Bishop Casey blessed graves and spoke at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery annual rite Sunday afternoon.

Bishop Casey's Topic

Pope John, Guiding Spirit For Council, All Catholics

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey spent his Sunday before departure for Rome in a round-the-clock schedule.

He spoke about the Vatican Council at all Masses at Sacred Heart Cathedral Sunday morning, about Pope John at the blessing of graves ceremony at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Sunday afternoon and worked at a mound of mail that evening.

He left for Rome Wednesday to attend sessions of the Catholic Church's ecumenical Council starting Sept. 29.

(Bishop Kearney has been authorized by Vatican officials to remain at home.)

IN HIS talk at the Cathedral Bishop Casey said:

"Two weeks from today about two thousand bishops from the far corners of the world will march in procession into St. Peter's for the opening of the second session of Vatican Council II. Before that date I hope to make a private pilgrimage to the tomb of Pope John in the crypt of old St. Peter's and pray for the repose of his soul.

"Another Pope has taken his place as head of the Catholic Church, Paul VI. Of him one American has written, 'You meet some men you know are very spiritual, you meet some men who have great ability, you meet some men who have a practical knowledge of how to get things done. But this man has all these things at once.' This American from all the information we have made an accurate estimate of the new Pope. The destiny of the Church and the Council rest in capable hands.

"All the same the spirit of the man who rests in a simple white marble tomb below St. Peter's will hover over this session of the Council. It was he who got things started, who opened the doors for the spiritual renewal of the Church and its members and now the flood tide is on and nobody can stop it. This should be a vitally important session of the Council, the year as we mention in today's bulletin."

In his parish bulletin, Bishop Casey had written, "We have the feeling that this Council could be in session for another two or three years, at least. This personal estimate may be very inaccurate. However, there is simply too much material to be covered, too many questions to be answered, for the bishops to finish their work this December. We ask the people not to become impatient, not to look for immediate results. Even after the Council completes its task, it will take some years for the post-conciliar commissions to draft the decisions of the Council and implement the laws and recommendations for Catholics throughout the world. The Church has the centuries, and it is better to do all this correctly than to do it hastily and in a make-shift fashion."

He concluded his sermon saying, "If you will give the bishops and myself a daily mention in your prayers of one thing you can be certain, I may be physically present in Rome but a large part of my heart will remain right here on Flower City Park."

In his talk at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Bishop Casey said, "I'd like to talk to you about a man and his attitude toward death. You knew him and you will agree that this man knew how to live and he knew how to die, Pope John XXIII. Among the qualities Pope John brought with him to the throne of Peter was a good sense of humor.

"Shortly after his coronation he went down to the crypt below St. Peter's to pray at the tomb of his predecessor Pius XII. He saw the laborers polishing the marble tomb as he shook hands with each of the workmen he said, 'I hope you will give my own tomb the same loving care.'

"In 1959 on the first anniversary of his Coronation the Pope murmured to a group of fellow-townsmen from Sotto il Monte, 'One who is Pope at 78 does not have a great future.'

"He was mistaken in that prediction both as a person and as Pope. He needed only three years to achieve an impact both upon his Church and upon his world,—perhaps surpassing any other modern Pontiff. In the short space of time he did more for the Church and immortal souls then we can ever estimate and he crowned his all too brief pontificate by calling the great Council and by showing his children how Christians should die.

"Those of us who were in Rome last fall realized that the Pope was a sick man and he himself knew better then the rest of us that his time was short. Yet he kept going with the work of the Church and with buoyant spirit. When a group of seminarians congratulated him on his 81st birthday last November he replied, 'Any day is a good day to be born' and then he pensively added 'and any day is a good day to die.'

"He was ready to depart anytime whenever God so willed.

"When the time comes for us to make our own journey and rest for a time in the consecrated soil of this cemetery let us pray to this saintly Pope that we have some of his Christian serenity of spirit and his cheerful acceptance of the will of God and some of his strong faith. He did not fear Sister death but welcomed her coming. It is a good lesson to learn from a man who knew how to live and how to die."

An estimated 5000 attended the rite. Students of St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminaries chanted prayers for the dead. Knights of St. John escorted the procession.

