

Churches Seek Unity

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plea. Very Rev. George Grabbe of New York City, an official of the "Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia" stated the Kremlin controlled prelates are "not authentic representatives of the Russian Orthodox people."

He said clerics like Archbishop Nikodim are "simply agents of an atheist government." He cited Nikodim's action at the Rhodes meeting where he blocked an Orthodox condemnation of atheism but wanted a statement condemning colonialism — straight Soviet propaganda.

When you speak with clergy from Moscow, Father Grabbe warned, "You do not hear the voice of the Orthodox Church, you hear the voice of the Soviet government."

Hundreds of thousands of churches throughout Russia are closed or used as atheist museums, yet Archbishop Nikodim "did not say a word about this persecution," Father Grabbe stated.

He said admission of the Moscow-centered Russian Orthodox Church to the World Council would be "a very great mistake and give the Soviets a forum to further misrepresent the actual religious situation in Russia."

GREEK ORTHODOX Rev. George J. Bacopoulos also of New York City in a separate talk said the hoped-for unity of Christians has been an "ageless struggle to achieve" and will be reached only "with humility, prayer and perseverance."

He referred to the split between eastern and western Christians in 1054 as a "tragic schism" which ended in "tragic fragmentation."

He cautioned eager ecumenists against seeking "unity at any price." He cited the "unity" of the workers at Babel (the Scripture story in the book of Genesis, chapter 11) which ended in chaotic division.

Father Bacopoulos said the Orthodox are present in the World Council activities as "witness to the truth." He said Pope John XXIII, Anglican Archbishop Ramsey of Canterbury and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople have indicated "a new attitude" of mutual respect rather than the rigid positions of previous centuries and this, he said, gives hope for further progress toward ultimate unity.

The meeting at Seneca Falls was organized by Presbyterian minister Rev. Kenneth G. Holmstrup as a "pre-assembly conference" of the World Council of Churches' meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India, Nov. 18 to Dec. 6.

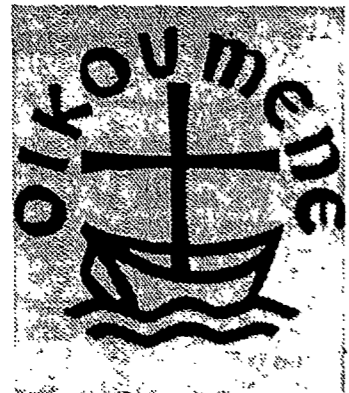
Besides the role of the Orthodox in the World Council, other topics discussed by participants in the Seneca Falls meeting included current worldwide efforts toward religious unity.

This search for unity is known as the ecumenical movement — oikoumene, a Greek word meaning all people on earth.

The World Council of Churches, chief instrument of the ecumenical movement and, predominantly a Protestant organization, was organized at Amsterdam in 1948 to aid its members "in matters requiring united action." The Council has 178 Protestant and Orthodox denominations in 57 nations as members.

Obviously significant is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church is not a member and even if all 178 churches of the World Council bridged their divisions to form a united church, large as it would be, it would be smaller than the already united Catholic Church.

Perhaps more significant is the fact that at this year's meeting of the World Council in



The ecumenical goal — a Church which unifies the Saviour's promise of "one flock and one shepherd."

New Delhi, the Catholic Church will be represented for the first time. The Vatican has named five priests to attend the meeting as observers.

Some have taken the appointment of these five as indicating the Catholic Church is considering, like the Russian Orthodox Church, application for membership in the Council.

Jesuit Father Gustave Weigel in his just published book "Catholic Theology in Dialogue" clashes any such hopes. He says the Vatican is "not at all hostile to the World Council" but it is "inconceivable that the Catholic Church might become a member."

Why? Because the Catholic Church believes itself to be "exclusively the Church of Christ," a solution to the chaos of Christian division is quite simple — all Christians should become Roman Catholics.

This position appears "utterly preposterous" to most Non-Catholics, Father Weigel admits.

Protestant theologian Robert McAfee Brown in his new book "The Spirit of Protestantism" also admits the gap separating Catholics from other Christians is formidable.

"Deep cleavages remain between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism," he states. "The terms of reunion offered by each are incompatible with the deepest convictions of the other. But the alternative to organic union need not be animosity."

Dr. Brown calls for a continuing "dialogue" — conversation — between Catholic and Protestant experts.

"We do not know just what God will make of attempts to offer up to him a discussion of our similarities and differences, but we do know that nothing that is offered up to

God in humility and charity and prayer is ever offered up in vain," Dr. Brown affirms.

Another recent author, Father Georges Tavard in his book "Protestantism" endorses the current dialogue between scholars of the differing denominations.

