

Council Opens In Splendor

Ubi Petrus, ibi Ecclesia—Where Peter is, there is the Church. This adage of St. Ambrose, fourth century bishop of Milan, was dramatized as never before in Church history this week at the Vatican.

Half a million people packed the Piazza San Pietro yesterday to catch a glimpse of the procession of more than five thousand clerics of all ranks and rites.

The long line, as colorful as a brilliant rainbow, included prelates from every continent, even from behind the Iron Curtain.

At the end came Pope John, robed in splendor, a far cry from the days 75 years ago when he trudged barefoot to school.

The twenty-first ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church opened with Mass in vast St. Peter's basilica, largest church in Christendom.

A book of the Gospels was then placed at the center of the altar—to be a constant symbol of an ancient faith which a modern world needs to know much better than it does now.

The nearly three thousand Catholic bishops will hold their Council sessions in the nave or center section of St. Peter's. The area has been transformed into a huge parliamentary chamber with the latest microphones, electronic ballot machines and powerful lighting.

FIRST SESSIONS of the Council are expected to continue through December 8th, then recess until next spring and perhaps conclude at a final session next autumn. Task of the Council is to renew the Church — "aggiornamento" — bring it up to date, according to the term used frequently by Pope John since he first announced his plan to convene the Council three years ago.

While the bishops look to the future, they will find inspiration from the past. They meet on hallowed ground—where Christians were martyred and where St. Peter lies buried.

They meet in St. Peter's

building which is beyond description. It needs to be seen to be experienced. Its stones bear the mark of history which has swept across them for nearly twenty centuries.

Once the site of Etruscan divination (which gave the place the name Vatican, from the Latin word "vates" — prophet), the great Emperor Caligula had a garden and a circus for chariot races built here. He amused himself between games by having his political opponents slaughtered as he watched.

Nero followed the brutal custom by impaling members of "the new and evil superstition" — as Suetonius called the Christian faith — on pikes, smearing their bodies with pitch and then setting them afire to illuminate his games.

Others were thrown to the lions; women were stripped of their clothes, children were torn limb from limb — Nero's penalty on the Christians, blamed for his own crimes, the burning of Rome in the year 64.

Vatican was buried in the

One of the victims was St. Peter, Galilean fisherman who became Prince of the Apostles and Vicar of Christ. He was crucified head downward and his body was buried in the cemetery on Vatican Hill. A few years later, St. Anacleto, the third pope, whom Peter had ordained, built a monument over the Apostle's grave.

Christians came secretly to pray at the tomb asking for a similar courage to face the frightening fate which stalked them daily. Their devotions were not disturbed at the tomb because Roman law respected the privacy of cemeteries.

THREE CENTURIES later, Constantine halted the persecutions and personally accepted the Christian faith.

He labored with his own hands to begin construction of a great church over the tomb of St. Peter. The body of the great Apostle was taken from its humble casket and re-interred in a silver and bronze sarcophagus. Constantine then carried twelve baskets-loads of earth to start the project. This included clearing off the top of the old Vatican Hill and filling over Nero's Circus for the foundations of the new church.

The old cemetery and its mausoleums were buried in tons of fill with a passageway kept clear to the old spot where St. Peter's remains were newly buried.

Constantine's church consisted of five naves divided by four rows of eighty-six antique columns. The pavement was white marble taken from the obliterated Circus. The altar was located directly above St. Peter's tomb. Above the altar hung the great lamp called Pharos, stolen by the Saracens in the year 846. It held thirteen hundred candles and was lighted only at Christmas, Easter and the June 29 feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The stairway to the tomb was paved with silver and lighted by silver lamps. The ceiling was covered with mosaic pictures and the roof was made of gilt-bronze tiles taken from the Temple of Venus.

For one thousand one hundred fifty years this church of Constantine was the center of Christianity in the West. It was here on Christmas day in the year 800 to receive the imperial crown from Pope Leo III, Charlemagne, king of the West Saxons, came from England to be crowned.

GIVE THEM COURAGE — send flowers from ELAN CHARD. FLOWERS arranged in good taste and dignity. Call BAKER 5-9494. Open daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 313 Main St. Parking. — ADV.

St. Peter's at the Vatican, largest church in Christendom — here the world's Catholic bishops began the Church's twenty-first ecumenical Council yesterday. The vast Piazza San Pietro will have few quiet days as shown in photo

during Council's sessions which will daily draw nearly three thousand prelates to deliberate and decide a course for the Church in the century ahead. Bishop Kearney and Bishop Casey are attending the Council.

(Color photo from Trans World Airlines)

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On Council
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LAST WEEK'S PAID
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73rd Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1962



Pictures of opening ceremonies of Vatican Council were transmitted to United States by Telstar Satellite.

Bishop Reports from Italy

Mass at Amalfi, Carmel

Bishop Kearney and Bishop Casey arrived safe in Rome in time for the opening of the Church's ecumenical Council.

Both prelates wrote to the Courier Journal to report a calm crossing of the Atlantic.

Bishop Kearney sailed aboard the liner Leonardo da Vinci and put into port at Naples. With him were Monsignor John Maney and Monsignor Richard Burns. They visited the shrine

of Our Lady at Pompeii where another visitor from Rochester recognized the Bishop and greeted him.

They also viewed the ruins of the ancient city buried in volcanic ashes when Vesuvius erupted in the year 79 A.D.

THE BISHOP celebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Andrew at Amalfi on Monday, Oct. 1. Bishop Kearney offered his Mass there asking God's blessing on the Rochester Diocese and its people and particularly the preparatory seminary named in St. Andrew's honor.

