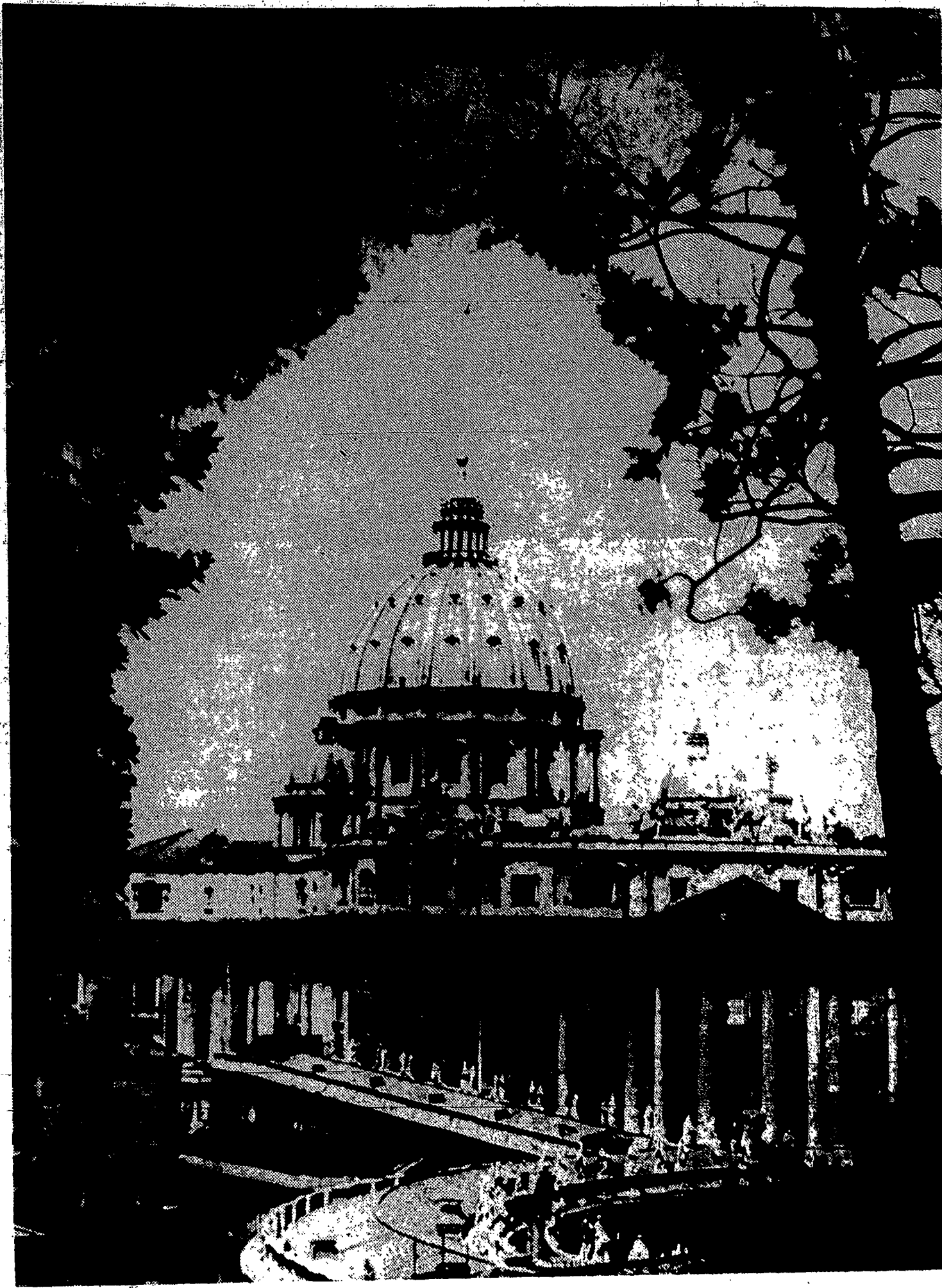


World, Church Await Council

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

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Michelangelo's famous dome caps St. Peter's at the Vatican, largest church in Christendom. Here nearly 3000 Catholic bishops will meet with Pope John for the twenty-first ecumenical Council. Sessions begin October 11 in the vast edifice which has been changed into one of the world's largest parliament chambers.



