

Negro Prelate At St. Patrick's

New York—(RNS)—Laurian Cardinal Rugamba, Bishop of Rutabo, Tanganyika, and the first Negro to be made a Prince of the Roman Catholic Church, gained another distinction by becoming also the first Negro cardinal to preside at a Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral here.

Hundreds of parishioners lined up afterwards to kneel and kiss the ring of the tall, thin 48-year-old cardinal who had arrived in the city two days earlier for a 20-day tour that was scheduled to include visits to Notre Dame, In. Boston, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Cardinal Rugamba, who will receive honorary degrees from Notre Dame University and the College of New Rochelle, N.Y., presided at the Mass at the invitation of Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who is recovering from eye surgery.

In a talk to newsmen, the cardinal, who speaks six languages, Swahili, Luganda, English, French, German and Latin—expressed optimism over the future of the Church in Africa.

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"Ask not what your country can do for you..."

When we mailed our 1960 Annual Report to our security holders, we followed the practice of the past few years by enclosing with it a little directory called "How to Address Your Congressman." This includes the names of all the United States Senators and all the members of the House of Representatives together with their committee assignments. And along with it we also enclosed a four-page supplement dealing with matters about which we believe our shareholders are concerned. This year we took as its theme something President Kennedy said in his inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

The investor-owned electric utilities of the United States, which serve four-fifths of all the electric customers and pay well over two billion dollars in taxes, heartily endorse this suggestion of our President. On the other hand, the remaining one-fifth of the country's electric users buy their power from government and cooperative power projects which pay no federal taxes at all.

Surely, those who benefit from federal power with its tax-free subsidy might well give some thought to President Kennedy's challenge.

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Court Upholds Sunday Laws

Washington—(RNS)—The United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of three state laws prohibiting the operation of retail stores on Sunday, but disagreed sharply as to the restrictions which Constitutional guarantees of the free exercise of religion place on state legislatures in enacting Sunday "blue laws."

The 27,000-word opinions delivered by Chief Justice Warren and the 35,000 words of concurrence and dissent from other members of the court made it the second longest opinion (206 pages) of recent history, exceeded only by the steel seizure case of 1950.

AFTER DISCUSSING at great length the history of Sunday laws in England, the American colonies and the United States since enactment of the First Amendment, Mr. Warren delivered this dictum: "The 'establishment' clause does not ban federal or state regulation of conduct whose reason or effect happens to coincide with or harmonize with the tenets of some or all religions."

"In many instances, Congress or state legislatures conclude that the general welfare of society, wholly apart from religious considerations, demands such regulation."

"Thus, for temporal reasons, murder is illegal. And the fact that this agrees with the tenets of the Judeo-Christian religion does not invalidate the regulation. So, too, with questions of adultery and polygamy... the same could be said for theft, fraud, etc., because these offenses were also proscribed by the Ten Commandments."

"In light of the evolution of our Sunday closing laws through the centuries and of their more or less recent emphasis upon secular considerations, it is not too difficult to discern that as presently written and administered most of them, at least, are of a secular rather than a religious character and presently bear no relationship to the establishment of religion as those words are used in the Constitution of the United States."

"When we examine the statutes now before the court, we find that for the most part, they have been divorced from the religious orientation of their predecessors," he said. "Admittedly, the statutes still contain references to the Lord's Day and some provisions speak of weekdays as secular days... (but) it would seem the objectionable language is merely a relic," the Chief Justice observed.

"Concededly, appellants and all other persons who wish to work on Sunday will be burdened economically by the

state's rest mandate, Mr. Warren said. "Certain aspects of religious exercise cannot in any way be restricted or burdened by either federal or state legislation. Compulsion by law of the acceptance of any creed or practice of any form of worship is strictly forbidden. The freedom to hold religious beliefs and opinions is absolute."

"The statute before us does not make criminal the holding of any religious belief or opinion, nor does it force anyone to embrace any religious belief or to say or believe anything in conflict with his religious tenets," the Chief Justice held.

The Court's majority acknowledged that the choice of continuing in their present business activities, at a disadvantage with competitors, or of changing their occupation or line of trade, may involve financial sacrifice, but held that this is "wholly different than when the legislature attempts to make a religious practice itself unlawful."

"We are a cosmopolitan nation of people of almost every conceivable religious preference," said Mr. Warren. "It cannot be expected, much less required that legislators enact no law regulating conduct that may in some way result in economic disadvantage to some religious sect and not to others because of the special practices of the various religions."

"If the purpose of the law is to impede the practice of religion, then it would be invalid," the majority said, but "if the state regulates conduct by enacting a general law within its power the purpose and effect of which is to advance the state's secular goals, the statute is valid despite its incident burden on religious observance."