Courts Asked To Rule On College Aid Plan

Washington — (RNS) — In the first test case of its kind, the Horace Mann League of the U.S. filed suit in Maryland seeking an injunction against the use of public funds appropriated by the legislature for church-related colleges in the state.

The challenge affects grants to two Protestant and two Roman Catholic colleges — Hood College (United Church of Christ), Frederick; Western Maryland College (Methodist), Westminster; and the College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, and St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, (both Catholic).

Basis of the suit is a bill passed by the state legislature of Maryland granting funds ranging from $500,000 to $750,000 to each of the institutions for construction of both academic and housing facilities.

The League charges that construction at public expense of two science laboratory buildings, a dormitory, a dining hall, and a classroom building on the church-controlled campuses violates Church-State separation.

This state case is viewed as a forerunner to similar suits which may be instituted to test the college aid program now under consideration by Congress, if it becomes law.

The Horace Mann League is an old-line organization of professional educators, founded in 1922, whose objective has been to advance the cause of public education in the U.S. and the ideals of Horace Mann, known as the founder of American public schools.

Medical Schools in Line For Federal Aid Funds

Washington — (NC) — President Kennedy has before him for his signature a bill to launch a three-year, $235.4 million program to aid public and private medical education.

The measure (H.R. 12) was sent to the President's desk after approval in the Senate (Sept. 12) by a vote of 71 to 9. It passed the House (April 25) by a vote of 288 to 122.

The bill would help finance, through matching grants, construction of teaching facilities at medical, dental and collegiate nursing schools. It also would start a low-interest loan program for medical students.

The measure stipulates that Federal funds cannot be used for the construction or the cost of any part of a facility to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship.

Much of the nation's medical education is conducted at institutions which are church-related.

Of the 86 accredited medical schools, 46 are run by private groups, including six under Catholic auspices. Of the 47 dental schools, 28 are conducted by private groups, including eight by Catholics.

Human Needs Meeting Topic

Geneva — (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Edward E. Swanstrom of New York, executive director of Catholic Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference, was scheduled to be a major speaker at the first general conference of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies here, Sept. 23-27.

Theme of the meeting was to be "New Approaches to Human Needs in New Circumstances." Discussions were to center on three principal areas of service — refugees, migrants, and relief and development.

Formed in March, 1962, the Council represents 74 voluntary social welfare agencies, including many church-related groups. Some 150 leaders of member agencies were expected to attend the conference.

Priests Told 'Can't Wait' On Race

Milwaukee — (NC) — The Archbishop of Milwaukee told priests here there can be no "ivory towered rectories" rising above the racial justice issue in this archdiocese.

Archbishop William E. Cousins said to his annual clergy conference here: "You are priests and you cannot allow the initiative to pass into irresponsible hands."

"We cannot sit back and enjoy the doubtful luxury of waiting to see how things develop," he said. "It is vital that we act now and act decisively.

"We are not trying to be heroes," he said. "We are not seeking the limelight. But we do want to be Christ-like."

"There can be no ivory towered rectories in any parish of this archdiocese, whether that parish is faced with a real race problem, whether that town has had only one colored family in 120 years or whether no race problem exists at all.

"If the message of Christ and His command of love are to be applied only in areas of conflict, then you have jeopardized the universality of the Church," he said.

Returns To Fu-Jen

Taipei — (NC) — Father Richard Arens, S.V.D., a former staff member of Fu-Jen University at Peking, China, has been named head of the science and languages departments at the reopened Fu-Jen University here.

KC Settles Case for $1

Wilson, N.C. — (RNS) — A $100,000 libel suit filed by the Knights of Columbus against a Baptist clergyman and a woman for distributing anti-Catholic literature during the 1960 Presidential campaign has been settled for $1 in U.S. District Court here.

The defendants were "permanently and perpetually restrained and enjoined" from circulating the pamphlet titled "Will America Vote Away Her Freedom?" Attorneys for the K of C said "all we wanted was the injunction."

Defendants in the action, the Rev. Donald R. Bryan, pastor of the Central Baptist church of Farmville, N.C., and Mrs. Ruth J. Timby, of Eureka, N.C., also were assessed court costs.

Mrs. Timby was accused of having 25,000 pamphlets printed that contained an oath, defamatory to the K of C, which had previously been judged false in other court actions. Mr. Bryan was accused of distributing the literature during the campaign in which President Kennedy, the country's first Catholic president, ran.