"Very fortunately, however, the Church is not made up solely of theologians," Father Tavard writes. "Reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants will not go far if it depends on the efforts of specialists. The expert in his study may read his books with interest and understanding, yet never spare a thought for the individuals concerned. But the layman, living side by side with Protestant Christians, cannot remain indifferent to the human problems involved."

"It is therefore the task of the laity, especially where Protestants are numerous, to reveal to them the true face of Catholic unity and charity... and this charity is Catholic, that is, universal; it goes out to one's neighbor, whatever may be his religious or political convictions."

Catholics, clergy and laity alike, will watch the progress of the ecumenical movement with an awareness that it reflects the prayer of Jesus Christ for His disciples "that they may be one." In addition to watching, Catholics have the duty to imitate the Saviour in similar and persevering prayer for the unity of all Christians — a prayer, we are confident, God will answer when we are worthy of so great a gift.

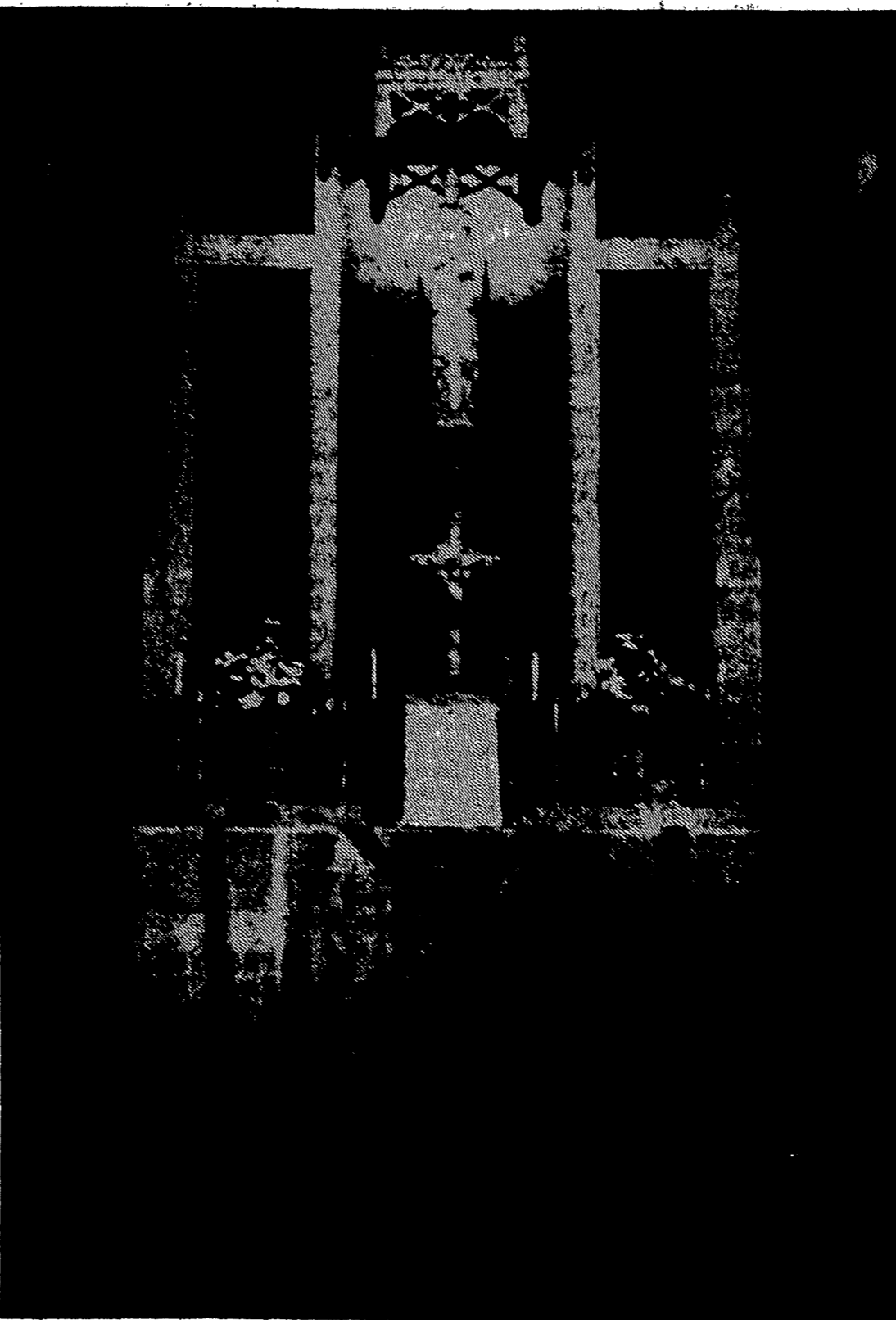
Cows In The Collection

Walnut, Kan. — (RNS) — Members of St. Patrick's Catholic church here have devised a fund-raising technique which is in keeping with the character of this rural southeastern section of Kansas known for its trail herds of longhorn cattle.

