

Flood of News Reports from Rome Swamps Basic Story about Council

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

The accuracy of news reports about the Vatican Council is having the strange effect of clouding the Council's actual accomplishments.

Every day newsmen send detailed stories which quote the bishops who speak in St. Peter's — sometimes as many as twenty-five prelates voice their opinions, many of them repeating opinions already expressed and in many cases suggesting a minor modification in the text up for discussion.

The overall result is that the text itself gets lost in the news and all we hear about is the dispute over a word or a phrase.

Take, for example, the current topic "De Ecclesia — About the Church."

Catholics generally view the Church somewhat like a pyramid.

The pope at the top directs the Church through the world's 2500 bishops. They in turn supervise about 500,000 priests and then they bring the rules and regulations originating at the summit down to the 500,000,000 lay people.

This presents a picture of an efficient army — the Church on earth is even called the Church militant — well organized, efficiently guided, marching across a triple battleground to win final victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

Father Atwell, editor of the Courier Journal, was in Rome October 10 to 21 for the Vatican Council. This is one of a series of articles about the people and issues of the Council.

This picture certainly has its advantages in helping us understand the Church. Scripture uses forty examples to help us in this understanding.

The bishops at the Vatican Council have decided to start the other way around, however — to turn the pyramid upside down.

You start with the "People of God." They are called by God to be His family and take the good news of God's love to the whole world. (That's what the Greek word *ekklesia* for Church means — called out.)

To guide and help God's people in this task, Jesus chose the apostles and their successors, the bishops. Our Lord then named St. Peter and his successor, the pope, to be the great "servant of the servants of God" to keep them all united.

According to this viewpoint — the one officially chosen at the Council — the clergy are not so much officers of an army as they are ministers and servants to the needs of the people — their need for God's truth, their need for God's sacraments, their need for God's presence as Companion and Father.

Some people might think that this viewpoint "degrades" the clergy.

To answer that complaint, all we have to remember is that the greatest claim anyone of us has to glory is the fact that God Himself became one of us. Jesus Christ is our brother. No other title can be greater than this.

The pity is, however, that here we are, twenty centuries after our divine Lord lived and died and rose again for us, and two out of every three people on earth still don't know about God's love for all of us.

(Continued on Page Two)

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

75th Year. ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1963

PRICE 10 CENTS

Speed-up Sought In Council Pace



Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI elevates the Host as he celebrates a memorial Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the late Pope John XXIII. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council attended the Mass which marked the fifth anniversary of Pope John's election.

Worldwide Role For Bishops

The bishops at the Vatican Council this week ranged over a wide variety of topics related to their current basic subject "De Ecclesia — About the Church."

The week's most significant action was an overwhelming vote, 1028 to 534, on the "collegiality" of bishops — a new name for a scriptural doctrine that bishops share "full and supreme power over the universal church."

In another vote they agreed to reestablish the diaconate as a permanent order in the Church. They bypassed the question whether deacons should be celibate or not, leaving that decision to local bishops. Deacons will aid priests in preaching and administering some sacraments such as baptism and Holy Communion.

The vote on collegiality indicates a "pollination" of bishops will probably be organized after the Council sessions end to aid in the Church's worldwide activities.

They voted 1114 to 1074 to include discussion about the Blessed Virgin Mary as part of their ultimate pronouncement on the Church rather than as a separate topic.

They heard American bishops make a strong protest against the word "unfortunate" as it occurs in a quite casual reference to the prevalent contemporary separation of Church and state.

The U.S. bishops also asked for a clear-cut Council statement on racial equality in the Church.

(In both of these cases, the American prelates chose one spokesman to voice their united stand rather than have a series of speakers repeat the same idea.)

The bishops suspended Council action on Monday to mark the fifth anniversary of Pope John's election to the papacy. Pope Paul offered Mass and Cardinal Leo Suenens gave an hour-long eulogy in which he invoked the late Pontiff as a saint in heaven.

French, German and African bishops proposed speeding up the Council's work by cutting down on the number of speeches.

And next Monday a simultaneous translation system is scheduled to go into operation so the bishops can follow the Latin talks in their own languages — French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish.

The close vote about the Blessed Virgin Mary followed considerable lobbying by those favoring a separate (and stronger) treatment of the subject.

Cardinal Gregory Agagianian, moderator of the session when the vote was about to be taken, said: "No vote either way means any lessening of the dignity of the Blessed Virgin or any downgrading of her role in the Church."

