

Day of Prayer for Council

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will observe Sunday, October 7, as a day of special supplication for the success of the ecumenical Council of the world's Catholic bishops scheduled to open in Rome Thursday, October 11.

Bishop Kearney asked for the day of prayer in a letter to pastors written on the eve of his departure for Rome.

A letter from the Bishop will also be read to the people at all Masses in parish churches explaining the purposes and hopes of Pope John in summoning the Council.

Priests and people will then say together a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Text of the prayer is printed to the right of this article. You are advised to clip it out and take it to church with you this Sunday.

Both Bishop Kearney and Bishop Casey were en route to Rome this week across the storm-tossed Atlantic Ocean. They are expected to arrive in the Eternal City this weekend. With them are Monsignor John E. Maney and Monsignor Richard K. Burns.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Following is the text of the prayer by Pope John XXIII for the success of the ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church.



Divine Spirit, grant that abundant fruit may come from this Council; may the light and the strength of the Gospel be diffused more deeply and more widely throughout human society; may the Catholic religion and the diligent work of the missions flourish with increased vigor; and may the happy result be a fuller knowledge of the teaching of the Church and a salutary progress in Christian morality.



St. Peter's, closed until Oct. 11, while workmen change Church to vast Council hall.

The Second Vatican Council

The Church's Response To World's Challenges

In the early years of the Church before the Council of Jerusalem, the Apostles were arrested. The charge: disturbing the peace by preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The court was of a mind to kill them when Gamaliel, a lawyer and a man held in high esteem, stood up to defend the Apostles. He told the court about the leaders of other rebellions and how quickly they had been overthrown.

"My advice," he concluded, "is to have nothing to do with these men; let them be. If this is man's design or man's undertaking, it will be overthrown; if it is God's, you will have no power to overthrow it. You would not be found fighting against God." And they fell in with his opinion and, after scourging the Apostles, let them go. (Acts of the Apostles, 5, 38-40).

On the eve of the great Council in Rome, we do well to consider the words of Gamaliel: "If it is God's design, you will have no power to overthrow it." During 1900 years, countless are the emperors and kings, the prelates and the presidents, the generals and the tyrants who have dashed their heads against the Rock of Peter and have perished, without exception. Their universal fate bears out the medieval proverb: "Whoever strikes at the Pope dies."

Very shortly, God willing, we shall stand in St. Peter's and lift up our eyes to the greatest dome ever thrown against the vault of heaven's blue and see there, inscribed in gigantic letters of gold, the words spoken by Christ to the Fisherman: "Thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16, 8).

Beneath the dome of Michelangelo will sit the 263rd successor of Peter, enthroned above Peter's tomb. Around the Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, will be gathered the successors of the Apostolic College, the Catholic bishops of the world. At the opening session of the Second Vatican Council they will march in a procession, at once the most magnificent and perhaps, books may say of it, the most significant in history.

The pageantry of the opening session will soon be a memory and the Council will get down to the business at hand. Why was it called? What will it do?

To answer these questions, we must first know what the Catholic Church is. The Church is the continuation of Christ's work in the world; it is the congregation of the faithful, the People of God, founded by Jesus Christ and organized under a hierarchy of bishops to advance the reign of God and the salvation of man.

Like Christ, the Catholic Church is both divine and human. Although the Church is divine in its teaching and essential holiness and has Christ's guarantee that it

This is the text of the sermon given by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Sacred Heart Cathedral rector, on Sunday, Sept. 23, prior to his departure for Rome and the ecumenical Council of the world's Catholic bishops.

will continue until the end of time ("If it is God's design, you will have no power to overthrow it"), this Church of ours is also human. It has us as its members, human beings, prone to many weaknesses.

It is in this human aspect of the Church that restoration is needed. From time to time it is necessary to renew discipline, to rekindle zeal, to adopt new methods of winning souls for Christ. The Second Vatican Council will therefore be a great spiritual awakening, the response of the Church to the challenges of the world and the times in which She lives. It will be also an evidence of that internal growth which must be hers until the end of time.

The essential aim of the Council is not reform but rather restoration, that is, the return of the Church to the spirit of the Gospels as shown in the apostolic enthusiasm of the early Christians. "The Council," said Pope John, "aims at restoring to full splendor the simple and pure lines that the face of the Church of Jesus had at its birth, presenting it as its Divine Founder made it."

As the Holy Father and the Bishops pursue this tremendous objective in the months ahead, follow their progress in your Catholic newspaper.

We shall not speculate here on the specific topics to be considered by the Council. Its decisions will be made known to you at the proper time. Let us say, however, that those who expect sensational headlines or startling changes in doctrine will be disappointed.

The essential doctrines cannot be changed because they are divine. Very recently, Pope John in an address to a group of architects, told them that the Council will not deal with sensational formulae or new doctrine. "Instead," he said, "the Council proposes to build a new edifice on the foundations laid in the course of the Church's history."

