



Italian Nun Visits Auburn Kin

MR. and MRS. ANTHONY TESTA of 28 Cayuga St., Auburn, are shown as they visit with their niece, Sister Mary Raffaella Testa, and her companion Sister Mary Del Fina Troisi, right, of Avellino, Italy. The Sisters will spend 6 months in the U.S.

Reunion League

Lutheran Bridge to Rome

Rome—(RNS)—A German Lutheran theologian said here that the time for groups of Lutherans to join the Catholic Church may be at hand.

The Rev. Mr. Max Lackmann, whose acceptance of the papacy as the center of Christian unity has been endorsed by leaders of his own church, spoke at headquarters of the International Unitas Association, Catholic-sponsored organization dedicated to Christian reunion. Pastor Lackmann is one of the leaders of the new German Lutheran league that promotes reunion of Protestants and Catholics.

THE LEAGUE is an outgrowth of "Die Sammlung" (The Gathering), small but influential unity movement founded six years ago. The league itself, Pastor Lackmann said, will admit only those Lutherans who have "a Catholic creed and spirit," and will be organized into small cells in various German cities.

Its purpose is to explain clearly to the Lutheran public the necessity for reunion with the Catholic Church.

Dr. Lackmann was suspended from his pastorate in Soest, Germany, in the summer of 1953, after he declared in a book that "the Church of Rome is a symbol set up by God Himself for the truly Catholic worldwide church."

He said in his Unitas lec-

ture that the new reunion league will be a community with its own form of worship, incorporating into the Catholic liturgy all that is true and good in the Lutheran tradition. Catholic elements that have been lost as a result of the Protestant Reformation will be regained, he said. Among them, according to Pastor Lackmann, are the acceptance of the Holy Eucharist as a true sacrifice, confession, and the apostolic succession.

The theologian said that besides having its own liturgy, the new league will have married priests and its own bishop. Those members of the league who decide to become Catholics will of course leave the league, he said, but the league hopes for help and cooperation from Catholics.

Dr. Lackmann outlined two possibilities for incorporation of members of the new league into the Catholic Church. The more desirable, he said, would be a situation in which a bishop of a particular regional Lutheran church would be convinced that the Church of Rome "is a true church" and decide on reunion with it. Those members of the local church who agreed would then request communion with the Holy See as a community.

The reunion league would then be able to serve its cause, he said. He indicated

the league would have already prepared the way for reunion as a new rite within the Catholic Church, joining existing rites such as the Roman, Byzantine and Armenian.

He explained: "Here we are and we are coming with you," our people will say. "We have a liturgy, Mass, catechism—the fruit of many years' preparation. Catholics men have approved our catechism and our Mass ceremonial. We will go with you."

Dr. Lackmann said, however, that perhaps no Lutheran bishop will seek reunion with the Holy See within the next few years. But if the Lutheran bishops stated definitely that their church must remain separated, the time would be at hand for the league itself to go as a community into the Catholic Church, he added.

The minister said his league would go ahead with preparation of texts of a catechism and Mass in accord with Catholic doctrine. "Perhaps, the time has come for the existence of a little Evangelical (Lutheran) Catholic Church in the great Roman Catholic community," he said.

"Faith moves mountains, even the mountains of the separated churches. The Lord Christ will gather us all together and we shall be saved

Court Rules

Embarrassed? No Excuse!

Miami—(RNS)—A court trying two test cases on religious observances in public schools has refused to admit testimony that such observances can cause embarrassment and emotional conflict in some students.

Dade County Circuit Judge Fritz Gordon sustained defense objections that if the embarrassment of some pupils were admitted as a valid argument against religious practices, "we would have to remove from the schools every vestige of God's name."

Florida Civil Liberties Union, the other by three Jews and a Unitarian, supported by the American Jewish Congress.

DEFENSE COUNSEL also argued that the Constitution does not guarantee freedom of religion. The prevention of religious practices, he said, is the prevention of religious practices, "we would have to remove from the schools every vestige of God's name."

Baker M. Hindman, professor of education at the University of Miami who formerly served 30 years with the Dade County School system, had testified that children are placed in a state of emotional conflict by religious observances contrary to their beliefs.

He appeared as a witness for the plaintiffs in the two cases Pax Roman, the Catholic that are being tried simultaneously. The Society, and the Society. One case was brought by International Catholic Child an agnostic supported by the Bureau.

