



Vatican City — (RNS) — Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the Sacred College (far end of table), presides at a session of the Central Preparatory Commission of the forthcoming Second Vatican Council. The commission's third plenary meeting was held at the Vatican behind closed doors.

Rome Banquet Symbol of Unity

Rome — (RNS) — Representatives of 16 religious faiths, including Protestants, Catholics and Jews, took part in a discussion of racial prejudice which featured a gathering here modeled along the lines of the agapes, or feasts of brotherly love, common in early Christian times.

The get-together was sponsored by the Catholic International Pro Deo University in Rome. The leading Catholic participant was Augustin Cardinal

Bea, president of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity set up in connection with the forthcoming Second Vatican Council.

Among others taking part, besides Jews and Latin and Eastern Rite Catholics, were Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Waldensians, Anabaptists, Buddhists, Moslems and Shintoists.

In a talk to the group, Cardinal Bea stressed the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, which, he said, embraces all men.

Dr. Mario Saffi, president of the Federal Council of Italian Evangelical Churches, said that brotherhood is attainable "if man pledges to be at man's service."

Dr. Elio Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome, said that "nobody more than the Jews knows how racial prejudice provokes tragic consequences."

"We must," he declared, "form a common front to help youth take the road toward justice, the appreciation of moral values and the repudiation of violence."

One of the closing talks was given by Archbishop Ettore Cunial, Vicegerent of the Vicariate of Rome, who said he hoped the meeting would mark the beginning of increased interreligious collaboration in the future. He said that such an agape would have been "inconceivable" 40 years ago.

The university here was founded by the International Pro Deo Movement, which aims at bringing democratic influences to bear on public life through the press, radio and other mass media. It includes graduate departments in economics, business management, industrial and labor relations, political science, public administration and mass media. It has a school of journalism and offers courses in radio, television and modern languages. President of the university is Father Felix Morlion, O.P.

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At the present time, no one is permitted to become a deacon unless he intends to become a priest immediately afterward. For that reason, the new deacon is required to take a pledge of celibacy when he is ordained. In the Eastern Rites, married men are permitted to become deacons and deacons already ordained are allowed to marry.

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'Supermilitant' Catholics Thwart Unity Attempts

Washington — (NC) — A priest-editor warned here that there are "supermilitant Catholics" whose hostility to Protestantism is a hindrance to the Christian unity movement.

Such Catholics "see nothing in Protestantism but heresy," said Father Walter M. Abbot, S.J., feature editor of America, national Catholic weekly review.

The Jesuit priest asserted in a sermon at Unity Octave ceremonies Monday, Jan. 22, in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception that the response of such Catholics to Protestantism "is hostile, aggressive, sometimes pugnacious."

"These supermilitant Catholics reject the charge that they are bigots," Father Abbot continued. "For them the Christian unity movement is warfare, with unconditional surrender to the Catholic Church as the only outcome."

"If you see it in any other terms — for example, if you

advocate understanding, discussion and negotiations with Protestants as brothers — they call you a communist or a member of what they refer to as the 'world conspiracy.'"

He stated that "in spite of the great progress in understanding which has been made through the Catholic-Protestant dialogue in this country, many Catholics simply do not care what Protestants think or desire."

ON THE SECOND day (Jan. 19) of the Unity Octave observance, Bishop Nicholas T. Elkko of the Byzantine Rite Diocese of Pittsburgh said: "The charity that is necessary for the reunion of Orthodox Christians with the Catholic Church must be a charity of strength."

On the final day (Jan. 25) of the Octave observance Father Nicholas J. Riddell, O.C.D., of the Discalced Carmelite Monastery in Brookline, Mass., pleaded for a no-limit attitude in the missionary extension of Christ's Kingdom.

"If our love for God and mankind has the proper effect in our souls," he said, "it will cause us to seek and win souls to the Church on all fronts. There are no borders to limit the Church's apostolic zeal, for the very ends of the earth fall within the scope of the Church's far-reaching message. This will cause our interests to lie at home and in the missionary territories of the world."

Father Riddell, a convert from Judaism, said that "certainly if we can offer a Peace Corps to the world to win men's minds and hearts from political errors then we definitely can give another corps of people to win their souls for Christ."

He stated that "those with the talents and liberty to do so should be bearers of Christ's message on every shore in the world," and those not able to engage in such an active apostolate should offer prayers and sacrifices "and even the material sustenance necessary to foster the message."

"Where your feet cannot actually carry you," said Father Riddell, "let your heart carry you by prayer and sacrifice. Like a ripple on water, this effort on your part will reach the farthest missionary outposts in the world."

Kremlin Chief Bows To Madonna Icon

Bombay — (NC) — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev bowed when he was confronted with a reproduction of the icon of Our Lady of Vladimir, Russia's most sacred image.

The chief of state of the Soviet Union and his wife came face to face with the ancient image of the Madonna and child during the Bombay phase of their December visit to India. The Brezhnevs were in an automobile procession here when they came upon the 25th 11-mile walking procession sponsored by Bombay Catholics.

