

# Pope Calls World Council To Reunite Christians

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led the Pope's decisions to hold a diocesan synod, to convocate the ecumenical council, and to bring canon law up to date as "three events of the greatest importance."

The feast chosen for the Pope's pronouncements came a day after a special assembly in Rome commemorated the 19th centenary of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans—which stresses the oneness of the Mystical Body of Christ, and urges the Romans to "follow after the things that make for peace, and . . . safeguard the things that make for mutual edification."

As the feast of St. Paul's conversion began here, even nature appeared to cooperate in announcing that something momentous was about to take place. Low black clouds moved in from the north and quickly enveloped the Eternal City in an unnatural half-dark haze.

Groups of the faithful, moving by every road in the direction of St. Paul's east anxious glances at the sky.

Inside the basilica— itself a symbol of unity between East and West, as it is the patriarchal basilica of the Patriarch of Alexandria— prelates, clergy and faithful, an estimated 20,000 strong, began congregating early. Various groups carried identifying banners. Some, encouraged by the Pope's recent visits to various Rome institutions, invited him to "Come See Us."

At 10:20, the Pontiff entered the basilica on foot from his baptistry, going to the chapel of the canons, where he prayed before the Blessed Sacrament before mounting a portable throne. Then, preceded by 17 cardinals, members of the pontifical court and of the Rota, and heads of mendicant orders, Pope John was borne in procession down the aisle on the Epistle side of the basilica and up the center aisle.

The faithful cheered and a police band played a papal march.

Then Mass was celebrated in the Pope's presence by Bishop Cesario D'Amato, O.S.B., Abbot Nullius of St. Paul's outside the walls.

At the Gospel, the Pope gave the homily. He spoke of the horror given St. Peter and Paul as symbols of the Church's unity, expressed his sorrow at attempts to break this unity, and invited all to return to that unity which he said will give peace both in the supernatural and the natural order.

Finally, he invited the faithful to pray for this intention.

POPE JOHN began by recalling a visit he made to Tarvis— St. Paul's home town— 20 years ago. Telling how he had found the village almost completely abandoned, with only one small Catholic chapel in a private home, he pointed out that in contrast, St. Paul is honored here in Rome in full glory together with St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles.

This solemn union of the two Apostles and the honor shown them, said Peter's successor, is "a very clear indication of the fervent concord and of the ardent profession of the faith of the Christian people."

Consideration of this unity, he continued, leaves him in sorrow when he sees the success of attempts at destroying the unity which Christ has conceived as "a single flock under the guidance of a single shepherd."

The Pontiff then said:

"Consider how the perfect unity of Faith and of the practical realization of the teaching of the Gospels would be for the tranquility and happiness of the whole world, at least so far as is possible on earth. And this would be not only in the service of the great principles of the spiritual and supernatural order, but also in the service of the most certain elements of civil, social and political prosperity of the individual nations."

In the second part of his sermon, Pope John again spoke of his sorrow at seeing the Church in suffering. He said that from his position as Pontiff, he could more easily see "the broad horizons stained with blood because of the sacrifice of liberty imposed on many . . . and with special bitterness because of the profanation of one's own religious faith."

He went on to say:

"Due to great reserve and to sincere and meditated respect, and with the confident hope that the tempests may gradually dissipate, we abstain from citing ideologies, localities and persons. But we are not indifferent to the fresh documentation which passes continually under our eyes and is a revelation of terror, of violence and the annihilation of the human personality."

The Pope told the faithful that, in the realization that they share in the preoccupation of the Church, he would ask them to join him in turning "more insistent prayers" to God to this end. After the Mass, a prayer composed by all present asking God to consider the conditions afflicting the Church, "particularly now in the great nation of China."

The Pontiff knelt before the tomb of St. Paul as the prayer was recited by Abbot D'Amato.

