Religion Too Often Petrified

Facts Break Prejudice Barrier

The co-existence of Catholics and Protestants in America today received separate treatment by a Jesuit and Basilian priest this week.

Both agreed progress is being made toward better relationships despite flagrant outbursts of bigotry.

The two stories, as reported by Religious News Service are:

New York — A Catholic theologian has hailed the Ecumenical Movement of the World Council of Churches for producing an "openness of mind" in ecumenical circles "unparalleled in the history of Christianity."

"For this reason alone," he said, "Catholics should be grateful to the World Council of Churches."

Father Gregory Baum, a member of the faculty of St. Basil's Seminary in Toronto, made the comments in the June 24 issue of The Commonweal, a national weekly published here by Catholic laymen.

Father Baum's article, entitled "The World Council of Churches—A Catholic View," said the Ecumenical Movement had "declared an open war on all religious prejudice" by recognizing that the divided state of Christianity was not "simply the result of a religious conflict."

Father Baum noted the existence, apart from theological divisions, of barriers to unity caused by ignorance, prejudice, false attachment to unimportant traditions, and "the refusal to look upon other Christian groups in the light of their own understanding of themselves."

"It is no overstatement," he said, "to claim that there have never been so many Protestants sincerely wanting to study the doctrines of the Catholic Church, to abandon inherited prejudices, and to understand the Catholic Church as she is seen by her own members.

"This does not mean," he added, "that these men want to become Catholics! But they desire to grasp the Catholic vision of Christianity as far as this can be done from the outside."

Praising the writings on the Catholic Church published under the auspices of the World Council, Father Baum said they represented "a phenomenon altogether new in the history of inter-Christian controversy.

Protestants, he said, are now "able to acquaint themselves with (Catholic) doctrine by reading studies prepared by fellow Protestants, speaking their language, free from persuasion, and yet presenting an authentic picture."

Father Baum noted that certain churches belonging to the World Council hold doctrines which are identical or very similar to Catholic teaching. This, he said, has helped many Protestants, particularly Americans, to appreciate more readily the Catholic viewpoint.

"Certain doctrines," he added, "which usually irritate Protestants (such as, for instance, the veneration of Our Lady) are expressed at these assemblies in such a way that even those who disagree will recognize that these positions have a claim on Scripture, that they are not the invention of the Roman Church but rather belong organically to a larger vision of the Christian fact."

Father Baum said it was his belief that the influence of the World Council was "in the direction of truth," and that the Catholic Church "looks more beautiful in the eyes of the Ecumenical Movement than she has ever appeared to Protestants before."

The author of several books on ecumenical subjects, Father Baum also is a Catholic observer at the theological commission of the Faith-and-Order section of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Louisville — Admitting the presence of absolutes and invariables in Catholicism, a Jesuit mission expert declared here that "the miraculous unity of the Church should not obscure her prodigious multiplicity and variety."

Speaking at the 15th annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America, the Rev. Edward L. Murphy, S. J., emphasized that there exist in the Catholic church "variables and non-essentials which have been changed with the developments and differences in human societies."

"Her admirable diversity in her earlier years was not a temporary measure required by the infancy of the Church," Father Murphy said. "It was a manifestation of her deepest nature, as the means of salvation for all mankind which does not destroy the valid possessions of any people."

Calling for more courage and imagination in revealing the universality of the Church, Father Murphy declared that the Church must not be "petrified in the forms of the West."

The Church, he added, must not be "impoverished" by the assumption "that she has reached the perfection of her growth and expression in the Latin rite and in the devotional customs of the West alone."

"One contribution we could make to the ecumenical movement current in Protestantism," Father Murphy said, "would be the discussion of the actual diversity which prevails in the Church in things which do not affect her essential nature.

"Historical factors account for the strong emphasis on the unity of the Church and for the apparently excessive insistence on the Western features of the Church. Now those reasons no longer exist and the Church can be more free in revealing her true catholicity."

In a keynote address, Msgr. Lawrence J. Riley of Boston, CTSA president, observed that the "genuine scholar" in the field of theology "will never cast aside, as being reactionary, the great theological heritage and traditions of the past, nor yet falter in fear at some newly-proposed but solidly founded theological development of the present."

Reminding the delegates that theology is a "living science," Monsignor Riley declared:

"To the extent that we as theologians contribute to the growth and organic development of our science, we give the lie to the impression that unfortunately is not at all rare in some intellectual circles both within and outside the Church — an impression that we are cooped up within an isolated theological ghetto, which is separated by an iron curtain from the domain of modern ideas and modern problems . . ."

The delegates also heard several papers on the Eastern dissident churches.

