

Vatican City, a 108 acre independent enclave in the city of Rome, is administrative center of the Catholic Church. The tiny nation has its own army, postal system and coinage. Most of its 1000 citizens live in "for-

eign" territory — in Rome or the suburbs. Pope John lives in the building adjacent to the huge circular piazza in front of St. Peter's basilica, largest church in Christendom.

Updating Faith for Today's Needs

(Continued from page 2)

the foot of the altar which are not of ancient lineage.

The executive secretary of the Liturgical Conference in Washington, D.C., John Manning, has expressed three basic principles of liturgical reform. These are clarity of rite, local language and local adaptation.

Among changes suggested are singing of popular hymns by the congregation, revision of the gospel and epistle, with readings in the vernacular by a deacon, subdeacon, ordained lector or a layman facing the people. Another suggestion would turn the celebrant to face the people during the main part (canon) of the Mass. Still another is more extensive use of Bible readings. Since the present system uses a cycle completed every year, many important scriptural passages are not included in the Mass. This might be remedied by having a cycle that would be completed only every two or three years.

Some liturgists have suggested that those parts of the Mass the people recite may well be in their own language, Latin being retained for the rest.

Local adaptation has been suggested for music, ceremonies, saints invoked and use of color. For many Asians white, our color of joy, signifies mourning and grief.

Local custom creates other problems. In India it is customary to remove the shoes on entering, but the priest must wear shoes at Mass. Chinese expect a headress or hat of some kind, but the priest must keep his head uncovered.

The council will also discuss sacraments, which bear some resemblance to sacraments. They are prayers, actions and things blessed by the Church to bring spiritual benefits, and include use of holy water, candles, palms, and actions such as the sign of the cross.

Studies and Seminaries

Problems relating to the education and spiritual training of seminarians have been submitted by this commission.

Father H. A. Reinhold, author of *Bringing the Mass to the People*, writes that "Future priests should be helped to gain a sympathetic awareness of the present and its problems, and competent laymen should be fully utilized in various areas of instruction."

The disabilities resulting from the lack of sufficiently trained professors and teachers for seminaries is also being brought to the attention of the council.

The status of Catholic universities provides another broad area of examination. To cite one instance, Augustin Cardinal Bea, president of the Secretariate for Promoting Christian Unity, has said that there are many opportunities for a more active dialogue with Protestant and Orthodox teachers and students at the university level.

Eastern Churches

Eastern churches are distinguished according as they do or do not recognize the primacy of the Pope. The former are called "Eastern Rite Catholics" and the latter, "Eastern Orthodox."

While Eastern Rite Catholics are fully associated with the Holy See in all essentials of doctrine, moral precepts, and worship, they differ from Latin rite members in liturgy, ceremonies, laws and customs. The east-west split in the Roman empire resulting from geographical political and cultural forces has brought about their similar division in the church.

Projects submitted by this commission include revision of laws peculiar to these rites, the various missionary orders, and power of Eastern rite bishops, the appointment of native bishops closing up gaps between the ops in mission countries.

liturgical calendars of eastern and Latin rites, and reform of the Gregorian calendar adopted in 1582.

Missions

The spread of atheistic communism and the rise of new states in Asia and Africa may lead to a complete reexamination of the whole mission program of the Church.

The Council is being asked to consider ways of reaching people in mission areas who are indifferent or even hostile to the faith. Other concerns are the need for special courses in seminaries on modern problems in mission lands: closer cooperation between lay groups which recruit funds and personnel for laws peculiar to these rites, the various missionary orders; and the appointment of native bishops closing up gaps between the ops in mission countries.

The Laity

Observers feel that definition of the rights and duties of the laity would include an evaluation of the different forms of the lay apostolate, on the levels of both principle and organization.

United States layman, Donald J. Thorman, author of the recently published book *The Emerging Layman*, states that:

"... many authorities seem to agree that the layman has at least two roles. One is within the church, to help the priest do his job; a ready example is the work of laymen as catechists helping the priest instruct in the faith. The other is to work directly on the temporal order, on civil society, to make it more Christian, and to conform it to basic principles of decency and justice. . . . This special concern with the world is at the core of the layman's special mission to the world."

Communications

The problems of press, radio, TV, motion pictures and other communications media are contained in six booklets submitted by this secretariat. Implicit in this is recognition of the tremendous increase in the power of means of diffusing information and thereby influencing public opinion.

Christian Unity

While actual unity is a long-range goal beyond the scope of the council, definite steps toward unity with the Eastern Orthodox and with Protestantism are to be considered.

Cardinal Bea, president of this secretariat, has spoken at length on the subject. He has set forth as some obstacles to unity "an immense accumulation of misinterpretation, of re-

sentment and of misunderstanding between separated Christians . . . bitter historical memories that provoke mutual suspicion and aversion . . . widespread ignorance of one another's religious tenets and . . . the unexemplary life of many Catholics."

He qualifies the council's approach to the long-range problem: "To prepare for an eventual union, God willing, by bettering relations between Catholics and Non-Catholics. We hope that it will pave the way toward greater union by resolving certain problems that presently impede church unity. In other words, the church must first strive to revitalize its own inner life so that it can manifest to our separated brothers an even clearer image of Christianity according to the gospel."

