



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.

Laymen to be Deacons

Vatican City — (RNS) — The question of reviving the ancient office of deacon, with married men being permitted to relieve many of the burdens of celibate priests, came up for discussion before the Central Preparatory Commission of the Second Vatican Council.

Discussion was led by Benedetto Cardinal Aloisi Masella, president of the Commission on the Discipline of the Sacraments, one of the bodies set up in connection with the Ecumenical Council. The session was presided over by Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the Sacred College, and attended by 35 other cardinals, as well as two patriarchs, 14 archbishops, two bishops and four superiors of religious orders.

A VATICAN Radio broadcast explained that the Commission, whose sessions are conducted in strict secrecy, analyzed certain aspects of the sacrament of Holy Orders with the question in mind whether many of the duties of the priesthood might be modified to cope with modern requirements.

"The possibility has not been excluded," it said, "that certain institutions enforced during the early centuries of the Church might well be revised for the purpose of satisfying modern pastoral needs.

"Special attention has been given to the question of the diaconate and the minor orders. Today no specific characteristics are attached to the diaconate, but it is an obligatory step on the path to the priesthood. It calls for nearly all the merits required at the moment of ordination, and the preparation for the office and its obligation, are identical."

In the Western Church, the duties of the deacon are to minister at the altar and to preach. In practice, his offices are chiefly ceremonial. He sings the Gospel at High Mass and assists the celebrant generally. He can also administer Holy Communion and in cases of necessity he can be empowered to baptize solemnly.

The Vatican Radio pointed out that recent papal teachings on the diaconate, considered as an ecclesiastical function independent of the priesthood, had been carefully studied by the Commission, "which respects tradition, but is aware of the serious difficulties encountered by many priests overburdened with pastoral cares, above all the missionaries."

"It has therefore," the station added, "made close examination of those proposals that may offer the clergy properly-trained assistants."

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.

'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."

"Every one of the 14 Orthodox priests accepted into our diocese as Catholic priests," said the Bishop, "manifested that they were drawn by the firm and unco-promising strength of the Catholic Church in her teaching of Christ's truth. We have no record of a single one stating that he was drawn to the Catholic Church because it was less exacting."

On the final day (Jan. 25) of the Octave observance Father Nicholas J. Riddell, O.C.D., of the Discaled 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."

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

SEND FOR AIR FRANCE PILGRIMAGE BOOK



See the world's great shrines... easily and economically... on Air France. Visit Lourdes, Fatima, Rome, the Holy Land... at low Economy Jet Fares. Air France's Catholic program for 1962 offers you a wide variety of attractive tour pilgrimages. Each tour is under the leadership of a well-known and experienced spiritual director. The tour's all-inclusive price covers round-trip fare from New York, meals, sightseeing, hotels—even tips! And the prices are designed to fit every budget. Convenient guaranteed departures by Boeing Intercontinental Jet are set for dates between April and December. Make 1962 the year you visit the famous shrines of Christendom. Send right now for your colorized Air France Tour Book.

AIR-FRANCE
Air France, Dept. 1742-2
683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.
Please send me, at no cost or obligation, your Air France Tour Book, featuring the 1962 Pilgrimage Program.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Daily Travel Agent _____

Sweeping Reductions on Fashion-Smart DYED MUSKRAT

★ JACKETS
Top quality Northern dyed Muskrat Backs **\$165** fed. tax inc.

★ COATS
Top quality Northern dyed Muskrat Backs **\$225** fed. tax inc.

Dyed Sheared Muskrat Flank Coats and Jackets also reduced

Shop Tues., Thurs. till 9 Convenient Payments, No Carrying Charge

BERNARD WELLD INC

ROCHESTER'S LARGEST EXCLUSIVE FURRIER—EUCLID AT ATLAS ST.

NORTH SOUTH EVERYWHERE

you're in fashion in our Handmacher Weathervanes

25.95

Typical of Handmacher's flair for fine tailoring, for perfect fit are these good-looking suits for traveling south now, for springtime later! The fabric is a crisp, wrinkle-shedding blend of rayon and acetate, smart under winter's wraps, enroute or wherever the sun shines. Just three shown from our collection in navy, blue, fawn, green or black. Misses' and proportioned half sizes in the group. Sibley's Career Suit Shop, Second Floor, Irondequoit, Eastway, Southtown, Newark.