

# Legion of Decency Pledge This Sunday

Catholics of the United States will renew their annual pledge of the Legion of Decency in parish churches this Sunday.

Bishop Kearney has directed that "the nature, purpose, and obligation of this pledge should be explained to our people and to point out to them the responsibility of taking the Legion pledge seriously."

The Legion of Decency is an agency of the American bishops to guide Catholics in the moral evaluation of motion pictures. Organized in 1934, the

Legion has fought an up-hill battle for better film fare in this country.

Major American film producers have sought to cooperate in the Legion's efforts but are confronted with public apathy to "good" pictures and widespread acceptance of productions of "fly-by-night" foreign and "independent" U.S. film makers, Legion officials report.

The Catholic Courier Journal publishes the full Legion of Decency film ratings each month and up-

to-date listings each week. See page 15 of this week's issue for current Legion listings.

Parents are especially reminded of their responsibility to monitor the movies their children attend.

Text of the pledge is as follows:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I CONDEMN indecent and immoral motion pictures and those which glorify crime and criminals.

I PROMISE to do all that I can to strengthen public opinion against the production of indecent and immoral films, and to unite with all who protest against them.

I ACKNOWLEDGE my obligation to form a right conscience about pictures that are dangerous to my moral life. As a member of the Legion of Decency, I pledge myself to remain away from them. I promise, further, to stay away altogether from places of amusement which show them as a matter of policy.



Children of Sacred Heart Cathedral school greet Bishop Casey who returned this past week from Rome's ecumenical Council. Youngsters are Catherine Schafer, John Brophy, Patricia Newton, Marie Thomas and Martha Kirkey.

## To Help People Get Closer to God

### Council's Goals Assured

Will the ecumenical Council be a success?

"Without question."

This was Bishop Casey's emphatic reply to our first question at his return from Rome and the Vatican Council.

In what way will it be a success?

"We will see greater devotion on the part of our people, a new impetus in missionary activity, a greater respect for what the Church is trying to do in the world."

Bishop Casey thinks the Council has already achieved some success due to the new and world-wide view people of all religious groups now have about the Catholic Church.

"They see that it's not a monolithic structure run without reason from Rome. They have seen a give-and-take exchange of ideas of bishops with different backgrounds, different problems and different opinions about how to solve them."

"The Council has shown the world the Church is anxious to make the Gospel applicable in the complex conditions of today—a Gospel that promises life if men keep God's laws."

Wasn't there a lot of repetition in the speeches at the Council?

"On the liturgy topic alone there were 329 Council Fathers who spoke and there were 625 proposals made. There obviously was some duplication of ideas but it served a very real purpose — it showed the trend of thinking on the subject and will surely guide the members of the Liturgy Commission which will write the final draft for revision of the Church's ceremonies."

What changes can we expect?

"Council members aren't free to discuss details but whatever the final version will be I'm confident it will help the devotional life of the people. That point struck me more than any other—this is a pastoral Council first and foremost, and the Council Fathers are working primarily to help their people get closer to God."

Bishop Casey said the present Council was well prepared and the preliminary proposals reflected the viewpoints of experts on doctrine and Church practices from all over the world.

He said Pope John is a "great inspiration" for all at the Council and has a "tremendous popularity" with the Italian people. He maintains an exhausting schedule despite his 81 years and obviously prefers to

be a "pastor" rather than an "official."

"He is very democratic, affable and kind, with a good sense of humor," said Bishop Casey.

The Pontiff, before his illness, had scheduled three audiences each evening with the different national hierarchies — in addition to his numerous other audiences, Council activities and duties as head of the world's largest religious group. At his audience with the American bishops, he singled out the "wonderful cooperation" of priests and people in this country as an "outstanding" example for Catholics of the rest of the world.

"The unseen factor—the presence of the Holy Spirit—is, of course, the greatest reason the Council is assured of success and we win His special help by prayer and penance. That is a contribution everyone can make to this Council."

Bishop Casey returned last weekend to Rochester after attending the Council's opening ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica on October 11 and the daily working sessions. He plans to return to the sessions when they resume next September. He will speak about the Council at all Masses at Sacred Heart Cathedral this Sunday.

