

Fordham Priests Not Red Spies

Davenport — (NC) — Priests of the Russian Center at Fordham University definitely are not "members of an underground or clandestine movement," Father Austin Mohrbacher, the center's only non-Jesuit, made it clear here.

"Everything we do is on the up and up," Father Mohrbacher said. "What we want is legal status in Russia. We're not interested in sneaking into the country, staying there for about six months and then end up in prison for ten years. You're pretty well ruined then."

The 32-year-old priest from Lee Center, Minn., was interviewed here before he offered the Divine Liturgy (Mass) in the Byzantine Rite in Sacred Heart cathedral.

"We're also interested in corporate reunion with the Russian Orthodox church," he stressed. "Nothing is further from the truth than to say we're going in and 'Christianize' Russia. Although we priests all wish to go to Russia, we recognize that other people are going to be in the driver's seat in this 'Christianizing' work and those are the Russian Orthodox."

A slender, affable dark-haired man, Father Mohrbacher said that his equally dark beard is not "absolutely necessary" in his work with the Russian Catholic apostolate, but that it "does make you more acceptable to members of the Byzantine Rite."

He said the Russian Orthodox separation from Rome is a "damned tragedy."



Traditional Home Of The Blessed Virgin

Ephesus, Turkey — (RNS) — Bishop Joseph Descuffi of Smyrna, Turkey, leads an open-air Mass at Ephesus where, according to tradition, the Virgin Mary is believed to have lived for a time. The ceremony was held on the site of the Holy House at Panaghia Kapullu, in Ephesus, near Smyrna. It was here that the third Ecumenical Council took place in 431, presided over

by Pope Celestine I. The Council, among other things, defended the divine maternity of the Blessed Virgin. While the Holy See has not officially confirmed the authenticity of the traditional claim that the Virgin lived at Ephesus, the late Pope Pius XII granted a number of indulgences to pilgrims who visited the shrine.

Lay Apostolate Draws 4,000

oston — (RNS) — Catholic S.J. national coordinator of Lay Apostolate, a local apostolate, said that the 80,000 delegates from many countries have given special priority to such grave problems as that of many millions suffering from racial discrimination, and lack of adequate food, housing, medical care and education.

SERMONETTE

All Things Are Passing (From the Prayers of St. Therese)
By the Reverend Richard C. Madden, C.C.D.

When I was a theologian, I used to walk evenings along the path of a local cemetery, not because I was morbid, but because I always believed it was good for a man to know the dead better.

The only thing unusual about the grave at the main entrance of the cemetery was the name Apollonia Stein. Otherwise, it was like all the rest. The date of birth, the date of death, and a cross. The life of Apollonia was just a straight line running between two dates, just a dash. And that was all. It was the same on every tombstone. But it is the story of any life. It begins and it ends. Nothing remains. Everything passes. Especially, human life.

Grim as it might be, the skull on the front table of every Carmelite dining room does make a lot of sense. It isn't there for laughs; it isn't there for scares. It is just there, traditionally.

We Americans are a wee bit squeamish. We use wood carvings. The monks in the old monasteries of Europe used the real thing. What with the bones of dead monks all stacked together in one place, a human skull is eminently more practical as well as economical, than an expensive wood carving. So over in Europe, a monk never knows but that someday his head is going to be up on the front table.

The small plaque at the base of the skull explains its presence there. It is the word of the dead monks to all his living brothers: "What you are, I was. What I am you will someday be." And whether you like it or not, it figures.

It can serve as a dark warning to evil men that the world they chose in preference to God will all someday crumble and turn to ashes in their mouths. But it can also serve as a thrilling announcement to good men that their panting, gasping struggle through life will one day end with the joy and happiness of heaven.

Priest Recalls Custer's Stand Church Unity Move Draws Protestants

Buffalo — (NC) — Dean of Baptists and offers two Masses each Sunday. The Monsignor was born in the village of Albion in western New York on September 1, 1885. Just 16 days before the bloody battle of Antietam was fought in the War Between the States.