Redemptorist Father Bernard Haering said the question of when to insert the topic of our Lady didn't indicate more or less devotion to her but presents the Church's doctrine.

(Continued on Page 2)

Church Life Dead in China 'Nobody Left to Persecute'

Hammond, La. — (RNS) — The poor peasant is driven either to complete blankness or insanity. He becomes the most de-personalized, anonymous human tool on the face of the earth. — he's just sitting there in jail.

After a peasant has worked about 14 hours in the fields, he returns home to his communal housing project. The only thing that he can hear over the noise of his children, for three hours every night, is the government's loudspeaker — one in every room. This speaker blares out propaganda, patriotic songs, etc.

When asked the extent of religious persecution in Red China, the French journalist replied that it was far "milder" than in previous years. "But," he explained, "that is because there are very few groups left to persecute."

The churches have become warehouses and union halls. Only the Buddhists have a significant amount of religious freedom. However, I heard that this is only for show — to paint the government as being benevolent.

Mr. Lentz said he attended a service in the Temple of the Jade Buddha. His offering to the high priest was rejected because, as the Buddhist stated, "We're making more money from this place than we need."

"Therefore," Mr. Lentz added, "I was even more convinced that this temple and the practice of religion within it was merely a show piece."

"When one asks a peasant what religion he belongs to," he reported, "the answer is 'I used to be a Catholic (or a Protestant, or a Buddhist), but now I am an atheist.'"

In 1957, according to Mr. Lentz, an anti-religious group defaced hundreds of statues in Buddhist temples and no action was taken against the group by the government. Today, he stressed, the government would react very strongly, because these temples attract such interest.

"The group which has suffered most in Red China," the journalist said, "is the Protestants. A few Catholic priests remain, but these are the Chinese nationalists. And as you know, Bishop James E. Walsh of Maryland is still in jail. From what I could gather, he is not treated harshly, but still man tool on the face of the earth."

Mr. Lentz rejected the idea that armed conflict between Russia and Red China could result from current disputes. "Their differences are purely ideological, dialectical," he said. "If there is any split, it will be on those grounds, not in armed warfare. Russia will be labeled 'modern Communists' and Red China as 'orthodox Marxists.'"

Parents and parents' organizations had sought expansion of the program to include non-public school pupils.



Tax-paid Therapy For All Pupils

St. Louis — (NC) — Some 3,500 parochial school students in St. Louis County (Catholic) schools are receiving tax-supported speech and hearing correction training under a landmark program here.

Originally set up for benefit of public school pupils only, the program was opened to nonpublic school pupils by a ruling on Church-State issues handed down in February by Missouri Atty. Gen. Thomas F. Eagleton.

Parents and parents' organizations had sought expansion of the program to include non-public school pupils.

Three Priests Named To New Assignments

Three priests of the Rochester Diocese were assigned by Bishop Kearney to new duties this week, the Chancery announced today.

Rev. Robert L. Kress, due to ill health, has resigned as pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rexville, and St. Joachim's Church, Canisteo. He will reside at St. Andrew's rectory, Rochester, and serve as assistant pastor of that parish.

Rev. Vincent P. Collins, assistant pastor of St. Ann's Church, Hornell, is appointed pastor of the Rexville and Canisteo churches.

Rev. Michael Volpe, assistant pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Rochester, is transferred to be assistant pastor of St. Ann's Church, Hornell.

The appointments are effective Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m.

Pope's Talks In Pamphlets

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul VI's "Address on the Roman Curia" and his opening address at the second session of the Second Vatican Council have been issued as pamphlets here. They were prepared by the publications office of the National Catholic Eucharistic Conference, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Your Diamonds Inspected and Cleaned - No Charge. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 318 Main St. East. — Adv.

Prepare Now To Integrate

Clergy of all denominations were told to lead their congregations in getting ready now for inevitable integration.

Monsignor Daniel Cantwell of Chicago stated this in a talk "not at the end, but at the beginning" of Rochester's first Conference on Religion and Race.

He said the discipline program held Wednesday reflected the mood and movement of America to uproot the enormous evil which we have inherited, the problem of a nation divided by the cancer of racial prejudice.

He said "courageous action is needed for the long road ahead."