WHAT IS YOUR role in the Council? Take as your model the Pope himself. Just two weeks ago Our Holy Father went into strict seclusion for eight days of prayer and meditation to prepare himself for the crucial days ahead. During the Council, you are not expected to be passive observers.

You are the Church, as well as the Pope and the bishops. You are a living part of the Church which is seeking renewal and restoration. Yours is the responsibility of seeking first that renewal and meditation within yourselves; otherwise God could call you to account for your

apathy at this critical moment of history.

More depends upon this Council than you can possibly imagine. It could well shape the course of the Church for the next century. Pray hard that it may have a favorable outcome. Say each day the prayer of Pope John for the success of the Council. Pray daily to the Holy Spirit as the Apostles did before Pentecost. Frequent confession and Holy Communion are in order, as are fasting and penance.

Whatever your means of self-purification, make them spring from the heart and be constant. You are the Church on the eve of a new Pentecost. It is you who need renewal.

Pope Visits Two Shrines; Other Late Details

A flood of details was reported by Vatican officials this week as last minute preparations were made for the ecumenical Council to begin October 11.

Pope John, in a surprise trip to two of Italy's most famous shrines, visited Loreto and Assisi yesterday to pray for the Council's success.

His one-day, 400 mile train journey took him to the Loreto shrine where pilgrims venerate what is said to be the house of the Holy Family at Nazareth brought by angels in the thirteenth century to Italy.

The Pontiff next went to the shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, a thirteenth century saint, famed for his spirit of poverty.

Pope John also authorized priests throughout the world to celebrate Mass at any time after midnight on Oct. 11, opening date of the Council, to allow Catholics to attend Mass at the same time sessions begin at the Vatican — 3 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

The Vatican also announced that nearly 200 experts in subjects to be discussed at the Council have been named as special advisers for the bishops. Ten of the 195 men named are Americans and include Monsignor Joseph C. Fenton of the Catholic University, Washington, who taught theology at St. Bernard's Seminary from 1935 to 1938.

Kremlin's Answer to Council

Anti-Church Drive Pushed

Moscow — (RNS) — A new, intensified Soviet campaign against religion, — apparently timed to coincide with the opening of the Second Vatican Council — was marked by sharp criticism here of the "sluggish" pace at which programs of atheistic indoctrination have been conducted in the U.S.S.R.

The rebuke came from Pravda, the leading Communist Party newspaper, which charged that "atheistic education is being carried out unsystematically, lackadaisically and without impact on the hardcore of religious believers."

The paper's reprimand took the form of a two-column front page editorial captioned, "The Militant Aspect of Ideological Work." It appeared in the wake of another editorial in Science and Religion, one of the top anti-religious organs, which had its own explanation of the "shortcomings" of the atheistic campaign. This, it stated, consisted in concentrating on criticizing the personal lives of individual clergymen instead of exposing "the harmful essence of religion itself."

Calling attention to resolutions in which the 22nd Communist Party Congress, held in Moscow last October, demanded all-out efforts against "religious superstition," Pravda said "all party organizations and ideological establishments must carry out scientific atheistic propaganda systematically, purposefully, patiently and convincingly, exposing the groundlessness of religious beliefs."

The paper stressed that any attempt to establish a compatibility between communism and religion must be opposed.

"In the press and radio, in lectures and talks," it urged, "religious morality and the attempts of clergymen to adapt themselves to the demands of the times must be exposed and the incompatibility of scientific communism with religion must be demonstrated so that all Soviet people can rid themselves of the yoke of religious prejudices and become active creators of the brightest and most just society on earth — communism."

As an example, it pointed to the Baltic Republics where,

said, Roman Catholics and Protestants are still strong in their beliefs despite the anti-religious programs conducted there.

ALSO JOINING in what promises to be a sustained barrage against religion as the time for the Second Vatican Council approached was Izvestia, a highly influential daily edited by Alexey Adzhubey, son-in-law of Premier Khrushchev.

The paper published a four-column article by a U. Filonovich who cited Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, as "one of those bourgeois publications" which, he said, falsely claim that religion continues to exist in Russia.

The writer asserted that the real attitude of the people was revealed in numerous letters to Soviet publications complaining of the "machinations and bad morals of the clergy." He admitted that he could not guarantee the truth of all the letters, but said "they are too numerous to be all wrong."

JFK Tells Pope John

Council Renews World's Courage

Renewal of Love, Hope for Peace

The World can now face its "staggering problems" with "renewed confidence and courage," President Kennedy told Pope John in a letter made public at the White House today.

Reason for the new hope is the "extraordinarily important Council" called by the Pontiff to open at the Vatican Thursday, October 11.

The President said "we earnestly hope and pray that the Council will fulfill the Pope's fondest hopes and dreams for a worldwide renewal of fellowship and love."

Mr. Kennedy said Pope John's announcement that the Council will seek solutions for the "grave economic and social problems which daily press upon suffering humanity" has given fresh confidence to people all over the world.