The majority concluded, "We cannot find the state without power to provide a weekly respite from all labor... a day of rest, repose, recreation, and tranquility—a day when the hectic tempo of everyday existence ceases and a more pleasant atmosphere is created, a day which all members of the family may enjoy and spend together... and visit friends and relatives not available during working periods."



20th Century House Of God

Pittsburgh—(RNS)—St. Sebastian's Catholic church in suburban Pittsburgh is an exciting example of modern church architecture. The new structure was designed by Michael W. Stuhldreher of the Pittsburgh firm of Gerard and McDonald. Mr. Stuhldreher is the son of Harry Stuhldreher, one of Notre Dame's famous Four Horsemen. The church features high, pitched roof bays in counterpoint with lower pitched ones to allow for lighting effect. The main roof is supported by a series of trusses, each held together at its top by a single, large high-strength bolt. The roof deck spans between trusses and is the only means of laterally bracing the trusses themselves. There is no conventional crossbracing. Pastor of the church is Father George Haber.

CPA Latin America Plan Given Vatican Approval

Washington—(NC)—The Vatican has approved new steps to strengthen Catholic programs in the mass information media in Latin America, based on recommendations by U.S. Catholic press specialists.

THE PLANS approved by the Vatican's Pontifical Commission for Latin America are aimed at coordinating and improving Catholic activities in press, radio and television, and motion pictures throughout Latin America.

A major development will be the establishment of a mass media section at the headquarters of the Latin America Bishops' Council (CELAM) in Bogota, Colombia.

This and other steps approved by the Vatican commission were recommended by a study committee of the Catholic Press Association which visited Latin America in January and February to study the mass communications media there.

The Vatican commission highly praised the CPA committee for its "enterprise and generosity," according to Father John J. Considine, M.M., director of the Latin America Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference. Father Considine made public here the Vatican's approval of the committee's recommendations.

The study committee was headed by Father Albert J. Nevins, M.M., president of the Catholic Press Association and editor of Maryknoll magazine. Other members were Floyd Anderson, CPA vice president and managing editor of the Advocate, Newark, N.J., and Joseph Sullivan, head of the Sullivan Brothers Printing Company, Lowell, Mass.

IN ADDITION to the establishment of a mass media section at CELAM headquarters, the recommendations of the CPA group, approved by the Vatican, including the following:

1) Establishment of a full-time, central office of the Latin American Catholic Press Union (ULAPC) in Montevideo, Uruguay. The ULAPC secretariat was seen as a center for the exchange of information and services aimed at increasing the professional competence of the Latin American Catholic press.

2) Strengthening the Latin American secretariat of the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

3) Establishment of an international secretariat of the International Catholic Bureau of the Cinema in Lima, Peru.

4) Establishment of a Latin American radio training school for broadcasting specialists at Bogota under the direction of Msgr. Jose Joaquin Salcedo, director of the Catholic system of educational radio stations in Colombia.

THE TRAINING school will offer intensive instruction in radio techniques for small groups of Catholic broadcasters from all over Latin America.

The CPA study committee noted in its report that radio is an especially important tool for the Church in many areas of Latin America where there is widespread illiteracy.

Establishment of a center at Msgr. Salcedo's headquarters to prepare and record Catholic radio programs for distribution throughout Latin America.

Establishment of a Peruvian Catholic information bureau in Lima as proposed by Archbishop Romolo Carboni, Apostolic Nuncio to Peru. Besides surveying mass media throughout Latin America, the CPA committee studied the situation in Peru intensively as a pilot project. The suggestion for a national information bureau resulted from this.

The CPA study committee's report was drawn up in cooperation with a consulting committee of professional leaders. Members of this committee were Roy Alexander, editor, Time magazine; Richard Berlin, president, the Hearst Corporation; Bob Considine, author and columnist; Arthur Hull Hayes, president, CBS Radio.

Radio Schools Teach 3 R's

Brasilia—(NC)—The Catholic Church in Brazil is launching a government-aided program to develop 15,000 "radio schools" this year to teach people in the northern and midwestern regions to read and write.

The program provides for government subsidies totaling about one million dollars over a five-year period.

A Church-State agreement initiating it was signed here by President Janio Quadros and Jaime Cardinal de Barros Camara, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro and chairman of the National Conference of the Bishops of Brazil.

The first large-scale undertaking of its kind in Brazil, the radio school network envisions an adaptation of the techniques started in Colombia in 1947 by Msgr. Jose Joaquin Salcedo.

BASIC DEVICE is the distribution to widely scattered rural points of low-cost radio receivers tuned to the radio school frequency. Lessons are broadcast at prearranged times to enable the local instructor and pupils to assemble at the receiving set.