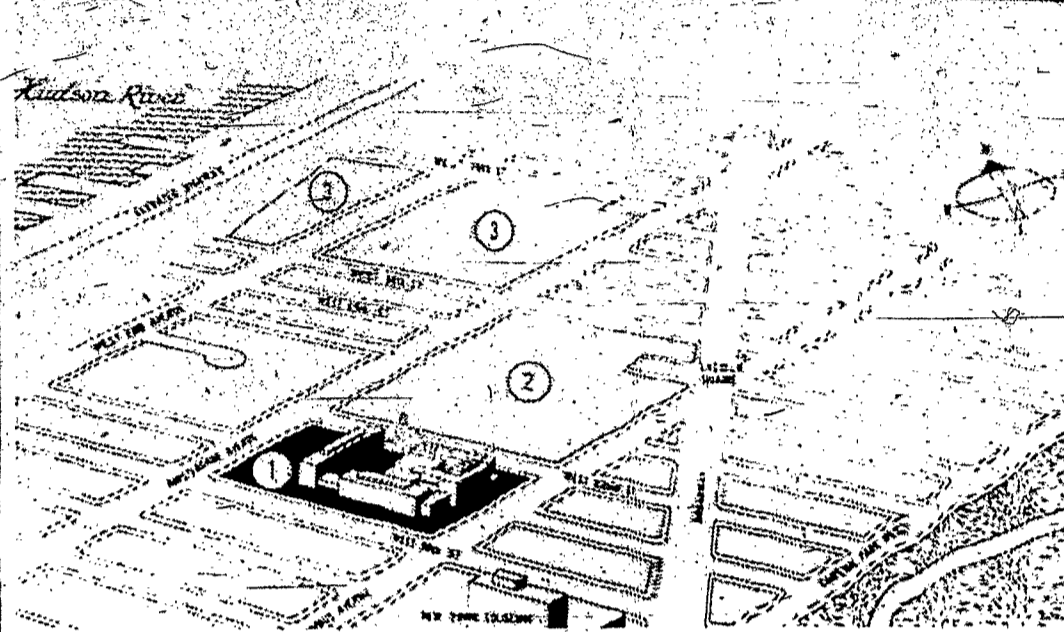
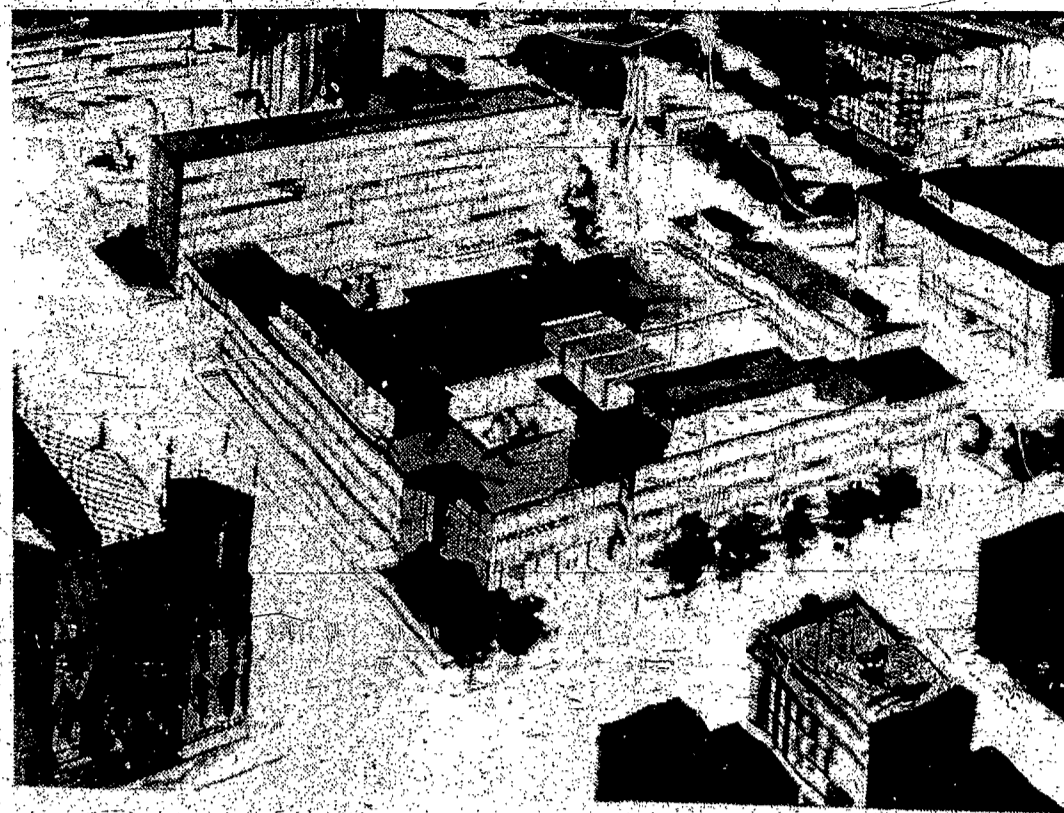
As the voices of the faithful thundered in unison through the forest of marble columns of the basilica, the Pope buried his face in his hands deeper and deeper, as if personally sensing the weight of the "afflicting conditions" which the prayer begged to be lifted.

