

Pope Studies Irish English

Castel Gandolfo (RNS) — Pope John XXIII is brushing up on his English during his stay at the papal summer residence here, according to official Vatican sources.

They said he is being helped by Irish-born Mgr. Thomas Ryan, who is serving at present as the Pontiff's second secretary.

The same sources said the Pope is planning to make a series of trips to Rome, beginning Aug. 24, to receive groups of contestants in the forthcoming Olympic Games as mass audiences in St. Peter's Square.

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Experts Chart Progress In Catechism Teaching

Eichstaett (RNS) — Establishment of national catechetical centers in every country, with a special view to mission requirements, was urged in a resolution approved here by some 200 Roman Catholic bishops, delegates from missionary societies and outstanding catechetical experts from many countries.

The resolutions said certain reforms, for which suggestions will be published later, are indispensable in the catechetical field. Among the indispensable ones it listed good new catechetical textbooks, especially in mission countries.

Adoption of the resolution came at the close of an International Study Week for Mission Catechists sponsored by the Institute of Mission Apologetics in Manila, Philippine Islands, in cooperation with the Association of German Priest Catechists in Munich and the International Center for Religious Education in Brussels, Belgium.

THE NATIONAL centers would strengthen cooperation between diocesan bureaus and the catechetical movement abroad, arrange catechetical surveys and study meetings, and issue various publications, the resolution said.

It also urged the formation of special catechetical bureaus in every diocese to supervise catechetical work. It said this would secure better cooperation among those active in the apostolate and help to provide them with necessary materials.

The resolution recommended that modern psychology be applied in developing new forms of religious instruction.

At the same time it stressed the great catechetical importance of the Mass and other liturgical rites, which, it said, should be celebrated in such a way that the congregation can understand what is taking place and play an active part.

ing converts with a true knowledge of the Catholic Faith, but also at fostering a deep spiritual dedication and apostolic spirit among them.

"In the missions," he said, "there has always been an overabundance of goodwill, but frequently there has been a lack of suitable leadership" to convert this goodwill into effective Christian action in the community.

Cardinal Gracias voiced the hope that the Study Week would "contribute toward terminating this situation."

In his opening address, the Indian prelate told the conference that the basis for adopting the modern form of catechetics to mission requirements was the encyclical, "Præsentium Pastorum," of Pope John XXIII. He said catechists today have a threefold task: to break the spell of heathenism, to Christianize the individual, and to turn him into an apostle himself.

Both European and African participants in the week stressed the need for a catechetical situation should for our Christ and particularly of the mystery of His Death and Resurrection. They said both missionaries and native priests were increasingly concerned about the fact that Christianity is often "put on" by converts like a dress, but not lived up to.

In this connection, the speakers stressed the need for an African liturgy, since a liturgy in Latin was "out of accordance with the African mentality." They said there was a danger that believers might look upon the Latin liturgy as witchcraft formulae rather than prayer.



Oldest Passion Player

Oberammergau, Germany — Gustav Cardinal Testa, Papal Legate to the 37th International Eucharistic Congress in Munich, chats with 88-year-old Sebastian Schauer, the oldest actor in the Passion Play at Oberammergau. Cardinal Testa interrupted his visit to Munich to see a performance of the famed production. Sebastian has played many parts in the Passion Play during his lifetime. This year, he is among the "people." (RNS Photo)

Hibernians Rap Nikita, China

St. Louis — (RNS) — Communist China and Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev were special targets of the Ancient Order of Hibernians during the Irish-American group's 70th biennial convention here.

Premier Khrushchev was denounced for his "insults" to President Eisenhower during the ill-fated summit meetings in Paris, while Communist China was scored for imprisoning the Maryland missionary, Bishop James E. Walsh of Cumberland, Md.

Patrick Hogan of Stamford, Conn., former vice-president of the Hibernians, was elected national president. Miss Kathleen Smith of New York City, formerly vice-president of the Ladies Auxiliary, was elected president of that group.

A call for greater prayer and piety, in accordance with the desires expressed by the Virgin Mary in her appearances at Fatima, was urged by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark, N.J., national chaplain. Speaking at a Solemn Pontifical Mass in St. Louis Cathedral, he said:

"Today," he added, "the great enemy is materialism and atheistic Communism. The danger of our time is not so much physical as spiritual."

Villagers Bolt Church, Join Orthodox Group

Rome — (RNS) — Catholic villagers in the small mountain parish of Montalto Dora have gone over to the Italian Orthodox Church in protest against the refusal of local authorities to build a new church in their community. Bishop Albino Mensa of Avrea disclosed in a pastoral letter.

In making the announcement, Bishop Mensa, whose diocese is a suffragan of the Turin archdiocese, pleaded, "with pain in my soul," that the Catholics involved "reconsider their position."

THE ORTHODOX body to which the villagers have affiliated themselves is headed by a former Catholic missionary, Mario Taddei, an excommunicated priest who was a noted leader of the Italian underground during the war.

Calling the defection of the villagers "a sad reality," Bishop Mensa said that "those who refuse to obey the legitimate shepherds of the Church are to be pitied."

"From the tombs of the dead," he wrote, "arises the accusing and warning voice of

Bar Catholic

Atlanta — (RNS) — Opposition to the election of a Roman Catholic as President of the U.S. was expressed in a resolution adopted here by delegates to the annual Georgia Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.

Maternity Center

Kampala — (RNS) — The Franciscan Sisters have established a new maternity center and hospital in Tororo in Uganda's Western Province to train Catholic midwives.

Returns To Duty

Capt. John F. Tschieder, 58, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Tschieder of 251 Thornydale Rd., but left for his new assignment at Orlando, Fla., after spending the past month with his parents. Capt. Tschieder is a dentist in the United States Air Force.

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Inter-Church Ties Said Stronger

Rome — (RNS) — Ties between the Catholic and Orthodox churches have improved noticeably in the past 30 years, according to a specialist on the Oriental churches.

This opinion is expressed by Father Pelopidas Stephanou, S.J., in an article in Civitas Cattolica, the Jesuit's Roman province magazine.

Father Stephanou says doctrinal obstacles to reunion of the two churches remain as great as before. But he cites the words of Orthodox Archbishop Jacques: "Today all objections to union are synthesized in the primary of the Bishop of Rome and in his infallibility."

The Jesuit writer says that a stumbling block to reunion is the existence of Catholic Eastern Rite communities in predominantly Orthodox countries. The Orthodox have often urged Catholics to show their good intentions and mutual respect by suspending all conversion efforts, especially by members of the Catholic Eastern Rites, he states.

"Though the doctrinal positions have not undergone any great change, the psychological attitude is really different," Father Stephanou writes.

As evidence of this change, he cites the different receptions accorded to Pope Pius IX's announcement of an ecumenical council in 1870 and to Pope John XXIII's announcement of the Second Vatican Council.

In contrast a "feeling of joy and exultation" greeted Pope John's announcement to call another ecumenical council.

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