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## Church-State, Laity Role Topics at Rome Council

The first-in-a-century ecumenical Council of the world's Catholic bishops will adjourn for nearly a year at solemn rites in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican tomorrow.

Ailing but still vigorous Pope John XXIII is scheduled to preside at the ceremonies which will also mark the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Many of the prelates will stay for Vatican rites Sunday when Pope John will canonize three saints — Blessed Peter Julian Eymard, who promoted devotion to the Holy Eucharist; Blessed Francis M. Croese, a Capuchin brother whose religious life centered in the routine duties of a monastery kitchen and infirmary; and Blessed Anthony Pucci, a Servite priest who was pastor of a village parish at Viareggio, Italy.

Council sessions this week opened toward today's deadline when sessions will end until next September.

CHIEF TOPIC this week was "De Ecclesia — About the Church," a 90-page text dealing with church-state relations, the role of lay people in the Church's apostolate and special pastoral needs in countries where Catholics are a minority.

Vatican Radio indicated prelates from Iron Curtain countries didn't want the Council to upset the delicate balance of co-existence in Communist controlled nations. The Council, it was said, should take into account the "realities" of the present day — "The Church must be ready to face persecution but must not provoke it."

A blunt affirmation of what the Church claims are its rights or a frontal attack against Communist ideology would jeopardize what little religious freedom is left in these countries.

"A SOLEMN proclamation" on the importance and the function of the lay apostolate was asked for by several speakers at Council sessions this week.

Laymen can make their most valuable contribution to the Church's apostolic action, according to the Vatican broadcast, "in areas related to their specific competence, such as the communications media."

The "De Ecclesia" text presented the Council members this week almost triggered another stalemate as did the Scripture Tradition schema in mid-November.

In presenting this week's topic, Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani assured Council members that the project had been "studied carefully with pastoral intent" by the preparatory Theological Commission.

According to Jesuit Father Robert Graham, special correspondent of Religious News Service at the Council, no one failed to understand that this was a reaction to criticisms leveled against the earlier schema on the sources of revelation which was sidetracked, and that the Cardinal hoped to forestall the same kind of devastating commentary on the new schema.

Many bishops deplored the lack of pastoral concern evidenced in the project on revelation. They could cite in their own favor the words of Pope John XXIII, who told the Fathers in his inaugural discourse

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that today's problem is not doctrine in itself so much as how to formulate and express that doctrine.

Nevertheless, efforts are now being made in some Council circles to start a current of opinion in the other direction. It is said, for instance, by way of counter-offensive, that no amount of "pastoral concern" can justify "the sacrifice" of Catholic stress on doctrine.

Ecumenicists — promoters of unity — come under particular attack. These are accused of basing their arguments, not on theology, but on sentimental

and opportunistic grounds unworthy of Conciliar attention — such as fear of alienating Non-Catholics. It is said, for instance, that doctrine and devotion about the Blessed Virgin Mary is soft-pedaled if not pooh-poohed by ecumenicists because devotion to Mary is a stumbling block for Protestants.

According to a spokesman for the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the ecumenical movement, particularly in its characteristic instrument — the dialogue — does not in the least imply the diluting or soft-pedaling of Catholic doctrine. Those who so judge the ecumenical movement, he said, do not have a correct understanding of the dialogue. Every appearance of indifference is, of course, to be ruled out.

"An ecumenical exposition," the spokesman said, "should faithfully illustrate full and entire Catholic doctrine on a given subject. For how can Non-Catholics hear from us what Catholicism teaches if we present that doctrine in a truncated, distorted and confused form? It has been said in this body that the ecumenical way of talking is incompatible with integral exposition of truth. Those who think so do not seem to have understood what is the nature of ecumenical dialogue."

Bishop Emile De Smedt of Bruges, Belgium, revealed that the Theological Commission, during the drafting of its ill-fated schema on the sources of revelation, had twice rejected offers of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity to assist in giving the schema an ecumenical expression. Yet, he said, Pope John had given the Secretariat the task of helping other Commissions, especially the Theological Commission, so that all texts of the Council would have an ecumenical tone.



