New Intentions For Unity Octave

Garrison — (RNS) — Modifications in the wording of the intentions of the Chair of Unity Octave — the eight day period of prayer from Jan. 18 to 25 during which Roman Catholics pray for Christian unity—were announced here by the Central Office of the Chair of Unity Apostolate.

A statement made public here on behalf of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, which has promoted the observance for the past 50 years, said the aim of the Octave is still "to bring about a return of all separated persons to the one and only Church which Christ founded on Peter."

However, it said expressions that were "quite customary" at the time the Octave was started in 1908 have "shifted in connotation and have assumed overtones that were not originally intended" and hence a revised form of intentions has been approved.

THE NEW intentions, with the original ones in parenthesis, are as follows:

Jan. 18—The union of all Christians in the one true Faith and in the Church. (Return of the "other sheep" to the fold of St. Peter, the One shepherd.)

Jan. 19—Return of separated Eastern Christians to communion with the Holy See. (Return of all Oriental separatists to communion with the Apostolic See.)

Jan. 20 — Reconciliation of Anglicans with the Holy See. (Submission of Anglicans to the authority of the Vicar of Christ.)

Jan. 21—Reconciliation of European Protestants with the Holy See. (That the Lutherans and Protestants of Continental Europe may find their way back to the Holy Church.)

Jan. 22 — That American Christians become one in union with the Chair of Peter. (That Christians in America may become One in communion with the Chair of Peter.)

Jan. 23 — Restoration of lapsed Catholics to the sacramental life of the Church. (Return to the Sacraments of lapsed Catholics).

Jan. 24—That the Jewish people come into their inheritance in Jesus Christ. (Conversion of the Jews.)

Jan. 25—The Missionary extension of Christ's kingdom throughout the world. (Missionary conquest of the world for Christ.)

THESE REVISIONS, according to the statement here, involve "no change whatever in the line of theological principles" and were undertaken on directions from Father Angelus F. Delahunt, S.A., Superior General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

The statement said the revisions were presented to some of the Catholic Church authorities both in this country and abroad and agreed to.

The Chair of Unity Octave begins each year on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome and closes on the Feast of the the Conversion of St. Paul. Since 1927, the Octave has been observed in every diocese of the United States. It also is marked in over 30 countries on every continent.

Wage War On Want

Sydney — (NC) — The Bishops of Australia have called for mobilization of the resources of the economic powers of the world to wage war on want.

Despite the fact that a large part of mankind today lives under inhuman conditions, they said in a pastorial letter, "there are no insuperable physicial barriers to the goal of the abolition of poverty and want throughout the world."

The hierarchy asserted that the problem does not stem from lack of natural resources. "It is the dead weight of outmoded social and economic institutions which do not fit modern needs, but which are very difficult to change," the letter said.

The pastoral is being distributed at all the Catholic churches of Australia on September 4, which has been designated as Social Justice Sunday.

The bishops stressed man's duty to develop a "global social conscience." They also said that projects most likely to remove causes of poverty should normally have precedence over funds for either military or prestige purposes.

Nuns Mark Centennial

Philadelphia —(RNS)— The Sisters of Mercy began their centennial year here by attending a Pontifical Mass celebrated at their first convent by exiled Bishop Joseph M. Yuen Chang Ping of Chamatien, China.

The Mercy Sisters have long been one of the leading teaching and nursing orders in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Sisters of Mercy serve on the facilities of 11 diocesan high schools and staff 32 parochial schools. They conduct Misericordia Hospital.

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THE WEEKLY NOTE FROM MR. PEPSI:

This Sunday, September 25th, commemorates the enactment of our Bill of Rights 171 years ago.

". . . no person with controversial religious tendencies shall be permitted to obtain citizenship.
. . . there shall be no public gatherings.
. . . no individual shall secure and keep arms.
. . . the state shall—at any time—be permitted to search any citizen's home . . ."

It is quite possible that without our Bill of Rights, we would all be living under the above laws. The strength of a democratic government is based on the freedom of each individual.