Three means of promoting unity, says Cardinal Bea, are available to all: constant prayer for fellow Christians everywhere, the daily offering of sufferings and hardships for the intention of unity, and development toward our separated brethren of an attitude of sincere Christian charity.

He says that the council may encourage ecumenical discussions and collaboration in civic and social life. "Think of what a wonderful thing it would be if Christians of all confessions would work in close harmony for international peace; for the achievement of human rights of minority groups and racial groups; for disarmament, and for the social problems of developing nations."

Cardinal Bea has stated that the secretariat has presented a proposal on the question of religious liberty. He defines religious liberty as "positively recognizing a man's right to follow the dictates of his own conscience in matters of religion and . . . recognition of the duties of civil society (the state) to respect and protect in practice the citizen's inalienable right to religious liberty."

Radio, TV Plan Wide Coverage of Council

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican announced that the public opening ceremonies of the Second Vatican Council on Oct. 11 will receive wide radio and television coverage in both the Western and Eastern hemispheres.

Numerous radio stations in Europe, as well as the Vatican Radio, will broadcast the solemn opening events at 8:30 a.m. European time, (2:30 a.m. EST).

The ceremonies also will be televised by the Eurovision network and later the same day they will be shown on the American continent via Telstar, the communications satellite.

These public opening events will include a procession of the Fathers of the Council through St. Peter's Square to the main entrance of the basilica where sessions will be held, and a Pontifical Mass.



Workmen rush last minute projects in St. Peter's at the Vatican to accommodate more than 2500 cardinals, patriarchs and bishops who will attend Council sessions in Rome's great mother church of Catholicism.

East German Prelates To Attend Council

Cologne — (NC) — German bishops living behind the Iron Curtain are "almost certain" to attend the coming ecumenical council at the Vatican.

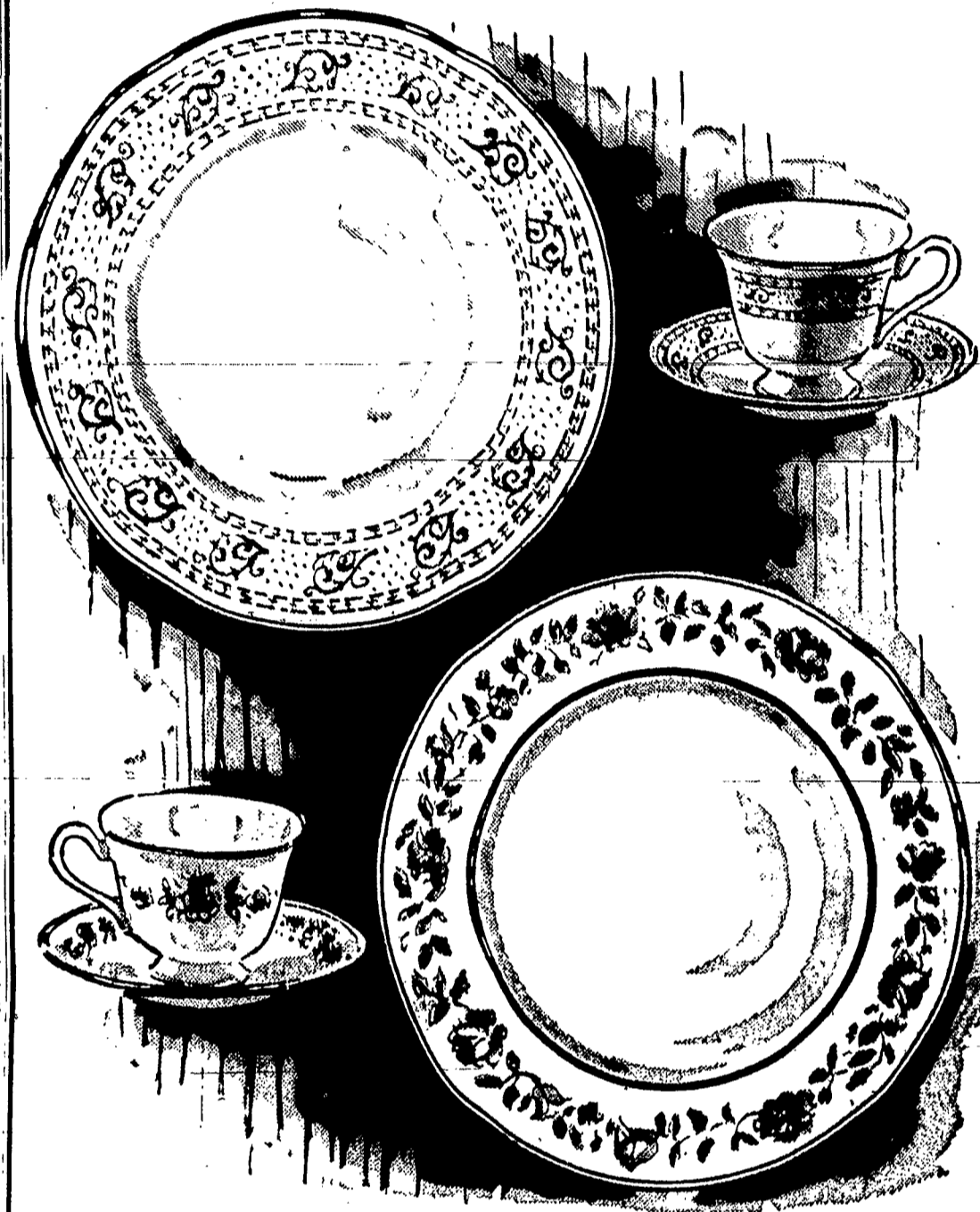
This was announced here by Cardinal Frings of Cologne and chairman of the German Bishops' Conference.