Brezhnev — who is titular superior to Premier Nikita Khrushchev in the Soviet government hierarchy — bowed when he spotted the ancient image. Then he turned his eyes away.

Patriarchs' Rank To Precede Cardinals

Vatican City — (RNS) — A historical character of their very ancient Sees, many of Eastern Rite patriarchs next to which are of Apostolic origin.

Two of the Eastern Rite patriarchs are members of the Sacred College — Ignazio Cardinal Tappouni, Patriarch of Antioch in Syria; and Gregory Peter XV Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians.

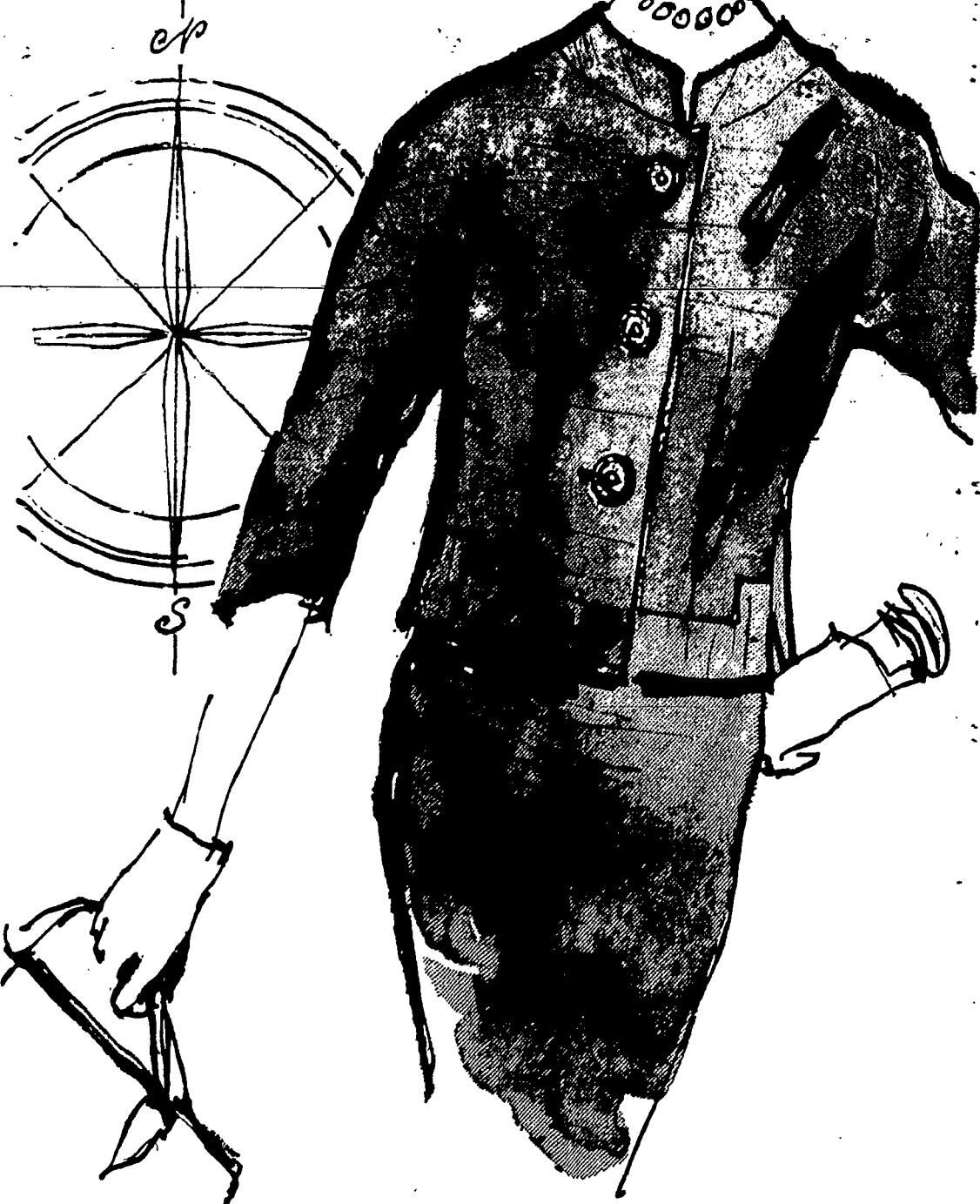
This would mean, in effect, demoting the members of the College of Cardinals to third place in the ecclesiastical order of the Roman Catholic Church. However, there was no suggestion that the cardinals would lose their chief role as electors of new Popes.

A Vatican Radio report on the Commission's session, held behind closed doors, said the 35 cardinals and other ecclesiastics present, "examined the problem of the Oriental patriarchs, dwelling especially upon recognition, even on an external level, of their powers, their precedence and their dignity."

"THEIR PRESTIGE," the station added, "is linked to the



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