Fifteen Weeks of Wrongs in Vietnam

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban

Saigon — (NC) — The head-on collision between the Vietnamese government and the militant Buddhists, toward which both sides have been moving for weeks, came soon after midnight on August 21.

President Ngo dinh Diem's government sent troops to take the pagodas of the anti-government groups by assault and arrest the bonzes. Explosions were heard and screams. There must have been some casualties among the bonzes, but the government has released no figures.

Apparently only key pagodas serving as centers of recent agitation by groups affiliated with the Intersect Committee were targets of the government action, which was countrywide.

Preparations for this swoop must have been made, at least conditionally, days and maybe 10 days ahead.

TWO EVENTS may have helped to precipitate it.

One was a gathering held throughout the day (Aug. 18) outside the Xa Loi pagoda here, headquarters of the Buddhist Intersect Committee's campaign. The gathering was obviously well organized. Held without a police permit, it blocked the street completely for the entire day.

Most of the crowd were students, boys and girls. They were harangued by a saffron robed bonze whose speeches, punctuated by clapping, laughter and cheers, were obviously not purely religious. Led by a bonze speaking through a microphone from the porch roof just inside the pagoda wall, the crowd shouted anti-government slogans with special mention of the President's sister-in-law, Mrs. Ngo dinh Nhu.

This, like the smaller, quieter meeting in the same place a week earlier, looked like a "dry run," a test and perhaps a preliminary for larger more militant demonstrations.

The second event was the release by Buddhists (Aug. 20) of a letter dated August 16 addressed to President Ngo dinh Diem by the elderly bonze who is at least the titular head of the Intersect Committee and the General Buddhist Association. This letter was exagegerated and offensive beyond anything yet written to the government and published by Buddhist leaders.

The government's action may have been motivated also by its anxiety to silence and immobilize dissident Buddhists before the new American ambassador, Henry Cabot Lodge, arrived.

The midnight assault on the pagodas was the culmination of three and a half months of wrongs on both sides. It is not any religious persecution but the harsh mishandling of situations during the past 15 weeks of admittedly provocative Buddhist agitation that has helped put the government in a bad light.

During the past month Ngo dinh Diem has certainly shown patience and restraint, and made approach after approach for reconciliation. The Buddhists responded with noncooperative and even hostile tactics.

The government's approach might have had better results if Mrs. Ngo dinh Nhu, speaking from the presidential palace where her husband is the President's closest adviser, had not made bitter statements that exasperated many Christians as well as Buddhists.

Buddhist leaders were expecting a police raid some night recently. Hence it is most likely they have made preparations either to insure the escape of their key men or to have substitutes ready to take over. It is unlikely that the government has disposed of its problems with these dissident Buddhist groups by its military action Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, the President has declared a state of siege throughout the country. Saigon is calm, though soldiers with fixed bayonets are on duty at some points.

The Vietnamese army is in control and there is a curfew from 9 p.m.

It is still true apparently what this correspondent wrote several weeks ago regarding Buddhist agitation and Vietnamese armed forces in general: there has been no evidence so far of any sympathetic stirrings in the Vietnamese army which must include thousands of Buddhists.

Embassy Distorts Church Position in Poland

New York — (NC) — A priest-expert on the status of the Church in Poland characterized as "very misleading" a statement on Church life in Poland issued by the Polish Embassy in Washington.

Father Ignatius Olszewski, editor of the Inter-Catholic News Agency, which specializes in Church news concerning Poland, said that the embassy statement distorted its picture of the Church in Poland by omission.

The embassy press office report, dated September 6, was entitled "Some Facts about Catholic Church in Poland." It gave statistics for the increase in the numbers of bishops, priests, Sisters and men Religious between 1937 and 1939; cited postwar statistics for church construction; referred to the existence of 13,000 catechetical centers, and spoke of the "wide circulation" of the "more than 50 Catholic papers."

Father Olszewski said that generally the embassy's statistics appeared to be correct. But he said the embassy's portrayal of the Catholic press in Poland gives a very erroneous image. The "more than 50" Catholic papers alluded to include the two dozen diocesan bulletins which are distributed only to the clergy, he said, adding that they are essentially only newsletters.

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