



# Crowded Public Schools May Have To Find Room for Parochial Students

By LOUIS CASSELL  
UPI Correspondent

America's already-crowded public schools may have to find room in the next few years for millions of additional children who are now enrolled in Catholic parochial schools.

Catholic leaders are seriously considering the advisability of concentrating the church's educational efforts at the high school level. That would mean closing down many of the 10,278 Catholic elementary schools which are now educating 4,262,000 students across the nation.

The drastic change in Catholic school policy was first proposed more than a year ago by Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Bridgeport, Conn., president of the National Catholic Education Association. It has since won substantial support in Catholic circles.

**Not Fulfilling Ideal**

Backers of the proposal point out that the present parochial school system is not fulfilling the church's ideal of a Catholic education for every Catholic child. About one third of the Catholic children of elementary school age

and nearly half those of high school age are attending public schools.

To accommodate all of these children - and the 1,250,000 Catholic babies who are being born each year - the parochial school system would have to be tripled in size during the next generation.

Many Catholics doubt that this is possible. They say the financial burden of maintaining the world's largest private school system is already very heavy - and the cost of tripling the system would be staggering. Moreover, even at their present capacity, Catholic schools are having great difficulty in obtaining adequate staffs of Nuns and lay teachers.

**Not Publicly Disputed**

Bishop Shehan suggested that dioceses which find it impossible to provide full elementary and high school programs for all Catholic children should concentrate their resources on Grades 7 through 12. He said it would be better for every Catholic child to be in a church school during the crucial adolescent years than for some to receive a full 12 years of religiously-oriented

**Brawling Women Fight to a Draw**

San Rafael, Calif. - Police raced to the scene where two women were reported brawling and found a battered Mrs. Barbara Ann Jones, 28.

Mrs. Jones offered a few well chosen words, but then declined to sign a complaint. Police decided to drop the matter. They figured it must have been an even contest. When they came upon Mrs. Jones she had a thick shock of someone else's long black hair clutched in her hand.

**Troopers Help Out With Twin Delivery**

Newton, N.J. - State Troopers Charles Musilli and Thomas Grady responded on the double when an emergency call came in from Wacław Banach.

The troopers got there in time to help Mrs. Manach with the birth of a set of twins.

Both troopers have helped deliver babies before, but never before twins. It was a first for Mrs. Banach, too, though she's borne nine other children.

**BIRTHS TOP 4 MILLION**  
New York - (UPI) - Some 3,581,000 babies were born in the U.S. in 1949 compared with 4,308,000 last year, government figures show. That was the sixth consecutive year that births have topped the four million mark.

**ASPIRIN SALES GROW**  
New York - (UPI) - Consumption of aspirin is increasing at a rate more than double that of the nation's population growth. Drug sources estimate the typical person takes one every three days, compared with one every eight days in 1935.

**HEADS GROW BIGGER**  
New York - (UPI) - The average industrial worker's head is getting bigger every year, according to Gentex Corp. The polyethylene "hard hat" maker said it had to bring out a new model last year - size 8 1/2. Previously sizes ranged from 6 1/2 to 7 3/4.

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