

Rome Robe Makers Rush For Monday Deadline

Rome — (RNS) — Preparations for the consistory on Monday, Dec. 14, at which Pope John XXIII will confer the Red Hat on eight new cardinals are going ahead at full speed on all levels — by the clothes and accessories of the new Princes of the Church.

In the heart of Old Rome, near the Pantheon, a small army of tailors, cutters, brooders, jewelers, haters and shoemakers is working feverishly to get ready for the consistory.

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Raid Nets Five Tons Of Smut

Washington — (NC) — Postal inspectors have seized five tons of obscene material in a raid on a New York City dealer, the difficult art of outfitting Post Office Department and the members of the Church's "Cabinet."

The material was confiscated from Charles Seymour Graser, operating under the name Kay Sey Stales, the department said.

It added that the material seized from Graser was similar to that confiscated last April by postal inspectors in a raid on Pigalle Imports, New York.

The Post Office said Graser has admitted taking over the operations of Pigalle Imports whose promoter, Benjamin Himmelfarb, is currently awaiting trial on obscenity charges.

Commenting on this raid and other recent antiobscenity actions, Postmaster General Arthur W. Summerfield declared that the Post Office is making "positive progress in its intensified war against mail order obscenity."

Mr. Summerfield said progress is reflected in increased complaints and evidence submitted by parents of children who have received unsorted obscene material, in a larger number of investigations and arrests on obscenity charges, and in "stiffer sentences" for convicted obscenity distributors.

Church Going Ebbs In Sweden

Stockholm — (RNS) — Sunday church attendance in Sweden averages only 250,000, or 33 per cent of the entire population, according to a report made public here by the Lay Workers Central Office of the State Lutheran Church to which an estimated 95 per cent of Swedes belong.

The report noted, however, that an overwhelming majority have their children baptized and confirmed and church weddings are in high favor. It also stated that religious radio services are, even by international comparisons, very popular, attracting 50 to 60 per cent of all radio listeners.

The ancient cathedral city of Skaneateles in church attendance, with about five per cent of the members attending services regularly. Stockholm is at the bottom of the list, with only one per cent.

Liberties Union Faces Dilemma

Boston — (NC) — The American Civil Liberties Union faces a "dilemma" which "is daily becoming more acute" in its attitudes toward Church-State relations, according to a Jesuit scholar.

The ACLU considers itself "the only permanent national, nonpartisan organization defending the Bill of Rights for everyone," but many Catholics believe that it is working against their civil rights, said Father Robert F. Drinan, S.J., dean of the Boston College law school.

"ONE OF THE practical questions which the ACLU has not yet really confronted is the place of religion in education," Father Drinan said. He cited the claims of Catholic parents that the denial of state aid for parochial schools violates the "free exercise of religion" guaranteed by the First Amendment.

This subject, like others in the Church-State field, has been handled "episodically rather than systematically and comprehensively" by the ACLU, the law school dean said in an article in America, Jesuit weekly review.

He cited cases in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania in which the ACLU has aroused anger among Catholics by its action on questions involving Catholic schools.

The recently formed ACLU Church-State committee has "a complex task before it," Father Drinan observed.

"Perhaps it may bring some deeper reasons and some inner consistency to ACLU's attitude on religion in adoption cases, Sunday laws, birth control statutes and other religious issues outside of education where ACLU takes a position," the Jesuit continued. But the real burning issue before the new many, next summer.

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Jail Me Rather Than Destroy My Mission

South Africa Prelate Fights Segregation Law

Kimberley — (NC) — "I am prepared to go to prison to save St. Boniface mission," Oblate Bishop John Bokenfohr of Kimberley declared here.

He spoke at a public hearing on a government plan that entails destruction of the mission, the largest in the Kimberley diocese.

Meanwhile, Catholic education is being threatened generally in Natal province by supporters of South Africa's Nationalist government, and the provincial government there recently resigned in protest against the central government's actions in the educational field.

St. Boniface mission is located in an area where the government proposes to establish a so-called buffer zone under the Group Areas Act, the law providing for apartheid — strict racial segregation. The buffer zone is to be set up on the outskirts of Galeswe village, Kimberley's African township.

No residents may remain in such a zone and all buildings must be demolished. St. Boniface mission has a church, two primary schools, a high school and residences for the priests, Brothers and Sisters who staff them. The buildings are valued at about \$185,000.

The mission, founded in 1925, is served by three Oblate priests who care for some 8,000 Catholics in Galeswe village and also look after a large rural district. The primary school for boys is operated by the Christian Brothers, who also run the boys' high school. The girls' primary school is conducted by Dominican Sisters. The schools have a total enrollment of 1,760. There is also a day nursery for working mothers.

The Group Areas Board has received a petition signed by 7,000 persons asking that the mission not be destroyed, and Anglican Bishop John Boys of Kimberley has written a letter supporting Bishop Bokenfohr's stand.

Polish Reds Bar Teachers

Berlin — (NC) — Communist Poland is withdrawing permission from many lay teachers to teach religion in public schools, it was learned here.

In August, 1958, the Reds barred all Sisters and men religious from teaching religion in public schools.

Though no definite figure on the number of teachers affected was available here, it is believed that the total now barred from teaching religion in Poland's schools come to several thousand.

To Head Pilgrimage La Crosse — (NC) — Bishop John P. Treacy of La Crosse will lead a diocesan pilgrimage to the 1960 International Eucharistic Congress in Munich, Germany before the new many, next summer.



New Catholic Encyclopedia

Washington — (RNS) — Msgr. William J. McDonald (seated), rector of the Catholic University of America, has been named editor-in-chief of the new Catholic Encyclopedia. With him looking over the present Encyclopedia, which has been in use for 52 years, are Msgr. John H. Harrington (center), librarian and faculty member at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y., who will serve as managing editor of the new volumes; and Dr. Martin R. P. McGuire, chairman of the department of Greek and Latin at Catholic University, who will be secretary of the Encyclopedia's editorial committee. The university is co-operating with the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company in the task of completely revising and rewriting the present Encyclopedia.

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