The ceremony concluded, Pope John imparted his apostolic benediction, granting its plenary indulgence "also to those following the ceremony by radio." Then he was carried out again on the portable throne through the wildly cheering crowd.

It was afterward, in the adjacent abbey which is the Rome headquarters of the Cassinese Benedictine Congregation, that the Pope revealed to the 17 cardinals present his intention to summon a general council of the Universal Church.

## Cardinal Named Papal Legate

New York — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII has named Cardinal Spellman Papal Legate to the First Central American Eucharistic Congress at Guatemala City, Feb. 11-15.



## New Fordham To Rise In New York City

New York — (RNS) — An artists sketch (top) shows the Schools of Law, Social Service, Business, Education and General Studies which Fordham University will build in Lincoln Square here, starting this spring. Fordham was given the right to build the \$25,500,000 educational center after a long court battle initiated on Church-State grounds by opponents of the entire 13-block slum clearing project. At the bottom is the new center in relation to the surrounding area. 1. Fordham at Lincoln Square, 2. Lincoln Center for the performing arts, 3. Housing.

## Vatican Radio Predicts

# Bigger Catholic Role In Unions

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio, in a special broadcast, praised the policies of American labor unions. It said Catholics will play an increasing role in them "because of a growing awareness of labor matters spread by an expanding Catholic press in the United States."

Noting that the United States enjoys the highest living standards in the world, the station lauded the trade unions especially for being in favor of large families as one of the ways for increasing the demand for marketable goods.

It drew particular attention to the "great importance" of the A. F. of L.-C.I.O. merger in helping to strengthen the country's industrial life and to foster sound relations between management and labor.

The Vatican Radio said that "the success in this field resulted in little or no Communist infiltration into the American labor unions."

It stated that "there is a complete absence of revolutionary tendencies among American workers, who do not want to overthrow the capitalist system, but to cooperate with it."

Speaking of the role of Catholics in the unions, the station said they will "play an increasing role in them in the future because of their growing numbers and their enlarged awareness of labor matters spread by the expanding Catholic press in the United States."

In this connection, however, the station warned Catholic workers to avoid organizing themselves into powerful separate groups.

It said that instead they should aim at preparing Catholic union members to exert a Catholic influence in the organizations to which they belong. Catholics already hold many important posts in the American unions, it noted.

The station said European labor unions have criticized American Catholic workers' organizations for not organizing themselves into powerful bodies.

However, it commented, "the situation in America is very dif-

ferent from that of Europe," and "as long as the participation of Catholics in the U.S. unions continues to be large, there should be no danger to Catholic life in the U.S.A. from the unions."

It said the American unions have shown themselves "to be working in great unity, a fact which constitutes a value much too high to be weakened without important motives."

The Vatican Radio said hopes of increasing Catholic participation in the unions is "justified by the growing number of Catholics in the U.S.A., and the growing cultural and political awareness of American Catholic workers."

The broadcast made special mention of a declaration by six Ohio bishops in March, 1958, opposing a proposed "right-to-work" amendment to the state constitution. The amendment was designed to outlaw the union shop which requires workers to join a union after a stated period of time, or leave their jobs.

"This declaration of the six bishops," the broadcast said, "was in favor of the workers and against the splitting and weakening of the unions."

