

Program Launched To Benefit Workers

Madrid — (RNS) — A new agency known as the Bishops' Commission for a Social Apostolate has been formed by the Spanish hierarchy with the approval of the Vatican, it was announced here.

Formally organized at a recent conference of the country's eleven metropolitan archbishops, the new body has been asked to draft as soon as possible a general plan for a social apostolate and particularly for an apostolate among workers.

Heading the Commission is José Maria Cardinal Bueno y Monreal, Archbishop of Seville, who attracted national attention last March when he issued a pastoral letter in which he sharply criticized the lack of "social conscience" in those Spanish social and economic leaders who "remain deaf to the demands of Christian charity" for improvement of workers' living conditions.

The hierarchy also organized or reformed a number of other commissions in various fields, including education, migration, social welfare, economic and re-

ligious affairs, and public morality. Commenting on the new bodies, Ecclesia, organ of Spanish Catholic Action, said they could be compared with the ministries of the civil administration.

Progress Has Drawbacks

Bombay — (RNS) — Concern over the spiritual needs of Indian Catholics during the country's rapid change to industrialization was voiced here in a report published after the annual meeting of the Standing Committee of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India.

The report, which presents a brief but comprehensive picture of the Church in relation to the changing pattern of social and economic conditions in India, noted that huge slums are developing in areas which are becoming industrialized.



AUTUMN EXCERPTS is the theme for the annual Mission Dance at Nazareth College Oct. 13 from 9 p.m. till midnight. Maureen McArdle and Rosemary Faso, co-chairmen, look at a poster for the dance with Pat Kulaga, mission prefect.

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Aid Share Asked for All Schools

Perth — (RNS) — The Anglican and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Perth made a joint appeal here to the Province of Western Australia for state aid to church-related schools.

Archbishop Robert W. H. Moline, who is also Anglican Metropolitan of Western Australia, and Archbishop Redmond Prendiville of the Catholic archdiocese addressed their plea to Premier David Brand.

FOUR MAJOR proposals for assistance to church-related schools were made in the prelates' communication which also asked the Premier to grant an interview to Anglican and Catholic representatives.

The archbishops said: "We are anxious that the service offered by our schools to children, parents and the whole community should not be restricted to the well-to-do.

"It is clear that without some measure of public expenditure their expansion, and even their continuance, is seriously endangered."

The principal recommendation made by Archbishops Moline and Prendiville involved secondary or high school assistance.

Election Set

Geneva — St. Stephen's Club will have the annual election of officers and dinner dance at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, in LaFayette Inn.

Mrs. Paul Duchaney and Mrs. Alex Riel are in charge of reservations which should be made before Oct. 8.

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Young Composer To Become Nun

Dublin — (RNS) — An attractive young Irish composer has given up a highly successful career in musical comedy to enter a convent.

She is 24-year-old Aldean Kilen of Dublin, whose first musical, "Glory Be," played to packed houses for months in Dublin's Olympia Theatre. Her second musical, "Fursey," is due to start its run here shortly.

Miss Kilen is also a qualified lawyer. She was called to the Bar three years ago.

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Latin America Women's Topic

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 — (NC) — The threat posed by communism is one phase of a special study and discussion program on Latin America announced here by Mrs. Arthur L. Zepf, president of the National Council of Catholic Women.

The program will be known as "Focus: Latin America." Designed for nine meetings, it will be ready for affiliated groups of the NCCW and other organizations beginning the week of Oct. 7, Mrs. Zepf said.

TOPICS TO be studied and discussed will include Latin American social and political change, as exemplified by Mexico; the plight of the Indians of the Andes; the urban explosion in Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Caracas; agrarian reform; the economic problems of one-product countries; the inroads

of communism and its challenge to democracy, to Latin American leaders, to U.S. Catholics and to American citizens in general.

"Focus: Latin America" is designed as an educational program in line with the present interest of the government and the Church in Latin America. This new project is being prepared with the assistance of the Foreign Policy Association, Inc., of New York, a non-partisan, non-profit educational organization.

"Focus: Latin America" planned for small informal study and discussion groups, as well as individuals, is based on a specially prepared kit of nine fact sheets to be issued by the women's council. Detailed information in each topic, one per week, will be presented so as to avoid the need of an "expert" at these discussions.

Responses from North America alone to the Pope's appeal for suggestions filled a volume of more than 600 pages, the Archbishop said. Every bishop in good health was heard from and "laymen also very definitely spoke their minds," he said. In the Cincinnati archdiocese some lay persons offered suggestions in letters to the Archbishop, while others — including some groups — wrote directly to the council secretariat at Rome.

Quite a few Protestants also have volunteered ideas for the coming council, the Archbishop said.