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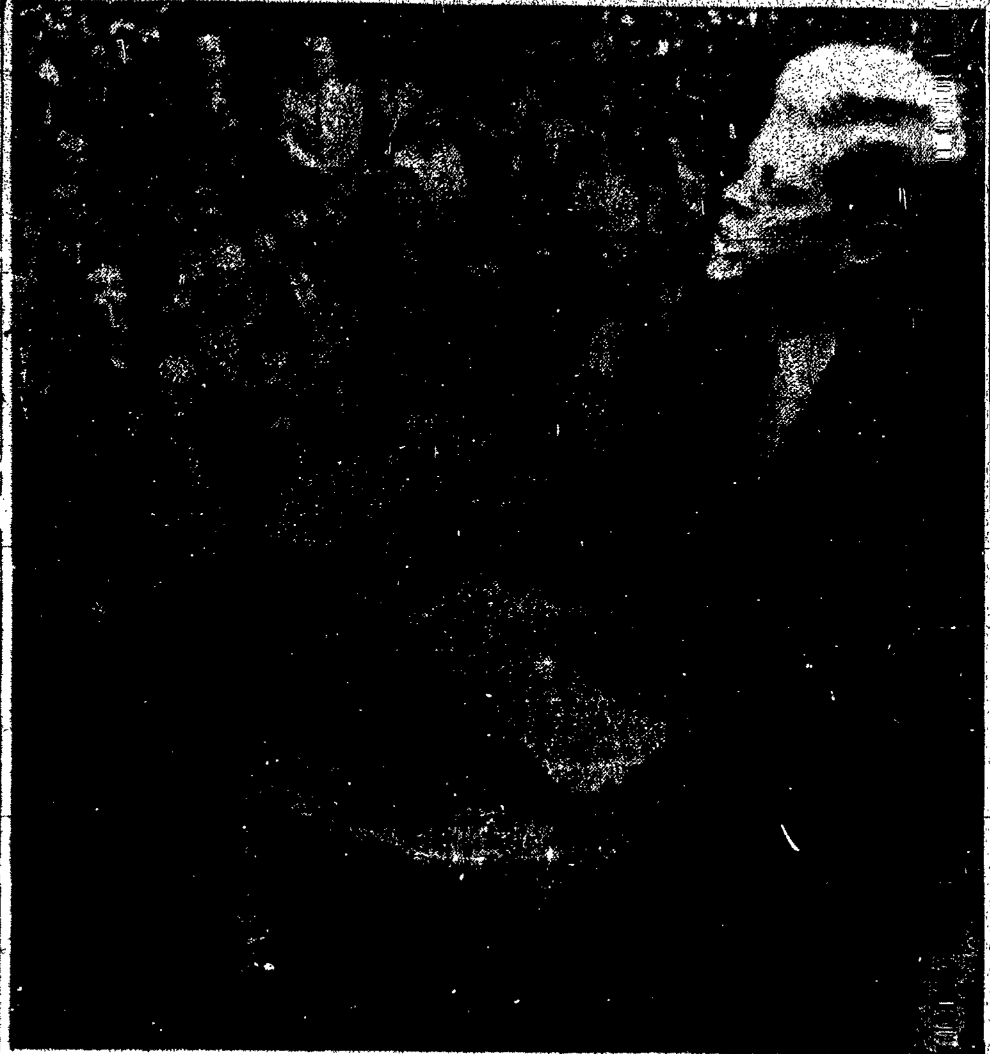

Kennedy Talks to Houston Ministers

Houston, Tex. — (RNS) — Senator John F. Kennedy answers questions from some of the 500 members of the Ministers Association of Greater Houston who turned out to hear him speak on a two-day swing through Texas. The senator told the Protestant clergymen that he would resign as President should the office ever require him to violate his conscience or the national interest.

In Political Campaign

Sense of Humor Needed

St. Paul—(RNS)—Archbishop William O. Brady, of St. Paul says the nation needs "an agreement that the top Red boss at our doorsteps is much more a sinister figure than the man in white in Rome."

He referred to the visit of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and to the controversy involving the Catholic Church in the current Presidential campaign.

"One would almost think that Pope John were running for President," the archbishop wrote in his weekly column in the Bulletin, official diocesan weekly.

With tongue-in-cheek, the St. Paul Catholic prelate observed: "It does seem a bit suspicious, however, that the Pope is learning English and the papers labor the fact that his words are overlaid with a heavy foreign accent.

"It seems a wonder that no one has yet suggested that he is preparing a State of the Union message."

Archbishop Brady urged Catholics to have a sense of humor "as they watch the Presidential campaign turn into a religious brawl."

"There is humor there if you can see the tilting against windmills and the shifting of the cud to the fighting jaw and the grabbing of the shooting irons in the fashion of the Hatfields and the McCoys.