## Day Of Prayer For China Church

Sunday, Feb. 15, will be observed throughout the United States, as a day of prayer for the Church in China, in response to a plea made by Pope John XXIII.

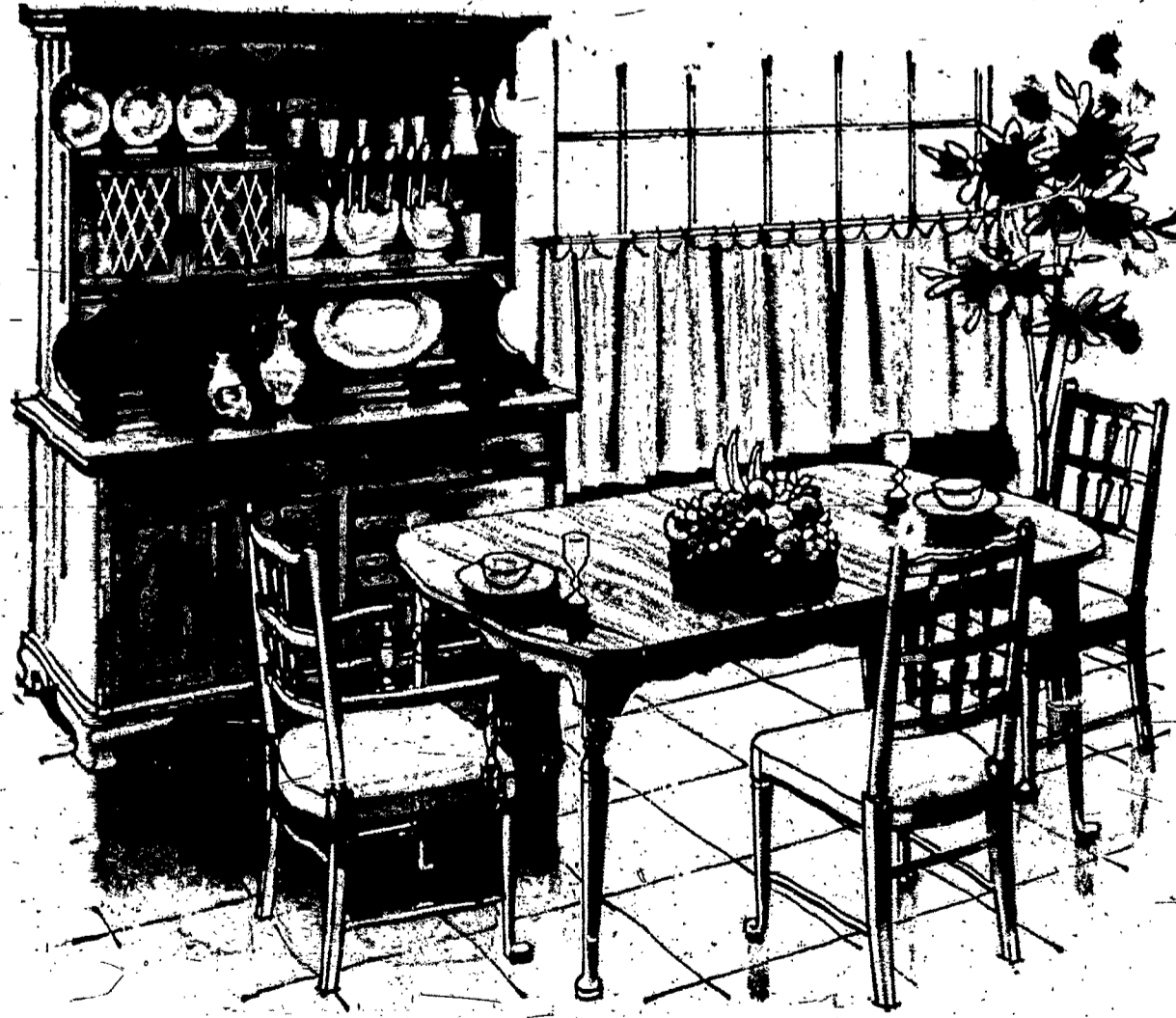
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