

Digest Poll Rates Clergymen As 'Very Understanding'

St. Paul, Minn. — (NC) — Two out of three church members in the U.S. think their clergymen understand their problems very well, a Catholic Digest poll has reported.

Only a little over two million out of nearly 72 million American church members think their clergymen do not sufficiently understand their problems, the magazine said in its December issue.

TOP GROUP when it came to thinking their clergymen understand them were Episcopalians with three out of every four calling their ministers "very understanding."

Catholics came second with 72 per cent — or nearly 15 million out of 20.8 million — thinking their priest is very understanding of their practical problems. This proportion is five per cent higher than the average total of all Protestant church members.

When it came to rating as "fairly understanding" Catholics and Protestants have the same average, 21 per cent, the magazine stated.

More women than men think their clergymen are very understanding, and middle aged persons are more content with their

clergy than youth and older persons, according to the Catholic Digest.

ONLY THREE per cent of church members of all faiths thought their clergymen were "not very understanding." And eight per cent said they didn't know.

In rating their clergymen as "very understanding" the church groups went this way: Episcopal, 75 per cent; Catholic, 72 per cent; Presbyterian, 71 per cent; Baptist, 68 per cent; Congregational, 67 per cent; Lutheran, 66 per cent; Jews, 62 per cent; and Methodist, 61 per cent.

Our Lady's Guild To Enjoy Yule Program

Annual Christmas Party of Our Lady's Guild of Holy Rosary Church will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8 in the school hall, preceded by services in the Church at 8 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Girl's High School Choir, directed by Sister Anna Louise, followed by games and refreshments.

Each member is requested to bring a grab bag present also a fifty-cent donation for needy children.

Chairman for the refreshment committee will be Mrs. Evelyn Dady assisted by Mesdames Catherine Brinkman, Alice Donnelly, Margaret Dixon, Marion Eagan, Jeanne Lowenguth and Eleanor Shannon.

Chair Of Unity Octave Services Listed In 5 Churches Of Diocese

Montour Falls — Elaborate plans for the winter observance of the Chair of Unity Octave were announced by the Rev. DeSales Standerwick, S.A., chairman of the local committee at St. John's Atone-ment Seminary, here. The Octave will be observed in solemn manner in five churches of the diocese.

The five churches are: St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Elmira; St. Vincent de Paul's in Corning; St. John's Atone-ment Seminary in Montour Falls and St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen.

Decision to have these observances was made because of the enthusiasm with which last year's observance was met and so gratifying, Father Standerwick said.

The Friars themselves will conduct the Octave observance in all these churches with the exception of the last which will be conducted by Rev. Benedict Ehmann, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake.

Father Standerwick expressed the hope that the Octave observance this year would be as well attended as years past and assured the committee that no effort would be spared in realizing this end.

FOR THOSE unacquainted with the Chair of Unity Octave, it is a "universal movement of prayer for the reunion of Christendom under the Pope. This movement of prayer was begun at Graymoor, N. Y. in 1908 by the late Rev. Paul James Francis, the Founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atone-ment.

At the time of the Octave's initiation, Father Paul and his small religious community were Episcopalian. However, it was only a little more than a year after Graymoor's first observance of the Octave that Father Paul and his entire religious community entered the Catholic Church.

The Octave, so called, because it consists of eight days of special prayer, is held each year from the feast of St. Peter's Chair, Jan. 18 to the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Jan. 25. The purpose of the Octave is to pray for the reunion of Christendom under the Vicar of Christ, the Pope of the Catholic Church. It was for this very intention that Christ Himself prayed the night before His death. "That they all may be one as thou Father in Me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John xvii: 21)

The Chair of Unity Octave has been highly indulged by the last four pontiffs and last December, His Holiness, Pius XII, issued an encyclical emphasizing the need for religious unity and the great importance of the Octave in achieving this goal.

Anyone interested in literature on the Chair of Unity Octave and the method in which it is observed is urged to write to the local Chairman of the Chair of Unity Octave, at St. John's Atone-ment Seminary, Montour Falls, N. Y.

Card Tournament Set By St. John's HNS

Holy Name Society of St. John's Church, Greenvale, will meet on Wednesday evening, Dec. 9, promptly at 8:15 p.m.

After a short business meeting there will be held a streamlined card tournament consisting of Pinochle, Euchre, and Bridge with a prize for the highest score in each. Television will be provided for the fight starting at 10 o'clock and refreshments will be served.

At the November meeting with a large turnout mostly of whom answered the request of the Rev. Donald Lux, pastor, for workers to assist with the census of the parish, the men were treated to a colored movie, "Out of the North," which was loaned by the Cumberland Nash Co., and it covered the birth, migration, and life span of ducks familiar in this area.

The Society will receive Holy Communion in a body at the 8 a.m. Mass Sunday, Dec. 13.



