

Laity Concept Confused

Chicago — (NC) — The average Catholic has a misconception about the Protestant doctrine of the laity, the associate editor of a Protestant magazine said here.

Rev. Martin E. Marty, associate editor of the Christian Century, said Catholics think these doctrines are based on two principles: that Protestantism is a priesthood of all believers in which all distinction is erased between ministers and laymen, and that the right of private interpretation means everyone should set his own interpretation of the Bible.

The minister, who spoke at an ecumenical forum sponsored by Loyola University, said that these views could not be further from the truth. But the Catholic cannot be blamed for them, he added, because Protestants often give the impression that this is an accurate picture.

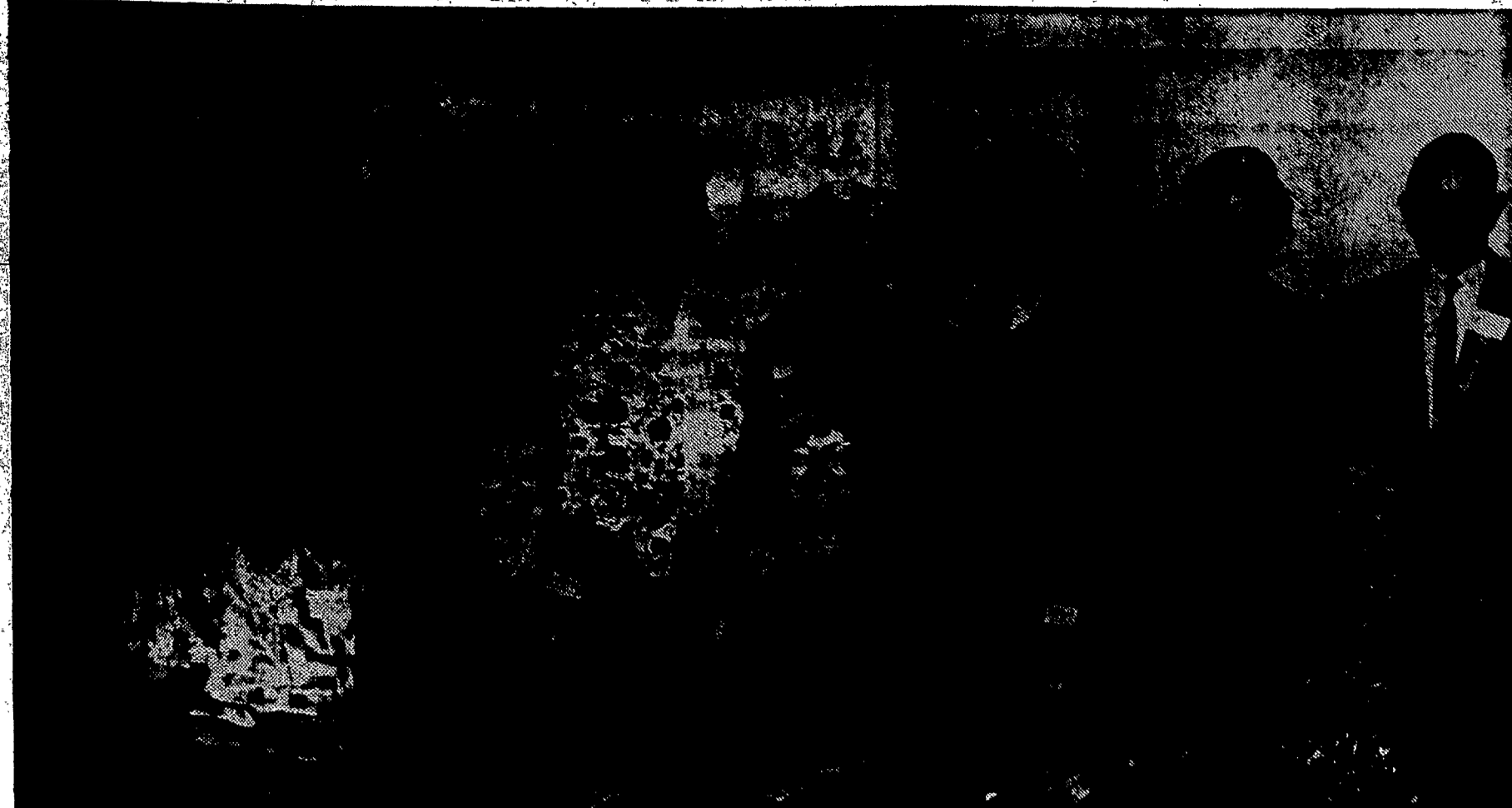
Actually, he continued, "it is based on a fairly accurate deduction of the cultural misunderstanding of the laity. One problem is that in our culture 'lay' is usually a negative term. It defines what a man is not. In Catholicism, the layman is not a priest; in Protestantism, he is not a theologian. So 'lay' often means 'outside the important circle' or 'uninformed.'"

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OFFICERS, delegates and Tertiaries of St. Patrick's Fraternity, Third Order of St. Francis who attended the Ninth Quinquennial Third Order Congress, Detroit, Oct. 24-28. (Standing): Nicholas J. Downs, Prefect; Perry D. Finks, Vice-Prefect; Miss Emma Dobber-

tin, Treasurer; Mrs. Henry Hickey, Secretary; Miss Lillian Bittner, Miss Wilma Kenning, Miss Tessie Smith, Richard Wheeler; (seated): Mrs. Louise Terrigno, Mrs. Catherine Mortimer, Mrs. Katherine Lang, Miss Marie Fisher, Mrs. Julia Bleier.

