

Bishop Semashyn Says Knowledge of Eastern Rites Leads to Unity

CHICAGO. — "Knowledge of the Eastern rites in the Catholic Church is a major step in building the bridge of unity for our dissident brethren," declares the Most Rev. Ambrose Semashyn, O.S.B.M., "because many Orthodox outside the Catholic Church use the Eastern rites. And there are over 300 million such brethren. No great dogmatic gulf separates these Orthodox from Catholics. We must admit that the schism has been kept alive by mutual fear and distrust. Individual Catholics have too long lacked interest in the welfare of their separated brethren; and individual Orthodox have long been suspicious of such interest."

Bishop Semashyn, Auxiliary to the Most Rev. Constantine Bohachovsky, Ordinary of the Ukrainian Greek diocese in the United States, deprecates the attitude of too many Catholics not familiar with the various rites who "are apt to suppose that Latin is the only liturgical language and erroneously think that Catholicism is found only in Latinism. . . . Some Catholics do real injustice to members of the Eastern rites when they belittle these particular rites or their customs, or, worse yet, when they treat their members as Catholics of an inferior caste."

"We Catholics should not forget that Our Lord Jesus lived as a man and as a man died for the world in the Eastern land; the early formative influence of His Church was Jewish and Greek; that the epoch-making first seven general councils were predominantly of Eastern composition, that there has never been any principle of uniformity in external worship."

Mass in 10 Languages

"The Christian community in Rome was originally Greek speaking and in consequence until the middle of the third century Greek was the language of the Roman liturgy or Mass. We should realize that in the Catholic Church Latin is not the only liturgical language, but that in fact there are 10 different languages in which Mass is said every day of the year—Latin, Greek, Church-Slavonic, SYRIAC, Armenian, Georgian, Arabic, Roumanian, Hungarian, Coptic, and Czech or old Ethiopian — and that these languages are guarded by the Church with special care, laws, and regulations."

10 Eastern Churches in Chicago
"Using different languages, right here in Chicago there are 10 churches of Eastern rites — four Ukrainian, one each of Carpatho-Ruthenian, Hungarian, Croatian, Chaldean, Melchite-Syrian, and Russian. Though their language for Mass is not Latin, and their members do not genuflect, and they do not have rails before the sanctuary, they are true Catholics. . . . There are within the United States over a million Catholics who belong to the Eastern rites. For them the Holy Father established two dioceses and has provided them with Bishops of their own rite."

Clung the need for unity in a material way in these days of struggle, Bishop Semashyn showed how much more important is unity in faith. He touched on the absurdity of non-Catholic denominations, which may hold doctrines directly contrary, and quoted from a statement closing a non-Catholic world conference: "We humbly acknowledge our divisions are contrary to the will of Christ, and we pray God for unity." Catholics, mindful of Christ's words, have a special reason to bring about unity and should build a bridge of knowledge, cemented with brotherly love, that could unite dissidents with the Church.

He emphasized the fact that there is but one true faith, a treasure whose keeping was entrusted to St. Peter and his successors, the Popes. Just as the fathers of our country did not leave the interpretation of the constitution to the people but to the Supreme Court, so Christ appointed His successors to be the supreme authority. The Church, however, does not possess one rite only but embraces all the ancient rites of Christendom.

Every saint in heaven is our brother or sister. All the holy innocents in the universe are on our side. Let us lift up our hearts.

NUNS HAVE OWN RED CROSS UNIT



Wrinkled white hands of an 80-year-old nun have ceased doing the traditional needlework and fine sewing of convent laundries, and now lend their fingers to aid in winning the war. Sister Mary Guadalupe, R. S. M., formerly superior of several Chicago schools, and now a resident of the Holy Sisters Institute, Chicago, spends her hours in a wheel chair with a handbag tray where she rolls game and sorts cotton for the Red Cross. Within the convent is the most active closed Red Cross unit in the city. Bob Kear photo. (N.C.W.C.)

C. I. O. President Awarded Christian Culture Medal

WINDSOR, Ont.—Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, was presented with a medal as the "outstanding exponent of Christian lay ideals" by

Assumption College here at exercises at which the CIO head said labor and management must cooperate to win the war and a peace "which will allay fear, destroy want and guarantee employment to every able-bodied individual willing to work."

Presenting the medal, the Very Rev. V. J. Ginnane, C.S.B., President of Assumption College, termed Mr. Murray "a man of Christian principles, who tries to practice those principles and who recognizes not only the rights of labor but also its responsibilities."

Mr. Murray was introduced by the Rev. J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B., founder of the Assumption College Christian Culture League, which originated the award two years ago. Previous recipients were Sigrid Undset and Jacques Maritain.

The Culture Award Medalist, in accepting the honor, said in part: "My good friends, it is a great honor that has been bestowed upon labor this evening. Assumption College has tendered to labor a great, great recognition here tonight. I am hopeful that labor will live up to those exceptionally high standards set out in that marvellous speech delivered to this wonderful audience by Father Murphy tonight. Labor has a service to render; a service which does not necessarily confine itself to the field of collective bargaining. Labor, when it organizes and succeeds in securing for itself collective bargaining contracts, then also secures for itself other definite responsibilities; responsibilities which run beyond the mere responsibilities of a union to its members, but definite public responsibilities; duties which we owe our countries. You know, my friends, it is because labor is prepared to assume these public responsibilities that labor has been growing in the United States and over here in Canada. The bigger the Union the greater the responsibility. I can sense no greater labor responsibility than the kind of responsibility that labor has to its country these days. Labor should endeavor with might and main to give to its country during these terrifically trying days all that it can to win this war. I talked at a Communion breakfast in the City of Detroit this morning and I repeated there the statement which was made by Senator Pepper to the Boston Convention of the C. I. O. last November when he said: 'Let it never be said by any man or group of men that organized labor in the United States of America has bended its knee over the dying body of an American soldier, and looking into that dying soldier's eye said: 'Daddy, I am sorry, if I had produced the goods perhaps you would not have been dying today.' I know that organized labor will never need to say that because if there are any groups of citizens either in the United States or Canada more devoted to the cause for which their countries are now fighting I do not know them."

But there is another great segment of our population which has also definite public responsibilities and the portion of the population to which I now make reference

for halfway they should no longer assume that attitude of abatement, of pushing labor away from them because it so happens that the employer, no matter who he is, no matter how big he might think he may be is no better and no bigger in the estimation of God Almighty than the humblest employer he has working for him. I direct no shafts of criticism at the employer groups. I make no particular plea to them; they have a duty to perform to help win the war and if they are going to help win this war then they must help labor win the war with them. These are the attributes of this thing we call the brotherhood of Man. That is the essence of true Christian Culture that spirit of tolerance that spirit of getting to-

gether and working together. Over in the United States of America, labor has made remarkable headway in recent years and in that it is making remarkable headway it wants to assume more definite public responsibilities.

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