aid "parents" in the education of their children in the schools of their choice. It made no effort to spell out ways this could be done.

Another section of the declaration said that moral and religious education must take place in "all" schools.

"The Church must be present with her own special affection and help for the great number who are being trained in schools that are not Catholic," the Council declared.

Three ways this is possible were stated: (1) "by the witness of the lives who teach and direct them;" (2) "by the apostolic action of their fellow students;" but especially (3) "by the ministry of priests and laymen who give them the doctrine of salvation in a way suited to their age and circumstances and provide spiritual aid in every way the times and conditions allow."

The Council then called on parents with children in all schools "to arrange and even demand that their children be able to enjoy these aids and advance in their Christian formation to a degree that is abreast of their development in secular subjects."

Continuing, the Council declared, "the Church esteems highly those civil authorities and societies which, bearing in mind the pluralism of contemporary society and respecting religious freedom, assist families so that the education of their children can be imparted in all schools according to the individual moral and religious principles of the families."

In a section on Catholic schools the Council declared "the right of the Church freely to establish and to conduct schools of every type."

It then reminded Catholic parents of the "duty of entrusting their children to Catholic schools wherever it is possible."

The Council document in a section on Catholic colleges and universities treated the problems of academic freedom and the relation of science and religion.

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It said that individual subjects should be "pursued according to their own principles, method, and liberty of scientific inquiry, in such a way that an even deeper understanding in these fields will be obtained and that, as questions that are new and current are raised and investigations carefully made according to the example of the doctors of the Church and especially of St. Thomas Aquinas, there may be a deeper realization of the harmony of faith and science."

The Council then said "that even at universities that are not Catholic there should be associations and university centers under Catholic auspices in which priests, religious and laity, carefully selected and prepared, should give abiding spiritual and intellectual assistance to the youth of the university."

Throughout the document the importance of education and of teaching as a career was stressed.

The Declaration on Christian Education was one of five documents promulgated at the October 28 general session of the Council. The others are: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, Decree concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, Decree on Priestly Training, and Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of the Religious Life.

Another general congregation is scheduled for November 18 at which time documents completed at that time will be promulgated. The final general congregation has not yet been announced but will probably take place during the first half of December at which time the remaining documents will be promulgated.

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Workshop For Evangelists
At New Orleans Seminary

(11-1-65)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A workshop for fulltime Southern Baptist preaching and music evangelists will be held for the first time at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Dec. 14-16.

More than 450 evangelists have been invited to the three-day conference of discussions and lectures on such topics as "Problems and Answers for Contemporary Evangelism" and "The Personal Life of an Evangelist."

Seminary president H. Leo Eddleman will deliver the opening address Tuesday night. Leading four studies in New Testament will be Dr. Clark Pinnock, assistant professor of New Testament at the seminary.

Other program personnel include Grady Wilson of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, seminary faculty members, evangelists, and members of the Home Mission Board Department of Evangelism.

T. V. "Corky" Farris of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, division of evangelism, will bring the closing message Thursday night on "The Future of Evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention."

The workshop is sponsored by the recently-established Evangelism Conference and Research Center on the New Orleans Seminary campus. Conferences and materials for the center are being programmed by a seminary committee of faculty, trustees and board of development members.

Evangelists who attend the workshop will be the guests of the seminary, however those planning to attend are asked to confirm this with the seminary immediately, said workshop director B. Gray Allison, professor of evangelism.

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68,752 New Enrolment
Reported By Commission

NASHVILLE (BP)--Net enrolment at all levels of higher education maintained by Southern Baptists has reached 68,752 this year compared with 62,000 a year ago, the executive secretary of the Convention's Education Commission announced here.

Secretary Rabun L. Brantley's report includes five categories of schools--senior colleges, junior colleges, seminaries, academies and Bible schools. There are 73 institutions in all, against 72 a year ago.

The new one is the Baptist College at Charleston (S.C.) in the senior college ranks.

Net enrolment was up on Oct. 1, 1965 over the same day in 1964 in senior colleges, junior colleges and Bible schools. It was down slightly in seminaries and academies, Brantley continued.

The 39 senior colleges had a combined net enrolment of 51,418 this fall compared with 46,574 a year ago. The seven classed as seminaries had a combined net enrolment of 4181 in October 1964 but dropped to 4130 this fall.

The 15 junior colleges had a net enrolment of 10,120 this fall compared with 8105 the year before, according to Brantley.

Academies (there are seven of these) declined over the year from 2555 to 2451, the commission executive secretary reported. The five Bible schools, on the other hand, rose from 585 to 633 students in net enrolment.

"Net enrolment" is a term generally used to include only students who take 12 hours of class work or more at a time. Thus, they are considered full-time students.

A higher figure is counted when to "net enrolment" are added students taking special, non-credit, extension and correspondence work. Some of these might be taking just one course, however. This higher total enrolment figure is 79,464 for all categories.

Brantley's Oct. 1, 1965 statement included Southwest Baptist College as a senior college even though it has not graduated a class. He said the regional accrediting association has given the Bolivar, Mr., school senior college status in advance.

The figures from seminaries and all other institutions are secured from registrar's offices at each school, Brantley explained.

Baylor University at Waco, Tex., continues to lead all schools in enrolment. Its net enrolment as of last Oct. 1 was 7125, up from 6976 the year before.

Wake Forest College at Winston-Salem, N.C., follows with 2994 net enrolment this year, increased from last year's 2920.

Among the seminaries, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., lost one student in enrolment over the year--it declined from 257 to 256. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., lost two, dropping from 152 to 150, according to Brantley.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary climbed from 665 to 679.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., fell from 556 to 516 students in net enrolment, the report showed.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville rose in net enrolment from 860 to 878 students.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth dropped from 1626 to 1590.

All of these seminaries are operated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

A seventh school classed in the commission's report as a seminary is one jointly operated by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A, Inc., a Negro school. The American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville showed a drop from 65 to 61 in net enrolment of students this year.

Leader in size of the junior colleges is Wingate College, Wingate, N.C. This school's net enrolment rose from 1304 a year ago to the present 1473.

Largest of the seven academies is Fork Union Military Academy, Fork Union, Va., with 660 students in net enrolment. Although, as a group, academies declined in net enrolment, Fork Union showed a gain, from 650 to 660.

Baptist Bible Institute at Graceville, Fla., is the largest of the five of this classification. Its net enrolment went up from 209 to 219 over the year, the Education Commission reported.

Except for the seminaries, none of the schools is operated by the nationwide body, the Southern Baptist Convention. They are operated by the state Baptist conventions in the states where they are located.

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Fall Enrolment for Southern Baptist Convention Seminaries

	Net Enrolment October 1, 1964	Enrolment on Oct. 1, 1965		
		Net	Others	Total
American Seminary	65	61	840	901
Golden Gate	257	256	6	262
Midwestern	152	150	5	155
New Orleans	665	679	0	679
Southeastern	556	516	0	516
Southern	860	878	91	969
Southwestern	<u>1626</u>	<u>1590</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1590</u>
Totals	4181	4130	942	5072



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