Bishop Kearney will be accompanied at the Vatican Council by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Monsignor John E. Maney and Monsignor Richard Burns. All four are now enroute to Rome.

Bishop McQuaid At 1870 Council

The Rochester Diocese was represented at only one previous ecumenical Council, the First Vatican Council of 1870.

Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, Rochester's first bishop, attended the sessions, most of which were held in the winter months.

Monsignor John F. Goggin, rector emeritus at St. Bernard's Seminary, recalls that Bishop McQuaid described to him the hardships he endured at the then unheated North American College in Rome where all U.S. bishops were housed at that time.

Water froze in the wash basins, and Bishop McQuaid's arthritis was aggravated so badly he suffered from it the rest of his life.

He finally moved to a hotel when a doctor told him he faced certain pneumonia if he didn't find a heated room in which to study and sleep.

Bells To Ring October 11th

Church bells throughout the Rochester Diocese will ring summons to prayer Thursday morning, October 11, at 11 a.m., the day the ecumenical Council opens in Rome.

Bishop Kearney has asked that prayers be said in the Holy Spirit for His divine guidance of the Council and to St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church.

Dispensation October 12th

Bishop Kearney has granted a dispensation from the law of abstinence for Friday, October 12, Columbus Day.

Catholics in the Rochester Diocese may, therefore, eat meat as on any other day.

Apostles Held First Council

The ecumenical Council of the world's Catholic bishops soon to open at the Vatican — like twenty previous such Councils — is rooted in an event recorded in the Bible.

The first Christians were confronted with a problem which threatened to divide the Church a scant two decades after it was founded. The problem — how do people who aren't Jews become Christians

St. Peter soon after Pentecost baptized the Roman centurion Cornelius and other Gentile (non-Jewish) converts to the new faith but the vast bulk of Church members were Jews who continued their old religious customs along with the rites of the young Church.

The turmoil, as recorded by St. Luke in the fifteenth chapter of his Acts of the Apostles, fifth book of the New Testament, began at Antioch in about the year 50.

St. Paul and Barnabas admitted many Gentiles to the sacraments but older members of the Church told the newcomers, "You cannot be saved without being circumcised according to the tradition of Moses."

Paul, Barnabas and other delegates were sent to Jerusalem where they again were informed Gentile converts "must be circumcised and also told to observe the Law of Moses."

This "Law of Moses" included, in their opinion, all the technical dietary and ritual rules the rigorous Pharisees imposed as the "official interpretation" of Scripture.

THE APOSTLES and other officials of the Church then had a meeting to look into this matter.

After what apparently was a noisy debate, St. Peter voiced his opinion: "Brethren, you know well enough how from early days it has been God's choice that the Gentiles should hear the message of the gospel from my lips and so learn to believe."

"God, who can read men's hearts, has assured them of His favor by giving the Holy Spirit to them as to us. He would not make any difference between us and them; He had removed all the uncleanness from their hearts when He gave them faith."

"How is it, then, that you would now call God in question

by putting a yoke on the necks of the disciples such as we and our fathers have been too weak to bear? It is by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we hope to be saved, and they no less."

Then the whole assembly attentively heard Paul and Barnabas describe their successful preaching in Antioch. St. James, first bishop of Jerusalem, then told the group:

"Simon has told us, how for the first time God has looked with favor on the Gentiles and chosen from among them a people dedicated to His name. This is in agreement with the words of the prophets... God has known from all eternity what He does today. And so I give my voice for sparing the consciences of those Gentiles who have found their way to God."

The whole assembly then wrote a letter to the Antioch Christians. "It is the Holy Spirit's pleasure and ours that no burden should be laid upon you beyond these (commandments of God) which cannot be avoided."