The President's letter was dated Sept. 27. The Council — a meeting of the world's Catholic bishops — will begin in Rome next Thursday, Oct. 11. Pope John announced his intention to convoke such a Council soon after his election to the papacy in 1958.

Following is the complete text of President Kennedy's personal letter to the Pope as released by NCWC News Service:

Your Holiness:

It is difficult to realize that three years have elapsed since Your Holiness announced that you planned to convene an extraordinary council of the Catholic Church — the first in almost a hundred years. During these three fateful years, millions of my fellow citizens in the United States, including many who do not belong to the Catholic Church, have followed with lively and sympathetic interest the work of the various preparatory commissions appointed by Your Holiness to draw up the agenda for this extraordinarily important council.

They have also read, with particular interest and with genuine admiration for your all-embracing concern for the welfare of humanity, the several inspiring statements issued by Your Holiness on the background and purposes of the council.

In the face of staggering problems which, from the human point of view, seem at times to be almost insoluble, people all over the world have found reason for renewed confidence and courage in the welcome thought that the Fathers of the council, as Your Holiness indicated in your radio message of September 11, will give special attention to the grave economic and social problems which daily press upon suffering humanity in almost all parts of the world but, more particularly, in the economically underdeveloped nations.

It is very heartening to know that the council, in the words of Your Holiness, will strive to deepen the fellowship and love which are "the natural needs of man" and "are imposed on the Christian as rules for his relationship between man and man."

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and between people and people."

We hope that the council will be able to present in clear and persuasive language effective solutions to the many problems confronting all of us and, more specifically, that its decisions will significantly advance the cause of international peace and understanding.

In closing, may I respectfully extend to Your Holiness my warmest personal greetings and best wishes and those of Mrs. Kennedy, who will always cherish the memory of her audience with Your Holiness last March.

On the eve of the council, we earnestly hope and pray that God will continue to bless you with vigorous health and will give you the great joy and satisfaction of seeing the council fulfill all of your fondest hopes and dreams for a worldwide renewal of fellowship and love and for the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Four Magazines Feature Church

Four of the nation's most widely circulated magazines have recently featured the Catholic Church in major articles—Time in its Oct. 5 issue has an extensive survey on "The Condition of Catholicism" — a story about the ecumenical Council — with a cover picture of Pope John. The Saturday Evening Post, Oct. 6 issue, has a picture story on "The Peasant who Became a Pope."

The Atlantic Monthly devoted a special supplement in its August number to "The Roman Catholic Church in America" which included twelve articles by both Catholics and writers of other religious groups.

Look magazine has a nine page picture story in its Oct. 9 issue on "The Catholic Church in Latin America."

Electric Shavers: Sunbeam, Remington, Schick, Free Trial, William E. Thorne, Jeweler, 315 Main St. East.—Adv.

Keating Plan Advances

Equal Aid Share For Teachers

Parochial school teachers may soon share equally with public school teachers in a loan "forgiveness" program passed by the U.S. Senate Saturday, Sept. 29.

The equal share legislation was sponsored by Senator Kenneth B. Keating of Rochester and Vermont Senator Winston L. Prouty.

The proposal now must pass the House of Representatives and win President Kennedy's approval before it is enacted into law.

PRESENT legislation allows up to 50 per cent forgiveness of college loans to those who teach in public schools only. Exclusion of those who teach in parochial schools has been widely branded as "discriminatory."

Senator Keating said the Senate-approved bill aims to end this discrimination. He has termed revision of the existing law as "long overdue."

OTHER developments in efforts to extend government aid to education this week included:

The House unexpectedly scuttled legislation which would have given federal funds to both public and private colleges for buildings, laboratories, classroom facilities and scholarship aid to students. The defeat may doom all federal aid to education legislation for a long time to come.

The defeat exposed a sharp reversal of the House's attitude. Earlier this year, the House went on record 317 to 79 in favor of the bill but voted to hold it to consider Senate proposed amendments. The thumping defeat this past week is blamed on a telegram sent all

House members by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs which charged "sectarian" colleges would benefit from the plan, an alleged constitutional violation.

Representative Edith Green of Oregon, in a speech on the House floor, named 70 Baptist-related colleges in 28 states which have already received more than \$49,000,000 under existing federal aid programs — the National Defense Education Act, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health and the Atomic Energy Commission.

The National Education Association (NEA) and the National Council of Parents and Teachers also played an important role in pressuring House members to sink the college aid proposal.

IN ANOTHER aspect of this nationally debated topic, George E. Reed, associate director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference legal department, said opponents of aid to Catholic school pupils have erected a "wall of separation" between the first and fourteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

He claims the "public purpose" mentioned in the fourteenth amendment justifies aid to schools regardless of their sectarian affiliation. "He cites numerous Supreme Court rulings which, he says, support his contention. He made his claim in an article published in the Catholic Lawyer magazine of St. John's University, Brooklyn.

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