THE MONSIGNOR recalled that when he was a boy of 14 the big news of that time was the massacre of Gen. George A. Custer and 276 soldiers of his 7th Cavalry command by the Sioux Indians at the Little Big Horn river in Montana. He said: "Several years later I stood on the spot where Custer made his last stand."

He was the third in a family of five boys and girls born to Irish immigrant parents, and is

the sole survivor. He attended St. Michael's College, now a part of the University of Toronto, Canada, and made his studies for the priesthood at Assumption Seminary, Windsor, Ont.

He was ordained on December 21, 1915 — more than 43 years ago. He was made a domestic prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XI on June 23, 1927.

Commenting on changes that have come with the times, the Monsignor said: "The people of 50 years ago were very modest in their dress. Today's people are not as particular. I think today's people on terra a good lesson by imitating their grandparents."

The man who has lived under seven popes, 23 presidents and through five major wars, also observed: "All my life I have had the good fortune to be associated with good people. They have made my path easier because of their devotion to Our Lord. If there is anything to which I can attribute my longevity it is the basic rule of life I have tried to follow which is contained in the Ten Commandments."

Mailmen Slate National Meet
The National Association of Post Office and Postal Transportation Mail Handlers will hold a National Convention in Rochester at the Manger Hotel on September 11 through 17. This will be the first National Convention of the Postal Union to be held here.

The following guests from Washington will highlight the program:

Honorable Harold Oesteritz, Congressman; Honorable Jessica Wels, Congresswoman; Eugene Lyons, First Assistant Postmaster General; James Sullivan, Chief Postal Personnel Bureau; Robert Jones, Chairman, Civil Service Commission; Harold McVoy, National President of Mailhandlers; John Sparaco, Chairman National Executive Board Mailhandlers.

POSTMASTER Louis B. Cartwright is the honorary Chairman of the Convention. Vice-Mayor Joseph Harbo will welcome the delegates on behalf of the City of Rochester.

Co-Chairmen Frank Blondi and Chester Hanckey with the aid of Secretary Joseph Buda and Treasurer William Cipriano will greet the delegates on behalf of Rochester Local 43, the host of this Convention.

War II and was enthusiastically approved by Pope Pius XII. Father Boyer was the unanimous choice for president and has remained in that office ever since.

Three editions of the review "Unitas" are published: one in Italian, one in French and one in English. The English-language version is published by the American Friars of the Atonement, members of a community that was founded within the Anglican Church and came into the Catholic Church in a body half a century ago.

The review is widely read among Non-Catholics interested in unity, much as the Protestant World Council's Ecumenical Review is carefully read by competent Catholics working for Christian unity.

He holds doctorates in literature, philosophy and theology. He is professor of patristics at the Gregorian University, a world renowned authority on St. Augustine, prefect of studies and dean of the theological faculty at the Gregorian University, and general secretary of the Roman Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas.

He is the author of standard works of philosophy and theology in use in seminaries and universities throughout the world. Several of his works have been crowned by the French Academy.

Father Boyer's comments in the review "Unitas" on speeches made at the fourth centenary celebrations of the French Reformation (Calvinist) Church capture the flavor of his mind.

"It was likewise said that the Reformation had rediscovered the only really solid foundation, but the work 'Foundation' makes one think of the words of Jesus: 'Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.'"

"It was further stated that the Reformers had never accepted division; yet it remains a fact that they brought it about."

Father Boyer makes few prophesies on the forthcoming Ecumenical Council. But he holds that the Council will be both an example of unity and an invitation to unity. And he also is convinced that any effective conversations on unity will hinge on matters of doctrine far more than on matters of discipline.

Most of Father Boyer's Non-Catholic friends have become acquainted with him through the review, "Unitas," of which he is editor. It is the organ of an international association for unity, also called "Unitas" (Latin for "unity"), of which he is president. His books on a divided Christianity have also had a powerful impact on Protestant ecumenical circles.

The Unitas association was founded at the end of World War II.

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