The Cardinal said the eight bishops in communist-ruled East Germany were given a choice of four opportunities to leave the Soviet Zone. Red authorities told them they could attend the August national convention of German Catholics (Katholikentag) in Hanover in West Germany, take part in the annual meeting of the German Hierarchy (August 27 to 30) in Fulda in West Germany, accept invitations to attend Marian celebrations at the Polish national shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, or go to Rome for the council.



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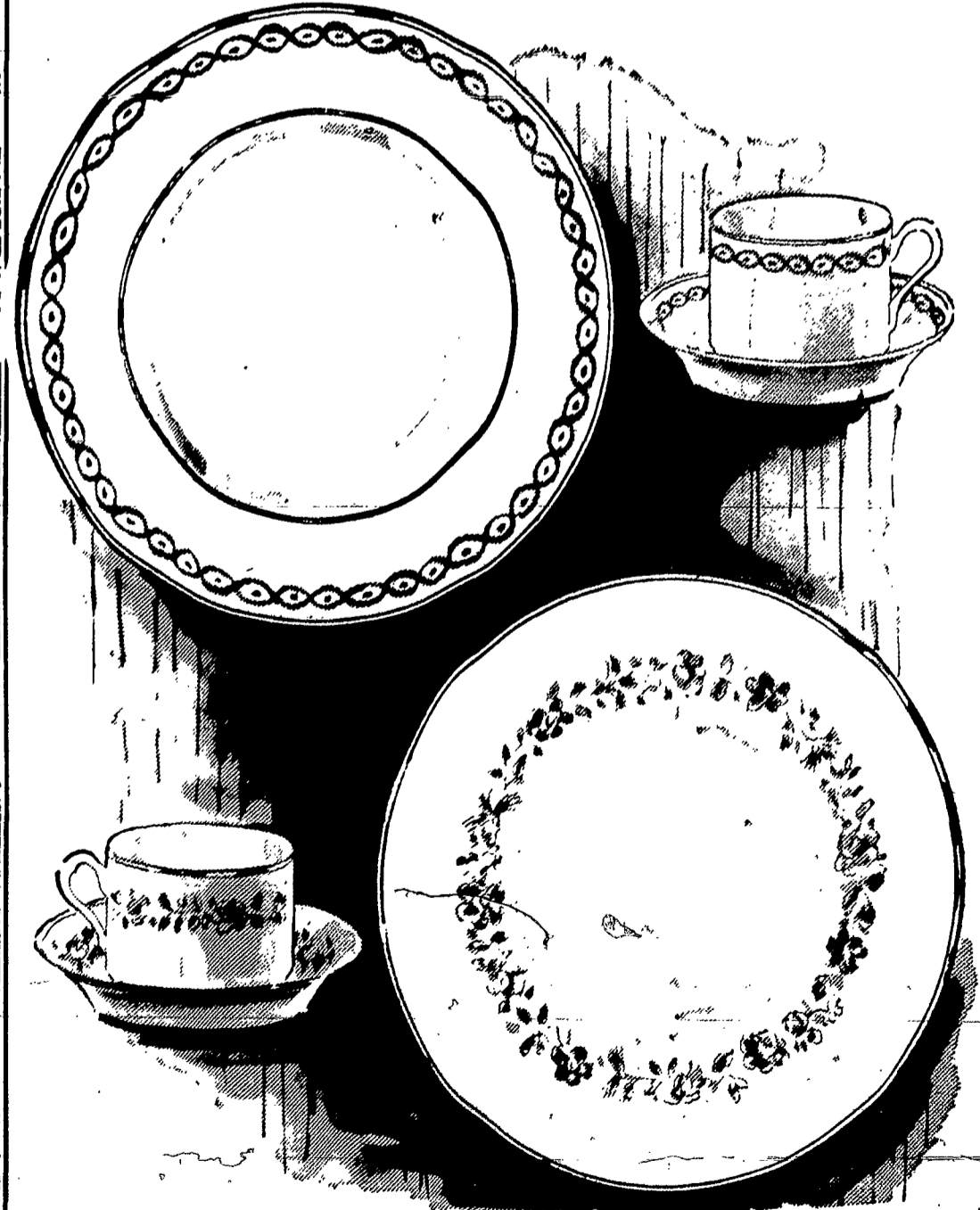
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