

3 Cornell Students

Death At Desecration

Bonn — (NC) — Soviet soldiers tried to destroy an illuminated mountaintop cross in East Germany and one of them fell to his death in the attempt. It has been reported here by KNA, the German Catholic news agency.

Although a Soviet officer apologized for the desecration to the Franciscan priests who maintain the cross he also threatened the priests with reprisals if news about it were given out. The incident happened last May 8, KNA reported.

'Center World on God'

Catholic students at secular campus. Former chaplain Monsignor Donald Cleary, now pastor of St. Catherine of Siena parish, Ithaca, and priest-students in the graduate schools also attended the Mass honoring the Holy Spirit.

FATHER LAVERY, in his sermon, said, "The students of this campus have a right to expect from you as Catholics a belief, a demonstration, a living, an example of what true Catholicism means. They may not have any desire nor may they ever embrace Catholicism, but they have a right to know what Catholicism signifies."

"If you offer anything less than the best, then you fail them, you fail Christ, you fail yourself," he said.

"It is here that your Newman Foundation enters the picture. It is not simply a campus church, a spiritual insurance office or an eternal life saving device. It is a Catholic center — which means Christ on the campus — it is a spiritual center. It is an intellectual center," Father Lavery stated.

He also told the students they must be dedicated to study — "to the pursuit of truth" — and through their contacts with students of other denominations or no affiliation, "you have a magnificent opportunity not only to share and communicate your knowledge of the Church to others; but also to deepen the life and light of this university."

Cornell registered 1,632 Catholic graduate and undergraduate students in its 11,000 total this year, Father Tormey reported. Nearly 450 students are from homes in the Rochester Diocese.

"Spiritual opportunities for our students make religious practice easy and popular here," the chaplain said.

Daily Mass is celebrated at 7 and 8 a.m., at noon and at 5 p.m. in the Catholic chapel of the inter-faith religion center on campus in Anabel Taylor Hall and five times each Sunday.

Confessions are heard daily during the afternoon Mass "and there is a long line of penitents every day," Father Tormey said.

He is assisted in the spiritual side of the campus program by eight priest-students who live with him at the Newman Oratory. They are working toward doctorate degrees in various colleges of the University.

Advantages and Hazards



Cornell students attended a Red Mass celebrated by Newman Foundation chaplain Father Richard Tormey in campus chapel Monday afternoon. Father Charles Lavery, C.S.B., of St. John Fisher College gave the sermon.

Missioners Meet In Capital

Washington — (NC) — Some 800 U.S. Catholic missionaries, in their 12th annual meeting here, took steps to further the Church's mission work on both the practical and theoretical levels.

On the practical level, they voted to establish a committee to study the idea for a national mission institute to coordinate their activity.

And, in the area of theory, they gave close study to newly emerging theological concepts of mission work, organized under the meeting's theme, "A New Spirit for a New Age."

Representatives of approximately 170 U.S. mission-sending societies took part in the meeting (Sept. 18-20), sponsored by the Mission Secretariat, a clearing house of mission information and services.

In voting to investigate the idea for a national mission institute, the missionaries were endorsing a proposal put forward on the eve of their meeting by Cardinal Cushing of Boston.

The underlying ideas of the meeting — summarized in the phrase "A New Spirit for a New Age" — were outlined by speakers at the gathering's opening general session (Sept. 18). They centered on two concepts: "universality in extent" and "universality in depth."

Pope Asks Work Free Sundays

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII made a plea here for the proper observance everywhere of Sunday as a day of rest. He said this "presupposes a change of mind in society and the intervention of the powers of the state."

The Pontiff spoke at an audience in the papal summer residence to 200 delegates to the annual assembly in Rome of the International Union of Master Bakers. Speakers at the assembly had called for workless Sundays, declaring that "the precept of the Ten Commandments is far from being observed in our profession."

Pope John said that although the question of work-free Sundays appeared to be a problem in some areas, "all those who have the well-being of men at heart hope that the day will come soon when all workers will be able to spend Sunday in prayer, spiritual refreshment and friendly association."

"Sunday," he added, "will really be the day of God when this comes about. It will be recognized as a social right to be enjoyed by all classes of society for the exercise of their religious duties and the practicing of works of charity. The Church will be happy when this takes place and all society will reap the benefits."

At American Colleges

Big Questions Don't Count

New York — (RNS) — A take the attitude that ultimate Catholic scholar at Harvard University asserted in a magazine article that American colleges are stilling religious debate most to death and leaving the inner life of the student almost untouched.

Michael Novak, a Teaching Fellow at Harvard, made his charge in a special supplement, entitled "The College Scene," appearing in the October issue of Harper's Magazine.

HIS ARTICLE — "God in the Colleges" — claims that the basic assumption pervading the atmosphere of most American college campuses in America and England is that "the Big Questions of life (who and what is man, whence he comes, where he is going, what is love, what is passion, what is reason, is there a God?) are not worth answering."

"It is soon clear," he writes, "that the Big Questions don't count — either in academic standing, or in later life, or in research grants."

Novak, who holds a theology degree from the Gregorian University in Rome, accuses professors of being uninterested in the students' answers to such questions. He says they

sult, "churches are filled with worshippers, but intelligence has fled from the ranks of religion" and that the agnostic atmosphere of campus life "becomes with hardly a hitch the middle-class life of the organization man and the suburbanite."

How, then, asks Novak, is God to be put back in the colleges?

"The greatest contribution could come from teachers and scholars — formally religious or not — who could lead the student to the profound human experiences lying below the surface of the academic curriculum," he suggests.

"These experiences, and others like them," he adds, "underline the statistics of economics and of sociology, the laws and hypotheses of psychology, philosophy, and other disciplines; they are at the source of great poems and novels and histories now often taught as if they were technical puzzles."

Novak, who graduated from Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass., recently had his first novel, "The Tiber Was Silver," published by Doubleday. The writer says that, as a re-

'Practical Atheists'

Chicago — (RNS) — A Lutheran theologian told a National Lutheran Council home missions conference here that 20th century America is a nation of "practical atheists."

Dr. Warren A. Quanbeck of Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., said Americans have lost their "sense of the supernatural" because of the rise in prestige of natural science and material progress, the "decay of theological symbols and the success in the 19th and early 20th centuries of anti-Christian propaganda."

"Ninety-five per cent of Americans assert belief in God, but make most of life's decisions as if God did not exist," he said.

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