FRIARS OF ST. JOHN'S Atone-ment Seminary, Montour Falls, discuss plans for the coming Chair of Unity Octave observance in five churches in the Rochester diocese. They are: (from left) Rev. Pacificus Von Essen, S.A., Rev. De Sales Standerwick, S.A., chairman and the Rev. Roger Maternath, S.A., rector of St. John's Seminary.

Apostleship of Prayer

By THOMAS H. MOORE, S.J., National Secretary



Grace And Peace

The General Intention recommended to the prayers of all Associates of the Apostleship of Prayer for the month of December is "Success for the Holy See's Program for Peace."

The following explanation of that intention, by the Rev. Thomas H. Moore, S.J., appears in the December issue of the Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

Knowing the great weakness of his fallen nature, a man ought to do everything in his power to win from heaven the graces which will counterbalance concupiscence. He will not be fool enough to think that he can establish peace between the good and evil in him by his own strength.

A man living by himself would need the grace of which we speak. A man living with others will not need it less. Group these men into families, nations and races, and there will still be in them the conflict which can only be resolved by God's grace. In fact, the play of concupiscence is enormously widened and strengthened in the unity of family and nation.

PATRIOTISM is a virtue which becomes a social vice in the over-patriotic, the national list, the hater of other nations. The greed which precipitates so many wars is not sanctified by the fact that a king is greedy for his nation, if not for himself.

There is such a thing as national selfishness which is no less a concupiscence than the urges in a bully, a miser or a drunkard.

Because of what I would call here national concupiscence, the leaders of nations are fools to think they can do by themselves what both reason and revelation tells them can be done only in the grace of Christ. As far back as Isaiah, it was prophesied that Christ would be the Prince of Peace. When He was about to leave the world, a Victim of the war which began in the Garden of Eden, Our Lord told his disciples: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." And He distinguished the peace which was His from all the truces and armistices of men. "Not as the world gives (peace) do I give to you."

WHY DO INDIVIDUALS reject God's grace in the battles between good and evil in their own souls? Because, at bottom, they are on the side of concupiscence. They would have peace of soul but not at the expense of

Border Clashes Point Up Papal Plan

Vatican City — (NC) — Recent border incidents in Palestine serve only to illustrate that the Catholic position advanced by the Holy See for internationalization is the only reasonably sure and safe solution of the problem.

This contention was made by "Osservatore Romano" in a front-page editorial which states that the lamentable clashes there prove that the situation in Palestine has not changed after five years of armed truce. Rather there is reason to fear that with the passage of time it will worsen.

The EDITORIAL repeats emphatically that the Catholic position remains unchanged in spite of various and repeated assertions to the contrary. "More than once during these years it has been said — and not always with a right intention — that the Holy See's attitude on the Palestine problem had changed," the editorial recalls.

The continuing threat hanging over the Holy Places, demands that their safety be finally assured, the newspaper said. "And new clashes could be avoided only if the city and its environs which we regard as one whole and great Holy Place — were constituted as a 'corpus separatum' with a true and proper international regime."

"IT IS CLEAR in fact that the state of things which we speak constitutes a grave permanent danger for so many sacred memories, and the incidents which the chronicles unfortunately must report show that it is not a question of fictitious fears."

The city which saw the Passion of Christ, Osservatore continues, "can be considered a single, unique Holy Place. The nervous uncertainty and its prolongation increase the anxieties of Catholicism for the peace and security of such singular memorials."

Fulda To Honor German Apostle

Fulda, Germany — (NC) — The old West German see city of Fulda is preparing for two big Catholic events next year: The commemoration of the death of St. Boniface, "Apostle of the Germans," whose tomb is in Fulda cathedral, and the 76th German "Katholikentag."

Close to 100,000 Catholics from all parts of the country are expected to attend the St. Boniface celebrations, which will take place from May 30 to June 13. Already now efforts are under way to make it possible for Catholics from Eastern Germany to come to Fulda.

Religious Stamps
Hamilton, O. — (RNS) — Albert E. Tabler, Catholic layman has been named president of the Collectors of Religion on Stamps Society (COROS), an international organization of religious philatelists.

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Christmas Dinner Set By Altar Group
A Christmas Dinner Party will be held by St. Margaret Mary Altar Society on Monday evening, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Hall, Rogers Parkway.
Mrs. Robert Kelley is honorary chairman. Mrs. William Thon and Mrs. Frank Bonignore, co-chairmen, will be assisted by Mrs. Gilbert Fuhrman and Mrs. Vincent Carroll, entertainment and decorations.
Reservations will be taken until Saturday noon by Mrs. Harold Walker, CO. 4537, Mrs. Harold Melsenzahl, CO. 2724, Mrs. Leo Shanley, CO. 4943, and Mrs. Leo Troy, CO. 0921.
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