This first council of the Church set a pattern of assembling the bishops, successors to the apostles, when major decisions had to be made.

Pope Attends Parish Novena

Rome — (NC) — Pope John XXIII personally took part in the novena in honor of the Holy Ghost in a Rome parish church in preparation for the coming ecumenical council.

The novena is running from September 21 to 29 in all Rome churches. The Pope was present at novena ceremonies (Sept. 23) at the Church of Christ the King. A notice in the Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano, stated the Pontiff chose that church because of its title and its association with the late Pope Pius XI, as well as the fact that it is staffed by priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose founder Pope John knew as a young man.

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Vicar General

Rt. Rev. Msgr. James C. McAniff will administer the Rochester Diocese while Bishop Kearney is at the Vatican ecumenical Council. Monsignor McAniff, Vicar General of the Diocese, is also pastor of St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester.

Words You'll Want To Know

Ecumenical — from a Greek word meaning worldwide.

Second Vatican Council — official title of the ecumenical Council about to open in Rome.

Council Father — Any prelate who has a right to vote on the Council's topics.

Canon Law — The sum total of laws and regulations made by the Catholic Church. A canonist is an expert in canon law.

Theology — The Church's teachings about God. A theologian is an expert on this subject.

Liturgical Movement — A trend in the Catholic Church to have lay people take a more active part in the Church's ritual way of worship.

Ecumenical Movement — A trend in Christian denominations to overcome antagonisms and work toward unity.

Curia — The administrative complex of Vatican tribunals, commissions, secretariats which help the Pope in the government of the Church.

World Council of Churches — A coordinating agency of nearly 200 Protestant and Orthodox churches.

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"To extend the frontiers of Christian love" — that is the objective Pope John has set for the ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church scheduled to begin in Rome Thursday, October 11.

The Church in Council steps toward this high ideal facing these hazards:

Mighty forces are mustered against it.

Its strength is sapped by widespread internal apathy.

Most of the world considers the Church irrelevant.

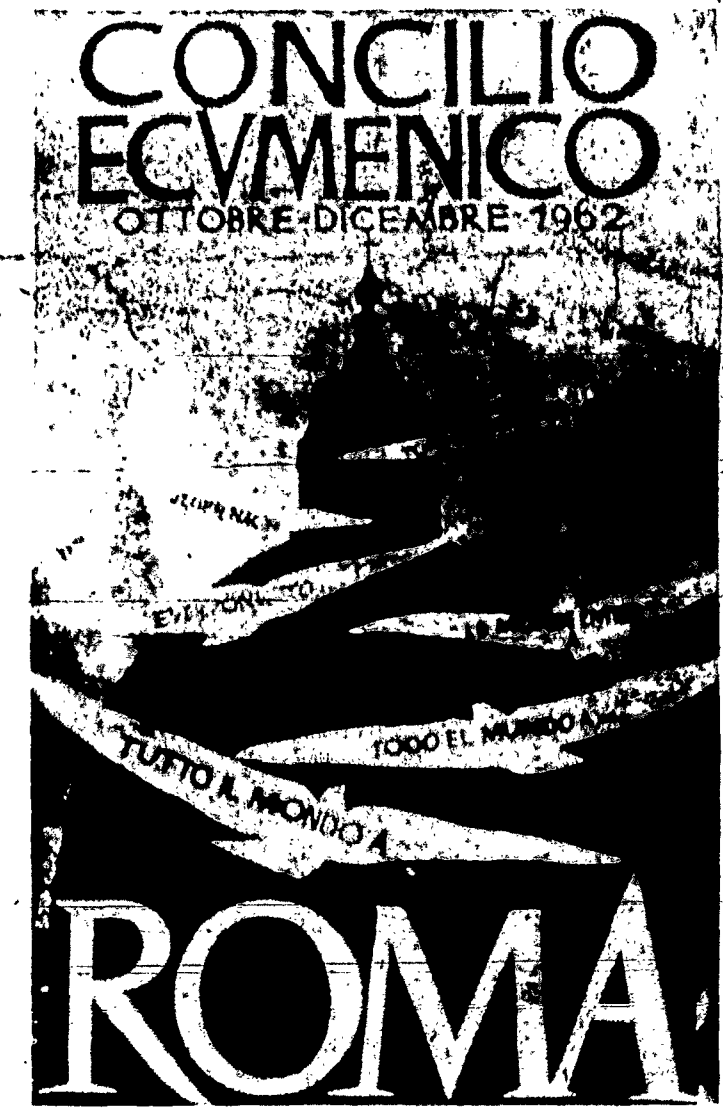
But the Church stands its ground and the world watches.