Discussing the responsibility of the faithful for the council's success, Archbishop Alter declared: "With regard to the Church at large, I would say that in order that the council be effective, there ought to be a better understanding of the nature and the purpose and the history of general councils."

"Obviously prayer is necessary for the council's effectiveness," the Archbishop continued, "and the Holy Father has asked for mortification and penance. Moreover, there must be cultivated a readiness and generosity of mind to accept the decisions of the council in full faith and obedience."

"I would put in a word of caution, the Archbishop said, "not to expect any dramatic or world-shaking results. Let us say, for instance, with respect to reunion of the Christian world that the council will take a very definite step forward in creating a better climate, but no one who is informed and knows the difficulties that stand in the way would expect any immediate results."

make it more closely related to present-day needs."

The Archbishop said changes might be expected in canon law, liturgical practice, and fast and abstinence, as well as in "perhaps more emphasis placed upon the responsibility of the local churches to meet local needs."

One feature of the Second Vatican Council that will distinguish it from all preceding councils is the amount of preparatory work done in advance, the Archbishop indicated.

"Preliminary responses to the Holy Father's appeal for suggestions," he said, "fill 15 separate volumes totaling 9,500 pages."

He made it clear that the council will have "full freedom" to discuss the proposals of the preparatory commissions, and "consequently it must not be assumed that the work has all been done and that all that will be required of the bishops coming from all parts of the world will be to approve or endorse what has already been achieved."

"The work of the preparatory commissions constitutes the agenda, or program, or suggested decrees which the bishops are to consider. The Holy Father has repeatedly said that he expects the bishops to discuss these proposals freely and to reach a consensus and final decisions," the Archbishop said.

But without the vast work of preparation, the prelate added, "there would have been great confusion in trying to organize a systematic program in which 2,500 bishops and their theologians would be taking part."

Council to be History 'Milestone'

By JAMES M. SHEA

Cincinnati — (NC) — Cincinnati's Archbishop Karl J. Alter predicted that the Second Vatican Council will be "a milestone" in the history of the Church.

The prelate said that "in the broad sweep of its interests, the council that opens October 11 will be more closely parallel to the Council of Trent than any other." (The 19th council met at Trent, Italy, from 1545 to 1563.)

A member of the Central Preparatory Commission engaged in planning the forthcoming ecumenical council, the Archbishop indicated during an interview that the Council "will review every phase of Church life — doctrine, liturgy, law, missions, training of the clergy, sacraments, revision of liturgical books."

Other highlights of the interview:

Changes — "We can look for more local government of the Church in the national level and less dependence of the bishops on Rome in matters of local significance."

Duration — The initial session may be interrupted December 8, and resumed after Easter, "but no one can possibly know how long the sessions may last."

Emphasis — No "doctrinal crisis" faces the Church, but there is expected to be "a concentration of attention on the interior spiritual life of the Church."

Unity — No "immediate results" toward Christian unity are foreseen, but "the council will undoubtedly take a very definite step forward preparing the way for 'reunion in God's good time.'"

Aftermath — "There must be cultivated a readiness and generosity of mind to accept decisions of the council with full faith and obedience."

"Every council of the Church has been a milestone in the history of the Church," Archbishop Alter declared, "and this particular council will certainly be of the same character."

"Undoubtedly the effort to place a greater responsibility on the local churches — by that I mean not the individual diocese but national or language groups — will necessitate a very definite shift in emphasis from a concentration in Rome to a larger measure of responsibility and action on the part of the hierarchy of the respective churches," he said.

"At one time," he commented, "it was necessary to have what might be called a centralization movement in

order to tighten up the relations of the various churches throughout the world to the Church as it is centered in Rome because of the teaching and governing authority of the See of Peter. That tendency of centralizing has perhaps been carried as far as is helpful in the Church."

The Archbishop said he anticipates efforts made for a better distribution of the resources of the Church — as, for example, to help make up for the deficiency of priests in Latin America."

On the question of "reform" in relation to the coming council, Archbishop Alter pointed out that "the word has certain connotations which are not altogether favorable because of their relationship to the difficulties of the 16th century."

"The word should be used perhaps in the sense of 'restoration,'" he suggested, "by which I mean the return of the Church to the spirit of the Gospels as manifested in the apostolic enthusiasm of the early Church."

But whether it's called restoration or reform, it's "nothing new" to the Church, he continued, "because a Church living amidst human changes obviously is obliged to adapt to the problems of the times and to the circumstances which arise by reason of historic developments."

"There will be no reform of the teaching of the Church with regard to faith and morals or the essential sacramental life or the essential discipline of the Church," he emphasized. "But there are many changes which have been proposed in the application of the fundamental teaching of the Church to

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