

Easter Church To Be Rebuilt

Jerusalem — (RNS) — The first stage of restoration work on Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the holiest shrine in Christendom, has been completed, according to Angelos Mallios, one of the three architects supervising the project.

The work of restoring the church, built on the traditional site of Christ's Crucifixion and jointly controlled by Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic (Latin Rite) and Armenian Orthodox communities, began last November.

Mr. Mallios, a specialist in the restoration of ancient Greek temples in Greece, said 15 master craftsmen have been employed in repairing and strengthening the dome over the main entrance of the church which has suffered severely from earthquake and fire.

He said the work will be resumed early in the summer, provided the necessary funds are available. Funds for the project continue to be collected in the three religious communities.

According to the Greek expert, \$1,600,000 will be needed to complete the repairs. Two other experts collaborating with him have been Joseph Mousal-

ah, of the Armenian community, and Father Cusson, a French Dominican.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was originally built during the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. The present church is largely the work of 12th and 13th century Crusaders, with a patchwork of additions and restorations of the last seven centuries. It was severely damaged by earthquake in 1927, by fire in 1949 and by unusually heavy rains in 1954. Ethiopian Coptic, Egyptian Coptic and Syrian Orthodox groups occupy and control some of the smaller interior sections.

Novena Urged

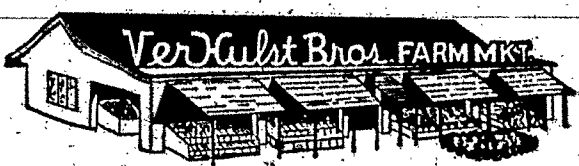
Winona, Minn. — (NC) — Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald of Winona has recommended to faithful in his diocese that they participate in the novena, March 14 to 22, in honor of St. Isidore, patron saint of rural communities.



Bottles Build Homes, Schools In Spain

Madrid — (RNS) — Father Joaquin Sancho, the parish priest of Canterla in Valencia province, sorts some of the thousands of empty bottles he has collected to help finance construction projects in Spain. Father Joaquin came here from Canterla to gather bottles

thrown away by thirsty football fans during games at Madrid's famous Bernabeu stadium. So far, he has collected more than 200,000 bottles. According to one report, the priest intends to start a nearby housing colony to be called the "bottle suburb."



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Say The Responses Don't Be Bashful

Bristol, England — (NC) — The Bishop of Clifton has asked his people not to be shy about joining vocally in the prayers of the Mass.

Bishop Joseph Rudderham in a pastoral letter referred to the Holy See's decree urging greater congregational participation in the Mass.

"When we join in this supreme act of homage to God," he said, "it can scarcely be doubted that our participation will be greater and the benefit we derive personally also greater, the closer our active participation in the Mass becomes."

"I therefore urge upon you all to give your full cooperation to your priests in this matter," he continued. "Do not be held back by any feeling of bashfulness: You will very soon find that to share in the prayers of the Mass is no more difficult than to share in, for example, the saying of the Rosary or the singing of the Benediction hymns."

Bishop Rudderham told the people of his diocese that such participation, though it is to be hoped for, "is not, indeed, essential for us in order to share in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice."

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UN Malik Terms Council Century's Greatest Event

Dallas — (NC) — The president of the United Nations General Assembly said here the next ecumenical council could be "greater than anything that has happened so far in this 20th century for indeed in many a long century past."

Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, said the gathering of the world's Catholic bishops and other top Church officials, which HIS Holiness Pope John XXIII has said he will convene, could turn out to be "an historic event of the greatest magnitude."

Referring to his own denomination, he said: "The Orthodox Church, living under suffocating conditions in the east, is asking how long must its isolation last. There is a profound longing in the Orthodox fold for the restoration of the old bond of fellowship."

THE DIPLOMAT addressed newly arrived Catholic laymen from seven Texas and Oklahoma dioceses meeting here under the auspices of Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Fort Worth and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men.

Dr. Malik asserted that "the urge to ecumenicity is genuine and universal today." He cited Protestant movements to unite churches in associations and said "the process of endless splintering is becoming intolerable, and many are even led to question its necessity or validity."

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