Frondizis In Papal Audience

Vatican City — (RNS) — During an official audience with President and Mrs. Arturo Frondizi of Argentina, Pope John XXIII voiced confidence that "with love and order, we can achieve peace." Mr. Frondizi, who is on an extensive European tour, was hailed by the Pontiff for his "dynamism" in efforts to strengthen ties of friendship between Argentina and countries of Europe.

South Methodist OK's Catholic

San Antonio — (RNS) — Methodist Bishop Ivan Lee Holt of St. Louis told the denomination's South Central Jurisdictional Conference here that religion will be "a decisive issue" among U.S. Methodists if Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), a Roman Catholic, is nominated for President.

"I can't go along with people who say a Catholic doesn't have any business being President," Bishop Holt said. "I think he has every right to be."

"But understand," he added, "the vast majority of Methodists don't agree with me on that."

Queen Honors Mission Nun

Auckland — (RNS) — An American Roman Catholic nun here was honored by Queen Elizabeth of England by being made an honorary member of the Order of the British Empire.

She is Sister Imelda of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, who, in more than 20 years of missionary work, has been a teacher in Western Samoa and a nurse in Australia and New Zealand.

For six years, Sister Imelda, who hails from Farmington, N.H., was in charge of the public hospital on the lonely Chatham Islands, 420 miles off the New Zealand coast.

Courtesy For Nikita

Vienna — (RNS) — Austria's Catholic hierarchy in a joint pastoral letter, said the attitude of Austrian Catholics toward Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev should be one of courtesy but not cordiality.

The bishops said that while Mr. Khrushchev should be greeted with courtesy, it should be self-evident to Catholics that they should abstain from any actions which could be misinterpreted as a demonstration of sympathy.

"One cannot overlook the fact," they said, "that Mr. Khrushchev is coming to Austria as the highest official of atheistic Communism, nor can one forget the miseries of the Church in the Eastern countries.

New Florida Hospital

Fort Charlotte — (RNS) — Bishop Coleman F. Carroll of Miami broke ground here for a new $1 million general hospital to be administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The institution will give medical, surgical and nursing care to all residents within a 20-mile radius of Fort Charlotte, a new community of 5,000 population located between Sarasota and Ft. Myers on Florida's booming southwest coast.

Scouts To Sing

Dublin — (RNS) — A group of Irish Boy Scouts will sing what is regarded as the oldest known hymn in honor of the Eucharist at the 37th International Eucharistic Congress at Munich, Germany, in August.

The hymn, composed in Latin in Ireland many years ago, will be sung by the boys in both Gaelic and the original Latin.

Paris Paraders Protest Aid To Catholic Schools

By MARTIAL MASSIANI

Paris — (NC) — At least 100,000 people marched through Paris in protest against a seven-month-old law giving state aid to private schools.

Police on hand estimated the number of marchers at 100,000. The organizers claimed 400,000.

Antireligious organizations in France, under the title of "National Committee for Lay Action," organized the march and a protest meeting at the Palace of Expositions earlier in the day (June 19).

At the meeting 30,000 delegates heard the president of the National Union of Public School Teachers report that almost 11 million persons had signed a petition for repeal of the school aid law. He demanded a national referendum to determine popular opinion on the question.

The delegates adopted resolutions to:

● "Ensure that the efforts of the Republic in school matters be reserved uniquely to the public school, which is the hope of the country's youth."

● "Manifest at all times and all places constant opposition to a law contrary to the historic evolution of the nation."

● "Fight without truce or respite for its abrogation."

On the day of the anticlerical rallies, France's Catholic family organizations published a joint protest against pressures brought to bear by public school teachers on parents of their pupils to induce them to sign the petition against the school aid law.

The Catholic protest asserted that the petition gave no true index of public opinion on the question, since many parents signed it because they feared their children would suffer academically if they refused.

The Catholic organization further declared that those teachers who promoted the petition through their classrooms had violated the neutrality that French law prescribes for public schools.

Tricks Are Vatican Treat

Vatican City — (RNS) — Father Giuseppe Cima, a Sicilian Jesuit famous for his skill as a magician, is scheduled to give a performance shortly before a group of cardinals and other members of the Roman Curia.

The priest, who recently attended a magicians' congress at Bologna, northern Italy, is also expected to be on hand to entertain prelates when the Ecumenical Council gets under way here.

New Litany Given Papal Approval

Rome — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has approved a new Litany of the Most Precious Blood.

Pope John has also attached a partial indulgence of seven years to recitation of the litany, as well as a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, for reciting the litany daily for a month. These conditions are Confession, Communion and prayers for the Pope's intentions.

A TRANSLATION of the new Latin litany follows:

The Litany Of The Most Precious Blood Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Approved for Inserting in the Roman Ritual

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, — Have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, — Have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Spirit, — Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, — Have mercy on us.