Msgr. Salcedo's program gives a regular opportunity to rural illiterates to learn to read and write, and offers advice and help in rural housing improvement and better farming methods. Its total number of students has been estimated at close to three-quarters of a million.

The Church in Brazil has carried on relatively small scale programs along lines of the Colombian scheme for some time. The agreement signed at Planalto Palace here commits the Brazilian Bishops to "extend to the underdeveloped regions of the northeast, north and midwest its experience in schools."

About 51 per cent of the population over 10 years of age in those regions can neither basic education through radio read nor write.

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Prayers Asked For Summit

Vienna—(NC)—Prayers for the success of the historic conference between President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev were offered in Catholic churches throughout Vienna on the eve of the conference.

Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, requested prayers in a special appeal to priests and people of his archdiocese. His appeal expressed hope that divine intercession might permit the meeting to "reduce international tension and serve the cause of true peace, justice and freedom."

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THE WORLD SITUATION

I. We are living in a time when the political, economic, social and military ascendancy of the world will pass from the West to the East (Africa and Asia).

II. Until now, it has been the West which has influenced the East. But even now the East is beginning to influence the West: a) by a numerical majority in the United Nations; b) by an itching curiosity on the part of Western minds for Oriental mysticism, which makes man the center of religion and not God and His Merciful Redemption.

III. The Church is becoming a smaller proportion of the world's population. There are 18 million persons born each year in Asia alone, and yet the number of the faithful in Asia 1,900 years after the Redemption is only 14 million.

IV. Here, then, is the world situation from the religious point of view. On the one hand there is a growing reaction against what is called "religious exclusivism," a denial of the absoluteness of truth and the reduction of religion to a psychological self-awakening which ignores sin. On the other hand, people believe, as Peter said on Pentecost: "Salvation is not to be found elsewhere; this alone of all the names under heaven (Jesus Christ) has been appointed to men as the One by which we must needs be saved."

V. How are we to meet the coming merger of Eastern thought with the declining Christian influence in the Western world?

A) The Church (bishops, priests, teachers) must everywhere preach salvation through Christ the Lord. Only by stressing an historical Person Who is both God and Man can the mere philosophical systems of the East-West world be overcome. Men are not to be saved by an abstraction, whether it be Nirvana or Tao; they can love only a Person Who is worth loving infinitely and eternally.

B) There must be an increased sacrifice of personnel and aims for the missions in Africa and Asia. In a few decades Catholics would no longer be a minority did we but open our palms and give our hands to the spiritually and physically hungry souls of the East.

C) It is not to be thought that the numerical minority in Africa and Asia will necessarily continue. Given an increased love of the Holy Ghost Who alone makes converts, Africa and Asia could be the future suppliers of the Vicar of Christ. When Israel failed, the Faith went to Samaria and the Gentiles; when Western civilization breaks up into ineffectual sects and truncated spiritualities, the Gospel could pass to Africa and Asia in increasing numbers.

D) A more concentrated and equalized missionary effort must be realized. Presently, American missionaries are relatively well provided for, but missionaries from other parts of the world live on the barest resources.

The only way to distribute the little we have, so that all may share equally, is for Catholics to follow the order of the Holy Father who said that he is to be "first and principally aided." Give to the Vicar of Christ "first," not necessarily "only." Give to the Vicar of Christ "principally," not necessarily "exclusively." But in the name of Christ let us show our heads in shame that presently the Catholics of the United States give him only 27 cents per year per Catholic. Some people pay that much per day for dog food.

How do you give to the Holy Father? He has a Society for that purpose — The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It exists in every country of the world. You have one in your diocese. Believe me, the world situation is serious not because of Communism but because of secularism, religious indifference and the growing appeal of Oriental mysticism. The answer is not to be anti-Communist but to live our Faith in every daily action. Start now by sending your offerings to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York.

Get 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 1, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 80 Chamber Street, Rochester 4, New York.

Sainthood Sought For 22 Africans

Vatican City—(RNS)—Some 100 bishops in Africa petitioned the Holy See recently for the canonization of the 22 Martyrs of Uganda, who were beatified by Pope Benedict XV in 1920, the Vatican radio disclosed.

IT SAID THAT among the many reasons put forward by the bishops was that the Christian devotion of the martyrs was "highly relevant" to the situation existing in Africa today.

"Even among Catholics Christians in Africa," the bishops declared, "the unrest of these times has not failed to create tensions. It is felt that the canonization asked for would make a great contribution to peace and unity in Africa."

The martyrs, Negroes ranging in age from 13 to 30, were mostly pages of King Mwanga and were slain between 1885 and 1887 because of their Christian faith. They were converts of the White Fathers and were "except for attempted espionage put to death with great cruelty."

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