Pope John has frequently cited the need for the Church's "aggiornamento" — bringing it up to date. He has said the Church must be thrust into today's world with an answer and a convincing message of hope for the millions who are poor and frightened and without faith.

Hindered by its enemies; hobbled by its own members — how can the Church achieve the goal its Founder and His Vicar have given it?

THE CHURCH today relies not just on the genius of so many of its members. Nor does the weakness of so many other members destroy its confidence. The Church remembers a divine assurance: "Behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world."

But this promise does not abolish the need for the Church to chart its own course — a deep, far journey which the course which can take it quiet through quiet backwaters where courage, not only prudence,



Posters like this one tell Romans of Council which will draw prelates from all over the world to the Eternal City.

It will have little trouble and likewise little progress or it can face the gales of current events and, as its Master once commanded, "launch into the sea" for a journey which the course which can take it quiet through quiet backwaters where courage, not only prudence,

initially, not just routine repetition. Pope John has decided against the backwater course.

"TO EXTEND the frontiers of Christian love" the Pontiff lists four specific steps —

- Growth of the Catholic Church.
- Renewal of the spirit of the gospel in the hearts of all people.
- Adjustment of Church regulations to the exigencies of modern-day living and
- Religious unity — an end to the fragmented condition of Christianity.

Since 1959, when the Pope first announced his plan to convene a Council, he has set up a vast preparatory program to speed the work of the bishops when they meet at the Vatican.

Each bishop has received 119 booklets outlining in 2,060 pages the proposals made by more than 1000 preparatory workers who put in more than 20,000 man-hours in the past three years.

The booklets present 87 projects as the basic agenda of the Council.

All in one way or another put emphasis on the Church's need to meet conditions in a world which has changed drastically in the past half century — how should the Church evaluate in Christian terms the scientific, technical, political, social and economic revolutions of this era?

A foremost issue which the Council must consider is the moral factor involved in nuclear war and in the production of weapons which make such war possible.

And equally urgent is what can the Church do in the face of the rampant expansion of Communist power?

Chairmen of the Council's 22 commissions and decision are 22 commissions. Chief subjects each is expected to propose are as follows:

The Theological Commission

While the Council is expected to concern itself less with doctrinal matters than the internal renewal resulting from disciplinary decrees; a number of items on the agenda come within the purview of the Theological Commission.

Further refinement of Church teaching on the harmony between faith, reason and authority is indicated by the great scientific advances of this century, as well as the expanding role of the state in the life of the individual.

Moral practices in modern society also come within the scope of the Theological Commission. These practices were dealt with in considerable detail in the 1961 statement of the bishops of the U.S., "Unchanging Duty in a Changing World."

A new formula for the profession of faith — a solemn expression required of key church officials — also is under consideration.

While the Council is expected to consider redefining truths pertaining to the faith, it also

(Continued on page 2)

Audiences Canceled

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has canceled all private and special group audiences until further notice beginning October 1 because of the demands of the coming ecumenical council.

Only the weekly general audience and private audiences of a special or official nature will be held, according to an announcement issued by the Papal Master of Chambers.

The general audiences, the announcement said, will generally continue to take place on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Apostolic Palace. The audience scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, the eve of the council, has been canceled, however, and there will also be variations in the weekly audience schedule in accordance with the demands of council activities.

LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION 65,797