### Last Rites at Crash Scene

New York — (RNS) — As a man marks charred bodies, a Catholic priest gives the last rites to victims of an Eastern Airlines plane crash at Idlewild Airport. Twenty-five of the 51 persons aboard the flight, which had originated in Charlotte, N.C., were killed. Two of the victims were Protestant clergymen — the Rev. Donald J. Kilphardt, associate executive director of the Department of Audio-Visual and Broadcast Education with the National Council of Churches, and the Rev. David Blackwood of the Eastway Christian church, Raleigh, N. C.

### Feast Day Prayers Span Vast Ocean

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, national patron of the United States.

The date is a holy day on which all Catholics must attend Mass. Parish bulletins should be consulted for precise time of Masses.

By the time Catholics of the Rochester Diocese begin to attend Mass, fellow Catholics in Tanganyika will have completed a "Day of Thanks" for aid given mission outposts in that east African nation.

Mission Bishop Winters said dark-skinned congregations throughout his diocese which is bigger than Texas will offer their prayers of gratitude in a dozen different dialects. Headquarters of his diocese is at Ndareda where Rochester dentist Dr. Paul S. Lalonde spends six months each year in a program of medical mercy to thousands.

The doctor's talks to parish and civic groups in the Rochester area have sparked numerous contributions to mission projects in Tanganyika.

### NEA Blamed For Aid Defeat

Huntington — (RNS) — Political pressure brought by the National Education Association caused the House of Representatives to reject a \$2,345,000,000 college aid measure which included assistance to church-related institutions, it was charged here.

Father Virgil C. Blum, S.J., professor of political science at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis., made this charge in an article appearing in the Dec. 9 edition of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newsweekly.

By a vote of 214 to 188 on Sept. 17, the House sent the bill back to a joint conference committee, thereby killing the college aid program for this year's session of Congress. The measure — a House-Senate compromise — had been supported by President Kennedy.

### Latin American Teachers At Geneseo College

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Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 Mt. Hope, CR 13474. Adv.

## Msgr. Burns' Jubilee

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard K. Burns, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Irondequoit, will mark his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at a solemn Mass in the parish church Sunday, Dec. 9, at 5 p.m.

Bishop Kearney will preside and preach.

Msgr. Burns' priestly career has included not only special duties in the Rochester Diocese but service to the Church in Rome, center of the Catholic faith.

He has witnessed some of the Vatican's most colorful ceremonies and had a part in historic milestones of Church life in the Eternal City including

CLOCKS: Electric or Key Wound. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 318 Main St. East.—Adv.

the current ecumenical Council, the funeral of Pope Pius XII and coronation of Pope John XXIII, canonization of saints and papal audiences.

A PARISH jubilee observance in his honor will be held at Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium Monday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. The program will include a concert by the senior band of St. Thomas school and a stage presentation "The Glory, Joy and Honor of Our People" by adults and children of the parish. A speech choir will narrate the drama.

Besides his parish duties, Monsignor Burns is also diocesan Vicar for Religious, a position in which he aids the Bishop in supervision of religious orders of the Diocese.

He was ordained in Rome in the chapel of the old North American College by Bishop Ralph Hayes, then the College rector and now of Davenport, Iowa, Dec. 8, 1937. (He is the first priest ordained for the Rochester Diocese after Bishop Kearney was installed head of the Diocese three weeks earlier.)

Following his theological studies in Rome, Monsignor Burns was appointed assistant pastor at Holy Rosary Church, Rochester. He was named in 1942 to the faculty of St. Andrew's Seminary and three years later to the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary. The following year he was called to Rome for work in the Vatican's Congregation of Eastern Rite Churches.

When the new North American College opened in 1947, he



MONSIGNOR BURNS

was named vice-rector, a position he held for seven years. Pope Pius XII named him domestic prelate with the title Right Reverend Monsignor in 1953 and the following year he became pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

In the past decade, enrollment in the parish school has increased by 200 pupils to its present total of 879. Under his supervision, a new convent for the Sisters of Mercy who staff the school was recently completed. (Continued on page 2)