The Bishop was invited to

U.S. Bishops Meet in Rome

Rome — (NC) — The Catholic Bishops of the U.S. will hold their annual meeting at the North American College here on October 15, 17 and 19.

Traditionally, the U.S. Bishops hold their annual meeting in November at the Catholic University of America. This year, however, they are here to take part in the Second Vatican Council.

sign the distinguished visitors' book and his signature follows that of Jacqueline Kennedy, the President's wife, a visitor at Amalfi last month.

Amalfi, on the Bay of Salerno, is one of the most picturesque spots in a nation noted for its natural beauty.

Bishop Kearney kept up a tradition of his to say Mass at Rochester's Carmel Monastery on the feast of St. Theresa, Oct. 2, by going to the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at Sorrento. New students at the North American College in Rome attended the Mass and the Bishop also gave a brief sermon to them recounting his own 30 years as a bishop and 51 years as a priest and his devotion to St. Theresa.

Bishop Casey sailed aboard the ship France and arrived at Le Havre. In Paris, he visited Notre Dame Cathedral and then went by plane to Rome.

Both bishops will be in the Eternal City for sessions of the ecumenical Council which began yesterday at the Vatican.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The letter way to choose a monument is to use our index. Bishop Kearney, Archbishop of New York, will preside over the opening Mass. T.OTT BROS., 1124 Mt. Hope, CH 5-3711 — ADV.

Jailed Prelate Believed Dead

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Refugees from the China mainland stated here that according to disturbing reports in Shanghai Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-mei of Shanghai, imprisoned by the Communists since 1955, is either dead or gravely ill.

Bishop Kung, who was arrested and jailed seven years ago for alleged espionage, was not tried by the Communists until early in 1960 when he was given life imprisonment. Since the trial no news of the 61-year-old bishop has been received here officially or through other channels.

Fourteen Jesuits, seven diocesan priests and 300 lay Catholics were arrested with Bishop Kung on Sept. 8, 1955. All were charged with counter-revolutionary activities. One Chinese Jesuit — Father Joseph Ting Jau-jen — from that group was reported held in a Nanking prison last February.

Dispensation Today, Oct. 12

Bishop Kearney has granted a dispensation from the law of abstinence for all Catholics in the Rochester Diocese for today, Oct. 12, Columbus Day.

Meat, therefore, may be eaten on any other day.

Aquinas Grad

Doctor for U.S. Bishops

Even though sixteen of his high school classmates are priests, Dr. Pasquale J. Palumbo will be the only member of the Aquinas graduates to attend the ecumenical Council at the Vatican.

He was named by the Mayo Foundation of Rochester, Minn., to be the physician for American prelates at the Rome Council.

Going to Rome with him will be his Irish born wife, the former Miss Catherine Nolan, and their seven-month-old daughter Eleanor Theresa.

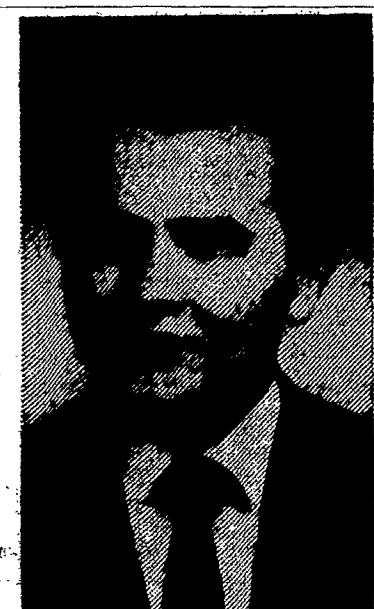
THE PALUMBOs will stop in Ireland en route to Rome to visit the parents and relatives of Mrs. Palumbo.

In the Eternal City, thirty-year-old Dr. Palumbo will be stationed at the new Salvator Mundi International Hospital.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Palumbo of 2385 Highland Ave., Rochester.

Dr. Palumbo goes to Rome with a remarkable record dating back to his days in St. Anthony's school, Rochester, where he graduated first in his class in 1946, then repeated the feat at Aquinas Exultate where he graduated first in a class of 400.

But his teachers and fellow students, looking back to the



DR. PALUMBO

high school days, remember him best, not for his academic excellence, but for the wholesome qualities he demonstrated in his every day life.

Father Charles P. Donovan, his senior homeroom teacher, recalls that he was "a fine lad — his influence with the other boys was always for the good."

He was for four years a member of the St. Thomas Club, Aquinas highest scholastic achievement. For his outstanding performance in studies he (Richard Proud) of the Franciscans.

ard bearer in his senior year. A member of the Aquinas Sodality, he served one year as secretary. He belonged to several school clubs and worked as an editor for the school yearbook.

After graduation from Aquinas, he entered Holy Cross College where he maintained a straight A average and was graduated magna cum laude in 1954, sixth in a class of 439.

He then attended Albany Medical College and continued his scholastic record by graduating third in a class of 60. He interned at Strong Memorial Hospital for two years and in 1960 began his research work at the Mayo Clinic to attain his master of science degree.

Dr. Palumbo should feel right at home working with the clergy. Sixteen of his fellow Aquinas graduates are now priests. (Revs. Philip Beers, Samuel Feliano, Albert Gales, Alfred Graham, John Neary, Robert O'Halloran, Richard Schiefen and Frederick Wajda, all C.S.B.'s; Revs. Neil Goodman, Leo Inglis, Joseph Sasso and Thomas Statt of the Rochester Diocese; Rev. Charles Hall of the Josephite Fathers; Rev. John Drexel of the Oblates; Rev. Fr. Cyril Thomas Knapp and Rev. Fr. Jeffery (Richard Proud) of the Franciscans.