Every year, parishioners donate calves to a "Golden Herd" fund which goes to the church. Through the summer the calves are allowed to fatten and then are sold at an autumn auction, with all proceeds going to the church.

This year's herd netted \$9,700 for the small rural congregation.

Salute Pontiff
Bombay — (NC) — The Indian government is planning to offer up to him a discussion of our similarities and differences, but we do know that nothing that is offered up to



Christ the King Church, Irondequoit, is newly decorated in time for the feast of Christ the King this Sunday. The redecoration was done as a memorial to the parish founder, the late Monsignor Charles J. Mahoney. G. Vincent Walker was the artist; Rev. William J. Schifferl is pastor.



Trumpeters from Aquinas Institute joined choir and organist for stirring musical selections at Wednesday's Cathedral consecration.

Christ Our King

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As long as selfishness lets us bypass human need wherever it may be; as long as somewhere there are men hungry and cold because of our neglect; as long as our own comfort and security are enough to ask from life, Christ's enemies, our enemies, will grow stronger.

The problem of the answer to the oft-repeated prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come," is one of a return on the part of ordinary Catholics to basic Christianity — living Christ's love. It cannot be accomplished by isolated acts, however heroic they may be. It must be accomplished within the context of our ordinary lives. It must not be a merely sporadic burst of emotional enthusiasm such as might flow from the celebration of this feast but must be daily and continuous.

Herein lies the value of the program of the Apostleship of Prayer. Pope Pius XII referred to the Apostleship as the perfect form of devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Each morning we answer the roll call of Christ. "O Jesus, I offer You this day, my prayers, my joys, my sufferings. I offer this day's every moment and detail. I will live it in the spirit of Your love. Your holy will shall dominate it. Your spirit shall dominate it. Whatever opportunities it holds for doing good I will embrace. Whatever inevitable suffering it brings I will accept as You did. Whomsoever I shall meet this day will be the object of my kindness and gentleness, my understanding and my sympathy. Where there is need, I will serve. Where there is a job to be done, I will do it as perfectly as I can with Your help. Love for You and for my fellowman (and they are the same thing) will be my aim in all things."

Such is the one force which can rout the enemies of Christ. In this Diocese we are externally mobilized behind this program. Eighty four per cent of our parishes have active centers of the Apostleship of Prayer. Sixteen per cent have centers but are temporarily inactive.

But the program is worthwhile only to the extent that individuals live it. May this Feast of Christ the King spur us to new efforts to live each day by the Morning Offering, to live each day for the love of Christ, to bring nearer the realization of our fervent prayer in this critical time, "Thy Kingdom Come."

TV Commission

Valletta — (NC) — A Malta Broadcasting Authority has been set up to supervise television in this island and Father Charles Vella, correspondent of the N.C.W.C. News Service, has been named to the five-member body to look after interests of the Church.

Hospital Holds Disaster Drill

Hornell — A disaster drill to prepare for possible emergencies was held Oct. 18 at St. James Mercy Hospital.

Forty "patients" were brought in, setting in motion the hospital's plan to care for mass casualties.

Within 45 minutes, the "victims" were examined and sent to areas in the hospital designated to care for particular types of injuries.

MEMBERS of the medical staff assessed the patients already in the hospital and found that, by moving those who are ambulatory or semi-ambulatory, the "victims" could be placed in beds and cared for with a minimum of delay.

Key personnel reported to pre-assigned posts and performed outlined prior to the performance.

Dr. James Hershey of Albany briefed the staff before the drill and watched the performance.

After the drill, an evaluation meeting was held. Suggestions growing out of the rehearsal were incorporated into plans for future use.

Hospital officials termed the exercise "highly beneficial to the hospital and the community."

Nurses Sponsor Holy Hour

Elmira Council of Catholic Nurses are sponsoring a Holy Hour to be held in the Dunn building on Sunday, from 3 until 5 p.m.

FOLLOWING THE Holy Hour at 5:45, a Mass will be offered in the Little Flower Chapel. This year's banquet will be held at 7 p.m. in Myhall's Restaurant. Guests are welcome.

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Encyclopedia At Mid Point

New York — (RNS) — The "Encyclopedia of Catholicism" — Thorn Books. Begun in 1958, two volumes mid-way point in an ambitious work reached here with the publication of the 75th and 76th volumes in the series on topics of Catholic interest are released each volume "Twentieth Century Encyclopedia" in the series by Hawthorn.

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Niece Nuns Visit Newarkite

Niece nuns of Mrs. Carl Huebeler of Newark, N.Y., visited her recently on their way to their parents' home in Shreelane, County Cork, Ireland. Two other sisters also made the trip, the first time in 25 years the four sisters, all nuns, had been together. Above are Sister Frances Therese and Sister Leonard.

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