

Gombos Sári

1973

I do...

Leo McLaughlin, who was Jesuit president of Fordham from 1965 to 1968, has married a free-



McLaughlin

lance writer half his age, the New York Daily News says. The wedding between McLaughlin, 61, and Sári Gombos, 28, took place in Elkton, Md., in June. McLaughlin had applied to the Vatican in November to leave the priesthood and marry, but permission was not given, the paper said. As a result, McLaughlin has been automatically excom-

municated from the Roman Catholic Church. He now teaches at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J.

'SAD ABOUT EXCOMMUNICATION'



Ex-Fordham Head

Explains Marriage Decision

NEW YORK (AP)—“I feel very happy about my marriage, but very sad about the excommunication.”

In this manner, Leo McLaughlin, 61, summed up his feelings about his wedding to Sari Gombos, a 26-year-old free-lance writer.

McLaughlin, a former chancellor of Fordham University, was a Jesuit priest for 40 years. His wedding took place June 25 in Elkton, Md., but was not made public until Friday.

McLaughlin said he had applied last November for permission to return to layman's status and for dispensation to marry—a normally lengthy procedure. The permission has not been granted, although it

may be later. McLaughlin said that since he and Miss Gombos decided to marry anyway, they both have been automatically excommunicated.

“THE DIFFICULTY of the decision is impossible to communicate in words,” McLaughlin said. “There are always reasons for and reasons against. It's a decision I didn't make in great haste . . . I have known Sari for a long time.”

Why didn't he wait for permission? “Impatience, I guess,” said McLaughlin. “I'm not young and a year is a long time to wait . . .”

McLaughlin said the change in his status was just one of a series of changes in his life recently.

He became president of Fordham, a Jesuit College in New York City, in 1965 and chancellor in 1968. During his tenure control of the university was shifted from the board of Jesuit trustees

to an expanded board dominated by laymen.

THEN, in 1970, he announced he was leaving to become director of freshman studies at Johnson C. Smith University, a small, mainly black school in Charlotte, N.C.

“I've been talking about race relations for years now,” he said at the time of his resignation from Fordham. “I felt it was about time I put my life where my mouth is.”

McLaughlin left Smith

after 2½ years. He said he was “heartbroken to leave,” but felt his job had become mainly administrative and “I felt it was essential that black people take over.”

McLaughlin currently is director of the tutorial program at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J., where he and his wife live.

He said many of his Jesuit friends have contacted him since learning of the marriage. Their reaction, he said, was “rather mixed.”



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