Rochester Third Order Attends Meet in Detroit

At the recent Quinquennial Congress of the Third Order of St. Francis meeting in Detroit, Nicholas J. Downs of Rochester was appointed a member of the Provincial Council, made up of six Franciscan Fathers, six laymen and a secular priest from the Diocese of Buffalo. Its purpose is to direct and supervise the 115 Fraternities which are under the jurisdiction of Holy Name Province.

These Fraternities extend from Maine to Florida and are also located in Denver, the South and the West Indies.

NICHOLAS J. DOWNS is presently Prefect of St. Patrick's Fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis, having been re-elected, in 1961, to his second three-year term as Prefect.

Representatives of The Directive Council, which included Provincial Superiors of the First Order (O.F.M., O.F.M. Conv. and O.F.M. Cap.) and the Third Order Regular (T.O.R.) attended the Congress, with more than 3,000 delegates of priests, Sisters and laymen, who represented over a hundred thousand Tertiaries of North America, including Canada.

The theme, selected for study by the Congress, "The Third Order in the life of the Church Today", was based on the recent encyclical of Pope John XXIII, "Christianity and Social Progress" (Mater et Magistra). The teachings of the Holy Father which received special emphasis were those on the liturgy, the lay apostolate and the sociological problems of the present century. The Convention closed on Oct. 24, the Feast of Christ the King, with the consecration of the world to Christ the King.

The Franciscan Third Order was founded by St. Francis of Assisi over seven centuries ago. Its purpose is to provide the laity with a religious rule of life which will help them to sanctify themselves and to become more zealous apostles in the world.

Religious vows are not taken, but each Tertiary is expected to live according to the spirit of the vows of Poverty, Chastity

and obedience according to his state in life.

Since the Third Order of St. Francis has its very sources rooted in the Gospel, its members are also expected to give stability and strength to Christian life within the Church, and to maintain and spread Christ's kingdom by setting before others the example of a way of life as patterned after that of St. Francis of Assisi.

Panels, workshops, meetings and discussions at the Congress pointed to the fact that the Third Order has today, as in bygone times, a place in the life of souls and the Church. To souls full of perfection and apostolic spirit, it offers support for their interior life, a firm discipline in their daily life, and an efficacious help for their apostolic action.

The Rev. Bonaventure Brown, O.F.M., of Buffalo, Spiritual Director of St. Patrick's Fraternity, headed the delegation of Tertiaries of the various Third Order Fraternities of Holy Name Province in Western New York and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Members are asked to note that the regular monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will be held at St. Patrick's Church, 445 Plymouth Ave. N. at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25, when seven postulants will be received into the Order to become novices for a year before being professed as members or tertiaries.

The seven to be invested are: Donald McNamara, Mrs. Irene Lill, Mrs. Ila Tota, Mrs. Arlene Darlath, Miss Marie Schell, Miss Delores Hoffmann and Miss Margherita Reimore.

The novices will receive, as gifts of the Fraternity, their habit, symbolized by a woolen scapular and a white cord, to be worn daily under ordinary clothing.

Instructions for postulants and novices will be at 2:15 p.m. Any who may be interested are invited to attend.

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Israel Missioners Deny Proselytizing Charge

Jerusalem — (NC) — A spokesman for the Latin Rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem has publicly denied charges that Catholic missionaries are luring Jewish children to special movies on the Sabbath to proselytize them.

Father M. J. Stassny said in a letter published in the Jerusalem Post Weekly (Nov. 9) that there is "absolutely no foundation in fact" to charges that Jewish children in Jaffa were taught Christian prayers after special Saturday film shows. He attributed the charges to what he called the "slandering campaign which Keren Yaldenu is waging against Christian Churches in order to bring them into disrepute . . ."

Keren Yaldenu Our Child's Fund is a private movement founded in 1953 to insure a Hebrew education for every Jewish child. It has long been in the forefront of publicity to the effect that Christian missionaries are trying to wean Jewish Israeli children away from their religious heritage.

In a letter published in the Post Weekly right after Father Stassny's, M. E. Druck, a spokesman for the Israeli Religious Affairs Ministry, in effect upheld the Karen Yaldenu charges. Druck said that by showing movies to children on Saturdays, when other motion picture houses are closed, the missionary institutions in effect are "encouraging the children to desecrate the Sabbath . . ."

Boston Sends 15 To Missions

Boston — (RNS) — Ten priests and five nuns will leave here for mission assignments in Malaya, Australia and Peru, Cardinal Cushing of Boston has announced.

The nuns are members of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary community, and the priests are members of the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle, founded by Cardinal Cushing in 1958 for service in Latin America.

Cardinal Cushing was to conduct a departure ceremony for the nuns in the chapel of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Memorial Hospital in Brighton. The priests will leave for Peru in late February.

Seven priests are curates from the Boston archdiocese and the other three are from Australia, England and the Diocese of Newark.

INSURANCE PROGRAM
Newark — (NC) — A program embodying broad fringe benefits for lay employees of the Newark archdiocese has become effective. It was announced by Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark.

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