(Monsignor Cantwell and Rev. Edler G. Hawkins, Presbyterian minister of New York City and a speaker at Wednesday's Conference, will be interviewed on integration program, WORE-TV, Channel 13, Sunday at 2:30 p.m.)

The Rochester Religion and Race Conference was the first of its kind in local history which drew clergy and lay people of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faith and civic leaders together to discuss a problem common to all — the ranking issue of racial discrimination.

Similar conferences have been held in other cities since Chicago pioneered the project in January.

Additional details and pictures will be published in next week's Courier Journal.



First Mass For Little John

Middleburg, Va. — (RNS) — A happy little fellow, three years old, escorted his mother to Mass. It marked a first for John F. Kennedy, Jr., who accompanied the President and Mrs. Kennedy and sister Caroline to St. Stephen the Martyr church in Middleburg, Va. The Mass was the first public church service attended by John.

'Magnificent Heritage'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Father Dominic Barberi, an Italian Passionist priest who was one of the leading figures of the 19th century Catholic revival in England, was beatified in St. Peter's Basilica at ceremonies attended by thousands of pilgrims and many cardinals and bishops.

Four years before his death on Aug. 27, 1840, he received into the Church John Henry Newman, his most famous convert from Anglicanism, who later was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII.

In a speech delivered in England, Pope Paul VI described Barberi as "a man of a magnificent Christian heritage," and stressed Blessed Dominic's great love for his country. He said Cardinal Newman repeatedly spoke of the missionary's "great attachment" to England.

"This phrase," he said, "seems to sum up the historical current of the sentiment of the island of high destiny. It stems from the English people's desire to give expression to this present spiritual moment of the Apostolic See, whose arms are wide open towards all that is most venerable and most significant in that blessed country's present portion of its magnificent Christian heritage."

See inside
Bishops, Laymen
In 'Dialogue'
At Council

Priest Reporter

'Honest' News from Vietnam

Washington — (NC) — The second ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (including the Courier) said here Vietnam's Buddhist uprisings began as a legitimate religious protest, but now are being exploited by communists.

Rep. Clement Zablocki, in an interview the day after his return to the capital from a two-week study mission in South Vietnam, had high praise for the reporting of Father Patrick

O'Connor whose dispatches of the past several weeks have appeared in the Courier.

Zablocki related that on two occasions in Saigon, his mission held sessions with newsmen, seeking the reporters' facts and opinions on developments.

Father O'Connor, he said, read to the congressional delegation a chronology he prepared of the events related to the Buddhist uprising.

"None of the other 40 or so reporters took exception to his account," said Zablocki, adding that he noted that the report of a man was in the dispatches seen in U.S. newspapers at the time of the incidents reviewed.

(Father O'Connor, although critical of several aspects of the Vietnamese government's conduct in the Buddhist controversy, has reported that the charge of a "Catholic-dominated" government which systematically persecutes Buddhists and favors Catholics is untrue.)

Zablocki said that other interviews in Saigon resulted in reports that the U.S. press corps in Saigon remains young and inexperienced, seeking only sensational stories, and failing to confirm many of the details.

Visiting newsmen and on-the-spot correspondents must be more so. — Adv.

curate accounts on the alleged religious issue.

Father O'Connor, he said, read to the congressional delegation a chronology he prepared of the events related to the Buddhist uprising.

"None of the other 40 or so reporters took exception to his account," said Zablocki, adding that he noted that the report of a man was in the dispatches seen in U.S. newspapers at the time of the incidents reviewed.

(Father O'Connor, although critical of several aspects of the Vietnamese government's conduct in the Buddhist controversy, has reported that the charge of a "Catholic-dominated" government which systematically persecutes Buddhists and favors Catholics is untrue.)

Zablocki said that other interviews in Saigon resulted in reports that the U.S. press corps in Saigon remains young and inexperienced, seeking only sensational stories, and failing to confirm many of the details.

Visiting newsmen and on-the-spot correspondents must be more so. — Adv.

Monuments and Markers for July Speeches. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our so-called Vietnam veterans and on the spot correspondents must be more so. — Adv.

Priests' Evening Of Recollection

Sunday, Nov. 3

6:15 to 9 p.m.

St. Patrick's

Victor

Meditations by

Rev. Hugh F. Brady

FLOWERS have a special meaning... beyond words, their beauty is a source of joy and strength... Call BLANCHARD'S 54-5494. 10am daily till 6pm. 52 take late. Free parking. — Adv.