"Even in that ponderous phrase 'the traditional separation of Church and State' there is a good laugh, if you know where to look for it.

"Those who talk about it the most did not want it in the first place. Those who scream to protect it from imaginary enemies are really trying to re-establish it for themselves.

Nine of the original 13 states had a union of Church and State but it was not with the Catholic Church, Archbishop Brady wrote.

"We need a little more emphasis on the traditional doctrine of faith, hope and charity," he said.

Church Rated Efficient

New York — (RNS) — An overall rating of 9,010 out of a possible 10,000 points for administrative excellence was given to the Roman Catholic Church by a second management audit of the worldwide body in five years.

Conducted by the non-profit American Institute of Management, the audit showed that the Church has had a "marked improvement" in administrative efficiency since the reign of Pope John XXIII started in 1958.

THE CHURCH'S new rating puts it in the same ranks — as far as administration is concerned — with such firms as General Motors, American Telephone and Telegraph, Aluminum Company of America, E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., and Procter & Gamble. All of these rate more than 9,000 points, according to the AIM.

In its first audit in 1955 the institute gave the Catholic Church a rating of 8,800 points out of an optimum of 10,000. Minimum rating for excellence is 7,500 points.

The institute, in its new audit, said that Pope John's "firm belief in the principles of delegation and decentralization" accounted for much of the Church's improvement in administrative efficiency.

"There is less of a Roman clique behind today's decisions in the Church, and more of a hard-working cardinalate," the institute said. "All down the line there has been a noticeable improvement in placing the right man in the right position of authority.

"The selection of cardinals is top evidence of this recent procedure, and it will inevitably bring effective results as time goes by."

In its report the institute noted that five years ago the Church was weakest in the category of "trustee analysis" of the Sacred College of Cardinals because, it said, the college is not regarded as a corporate board of trustees.

It said that since then, however, "vast strides have been made in the right direction, and five of the new cardinals now have top positions in the Roman Curia (governing body of the Catholic Church)."

In this category the Church's rating jumped from 825 points in 1955 to 700 out of a possible 800.

In the category of "social function," the Church received 1,000 points out of a 1,000 optimum. The institute said this was the result of the manner in which the Church "implements the Golden Rule by active rendering of social services on a universal basis." Few institutions can equal Catholic efforts in this field, the audit concluded.

Funds Asked For Retarded

Monroe County residents are asked to help retarded children by turning on porch lights, Sept. 26, 27 and 28 until a volunteer has called for a contribution by leaders in the Retarded Children's Fund Drive.

Appeal is made by City Court Judge John Lomenzo, honorary campaign chairman; Mrs. Robert Herberger, 14 Ridgeland Dr. and Mrs. Julian Kheel, 65 W. Jefferson Road, Pittsford, co-chairmen.

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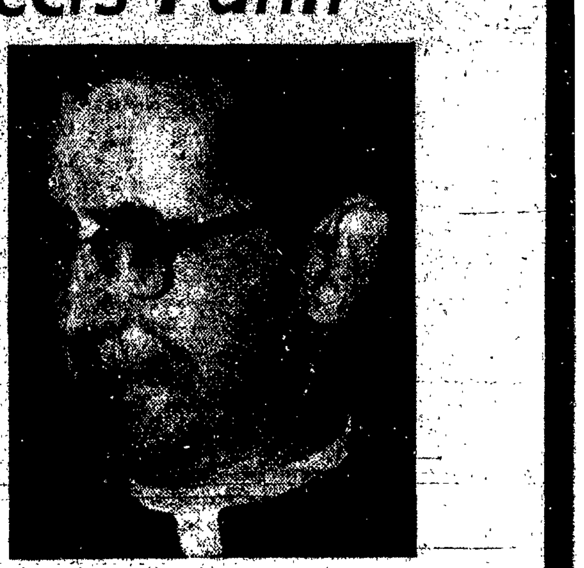
How Faith Affects Farm

Applegate, Cal. — (RNS) — Salesman for social justice on the soil is Father James Vizzard, S.J., director of the Washington, D.C. office of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The San Francisco native, who until recently handled the executive directorship of the NCRLC at its Des Moines headquarters, is resting up here at the Jesuit Order's Our Lady of Oaks Villa in preparation for new battles in bringing Christian principles to the field of agriculture.