Chaplains At UN Parley

London—(RNS)—Representatives of the United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held here August 28-30, will be Father Augustine Harris, Catholic chaplain at Walton Hall, Liverpool, and Father H.A.J. A. Verheggen, senior Catholic prison chaplain in the Netherlands.

Catholic organizations with consultative status at the UN that children are placed in a state of emotional conflict by religious observances contrary to their beliefs.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, November 25, 1959

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THE CATHOLIC **Courier-Journal** OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Thirty Paperback Volumes

Bible - For - All Begun

New York—(RNS)—A Doubleday & Co., Inc., in its Anchor Book series, The Scriptures has been begun by volumes are scheduled to be released at intervals between January, 1962 and 1968.

Heading the translation team is Dr. William F. Albright, internationally famed Methodist biblical scholar and professor emeritus of Semiotics at Johns Hopkins University. His associates in Juda-Christian groups include the Rev. Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., of the Pontifical Bib-

lical Institute in Rome; Dr. Moshe Greenberg and Dr. E. A. Speiser, both of the University of Pennsylvania; and Prof. Bo Reicke of the University of Basel, Switzerland.

The so-called common Bible has long been a goal of not only biblical scholars but also of scholars and professors seeking closer cooperation in the study of the Bible. His associates in Juda-Christian groups include the Rev. Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., of the Pontifical Bib-

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Sect Still Opposed

Fayetteville—(RNS)—The Arkansas Baptist State Convention has not changed its opposition to a Roman Catholic President, according to a leading Arkansas Baptist attending the convention's 107th annual meeting here.

Dr. Erwin L. McDonald, editor of the Arkansas Baptist News, said: "Baptists oppose the candidacy of a Roman Catholic not only on religious grounds, Roman Catholicism as we understand it does not confine itself to being merely a religion but rather, through the Vatican, is in itself a political entity."

Sterilized To Be Paid

Bombay—(RNS)—Maharashtra state is offering free sterilization operations to men in an effort to curb population growth. Plans for the campaign were announced by the public health ministry here. It expressed the hope that 35,000 men will volunteer for the operation within the next month. Those submitting to the operation will be given 20 rupees (\$4.20) to pay for lost working time.

Article Charges

Funerals Costly, Dead Exploited

New York—(RNS)—Jubilee magazine, national Catholic monthly, reported in its November issue that in a recent poll 41 per cent of Catholic clergymen and 51 per cent of Protestant ministers thought that bereaved families were exploited, at least part of the time, by morticians.

THIS WAS revealed in an article on "The Funeral Business," and subtitled "A report on the American mortician and the high cost of dying," by Willard Sheed & Shirey Feltmann.

"On a national scale," the authors explained, "this expense added up, in 1958, to an estimated \$1,500,000,000 (U.S. Dollars) per year. The average cost of a funeral was \$907.33, per death—and rising."

At the root of many expensive funerals, the article said, are such items as water-tight caskets with "semi-tailored in-

Next Step To Council

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope John XXIII, at the ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica inaugurating the preparatory phase of the forthcoming Second Vatican Council, said he had been "gladdened by the respectful attention that is being paid by Non-Catholic Christians" to the historic event.

The Pope spoke before 33 cardinals, about 150 archbishops and bishops and some 300 theologians belonging to the ten commissions he has set up to discuss and prepare the subject matter that will be discussed by the Ecumenical Council.

Heiress Now Nun

Wewak—(RNS)—An American heiress and mother has become the first white woman to join a congregation of New Guinea nuns here.

Mrs. Frances Dills, heiress to the Yakima Apple empire in the Pacific Northwest, became a member of the Sisters of the Rosary of Wewak in ceremonies at Christ the King Cathedral. She will be called Sister Mary Louise.

A convert to Catholicism, Mrs. Dills served for the past five years as a lay missionary in Wewak, teaching in an advanced girls' school.

To Be Saint

London—(RNS)—Steps have been taken toward the beatification of a French-born Roman Catholic nun, founderess of a religious order whose motherhouse is located at Hastings.

Mother Mary of the Heart of Jesus, whose cause has been forwarded from the Southwest diocesan court to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops in Rome, founded the Institute of Our Lady of the Nations at Lyons, France, in 1861.