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, price of our salvation, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, stream of mercy, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, victor over demons, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, courage of martyrs, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, strength of confessors, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, bringing forth virgins, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, help of those in peril, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, pledge of eternal life, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory, — Save us.
Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor, — Save us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, — Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, — Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, — Have mercy on us.

v. You have redeemed us, O Lord, in Your Blood.
r. And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God, You have appointed Your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world, and willed to be appeased by His Blood. Grant, we beg of You, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

★ ★ ★

The great difference between the days of faith, either during the persecutions in the early centuries or at the beginning of the thirteenth century, and now is not that there were good people in those days, but bad in ours. There was cockle with the wheat then as now.

The difference is rather this: in those days people sinned and knew it; in our day people sin and deny it. Then, they sought to have their sins forgiven; now, they seek to have their sins explained away. The reason there are so many mental breakdowns today is that thought people deny guilt, they cannot escape the effects of the guilt they deny. Lady Macbeth denied guilt, but she kept washing her hands every quarter of an hour, doing so as a substitute for washing her soul.

Begin to think of making amends for your sins. Building a library to perpetuate your name will not blot out any sins; aiding a leper in Christ's Name will. To gain supernatural merit you have to act with a Divine motive. The cup of water must be given, said Our Lord, "in My Name."

You say you need the little capital you have during life. Fine. Keep it. But arrange to give it at your death to the Holy Father for distribution to the lepers, the sick, the children in Africa and Asia and for building chapels in these countries. The Holy Father said: "This surpasses all other charities as heaven surpasses earth."

Write to us about an annuity with the Holy Father's Society for the Propagation of the Faith. We pay you a safe and assured interest during life and at death your money goes to the Vicar of Christ. When you go to your Judgment, you will be so glad you did. Upon request we will be glad to send you our booklet explaining this type of annuity.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. R.P.B. for $5 " Please use this to feed the poor. I promised I would send twenty dollars to the Missions to feed the poor when I was very ill and unable to eat for ten days. I began to eat almost immediately. I will continue to send more as I can until I have paid the twenty dollars I promised." . . . to Mrs. J.H. for $5 "I promised St. Ann to help the poor children of the world with this $5 as half payment for a favor granted to me. May others know the many blessings we may obtain from St. Ann." . . . . . to B.D. for $5 "I have never gone hungry in my life. May this small amount help the poor somehow." . . . . to Mrs. R.M. " I promised to sacrifice 25 cents a week for the rest of my life for you to give to the poor of the world in memory of my beloved mother and father. Enclosed is my first dollar."

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1x, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

Melkites Plan Synod

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Eighteen archbishops and bishops are expected to attend the general synod of the Melkite Rite of the Catholic Church scheduled to take place in the Old City of Jerusalem in mid-July, it was announced here. Also attending will be many other prelates as well as superiors of monastic communities.

The synod will be the first such gathering of the Melkite Rite — one of the 13 major bodies of the Eastern or Oriental Church united with Rome — since 1250.

St. Paul Anniversary

Valletta, Malta — (RNS) — An international pilgrimage of over 300 Catholic Knights of Malta will take part in celebrations here from July 10 to 24 to mark the 1,900th anniversary of St. Paul's shipwreck on the island.

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A SAFE WEEKEND!
The National Safety Council reported a near-record casualty report for the Memorial Holiday of 1960. Three hundred and sixty-nine persons left their homes for a pleasure trip that ended in eternity. Every summer weekend makes this sad picture a reality; as millions try to get away from the usual everyday humdrum of life, and head for the quiet of the country or the cool breezes of the shore. The thinking man knows that relaxation is good for the body; but often forgets that it is equally good for the soul.
On any Friday evening you can see a stream of cars cutting off Alexander St. They are not heading for the Emergency Ward of the Genesee hospital; but for the spiritual therapy of a retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House.
The prospective retreatant has already put in a day's work, a week's work. He has the tiredness of a week upon him, together with those problems which settle heavy on a man's soul. If he has been on retreat before, he will be looking forward to this one. If not, there will be that added anxiety on his brow which records the big question-mark in his mind. But meet that man on Sunday afternoon as he leaves the Retreat House. To begin with, he will tell you that he has had the most complete physical rest of the year. His mind, of course, has been at work . . . his mind and his soul. What the retreat has done for him, you can see in his face as he shakes the hand of the Retreat Master to say good-bye. The Spirit of God has blown through his soul like a Pentecostal wind, and he feels clean and wholesome in the vigor of a new life. He spent a SAFE WEEKEND.
If you have never spent such a Weekend: you are really missing something wonderful. There are fifty-two weekends in the year. Is it asked in exchange one of these for God and your spiritual health? Should you be interested and you should be
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