FATHER VIZZARD

Father Vizzard, who is public enemy number one to some farm organizations and growers because of his insistence that reason and justice prevail on the turbulent agricultural scene, is no stranger to these parts.

While Christian principles in agriculture are his true forte, he can rattle off events and locales concerning California's Gold Rush days which would make an historian envious.

THE YOUTHFUL Jesuit priest comes by his knowledge of the Gold Dust trails via family tradition. In the historic era following 1848, Father Vizzard's great-great and great-grandfathers dug for the yellow dirt near Moore's Flat in company with a rugged young man who in 1886 became the first shepherd of the Sacramento Diocese, Bishop Patrick Manogue.

This quest for justice in farming had its origin at Santa Clara University, where he was teaching following his ordination in 1946.

"While teaching there," he explains, "I became aware of the plight of the migrant workers then in the Santa Clara Valley. I viewed their misery and saw the injustices being perpetrated upon them.

"Moreover, I realized many of our students came from the farms of the great California valleys. Following their college training, few returned to the farm. They entered other professions, draining off much of our future rural Catholic leadership."

For these reasons Father Vizzard obtained his superior's permission to become the voice of one crying in the wilderness for Christian living in all its aspects on the farm. He studied agricultural economics at Georgetown University and drained the research facilities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In his present position as one of the leading spokesmen of the Catholic view on agriculture in the United States, Father Vizzard does the research from which the policy of the NCRLC is born.

The Jesuit believes the most un-Christian posture in modern day agriculture is the treatment of the migratory workers.

"Migrant farm laborers in the U.S., he emphasizes, "are more discriminated against than any group in the country, including the Negro."

"They are helpless without support. Unless the Church and civic organizations champion their cause they will become even more miserable in their degradation."

FATHER VIZZARD does not mind the condemnation he receives from many sources for upholding the cause of these "outcasts." He sees no inconsistency in a priest working for the betterment of their lot. "Christ loved the poor and helpless. He sought them out. Justice should prevail in every phase of society." It does not for the migratory worker according to their spokesman.

The rural life director offers a threefold solution to improve the lot of migrant farm laborers:

1. End the Bracero program. "Since so many growers depend upon this labor supply at present, it may not be possible to terminate it instantly, but it should be phased out in three to five years.

"Many growers want a large docile group of men who will be there when they are needed and gone when they are not needed; and who, if they complain about conditions, can be shipped back to Mexico. They want the Bracero because by flooding the labor market wages can be kept down."

2. Encourage union organization of farm workers by responsible agencies. "It is a natural right of man to organize to seek his just due. These men need justice more than any group in our society."

3. Rationalize agriculture. "By working out a year around employment plan communities can provide farm workers with nine months of employment a year within a 50 mile radius. Labor demands can be spread out over longer periods with fewer sharp needs at one time. This will enable the worker to settle down and be integrated into the community."

World's Wealth In North, South Endures Poverty

London — (RNS) — Abbe Pierre, France's famed apostle of the poor and homeless, told a meeting here organized by the Association of Catholic Managers and Employers that the most important world division is not between East and West but between the prosperous North and poor South.

Grouped in the North, he said, were Europe and North America, while the South included South America, Africa and India.

THE CAPUCHIN priest said success in spreading Christian social justice from the national to the international plane depends on who "responds best to the needs of the South — East or West."

Meanwhile, he stressed, it is essential to realize that the world "population explosion" has been accompanied by an "explosion" of information through the mass communications media which has made the poorer countries more alert to their plight and correspondingly more urgent in their demands for economic and social betterment.

"Formerly," Abbe Pierre said, "the peoples of Africa and South America did not know how much higher their material standards could be, but now they are very well aware of the disparity between their conditions and those of other peoples."

Christian Symbols In Jewish Town

Jerusalem — (RNS) — The riddle of tools with crosses and other Christian emblems and inscriptions discovered in excavations at Beth Shearim, a Jewish center of the Talmudic period, has been solved, Dr. Benjamin Mazar, president of Hebrew University, announced here.

Dr. Mazar, an archaeologist, explained that the Christian material was booty looted by Persian conquerors of the Holy Land at the beginning of the seventh century.

Apparently, said Dr. Mazar, the booty, taken from many destroyed churches and other places, was temporarily buried at Beth Shearim in caves. But 14 years later the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius reconquered Palestine and, in revenge, destroyed Jewish towns, including Beth Shearim, not knowing about the hidden Christian treasures.

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