

### Bishop Casey's Letter From The Council

(Continued from Page 1)  
all decisions and submits them for a final vote. Pope Paul could promulgate the new regulations on liturgy, church worship, and a liturgical session before December 4. Personally, I don't think they will have sufficient time to do it.

In any case, a word of caution. People back home have written that they are disturbed after reading some of the views of the "liberal" liberals in the liturgical movement. They believe that "The New Look" of Church worship will radically change their old-time religion, their accustomed way of worshipping God.

Let those people who are disturbed have confidence in the good judgment and common sense of the Pope and the bishops who are acting in this Council as the humble agents of the Holy Spirit.

His Eminence, Leo Cardinal Suenens of Belgium in his masterly tribute to Pope John XXIII given before the Council on October 28 (We have sent the complete text of this talk to Father Atwell for inclusion in the Courier, if there is enough space. It can be read with profit by priests, nuns and lay people alike), brought out this point:

(Text of Cardinal Suenens' talk in on page 4.)

Cardinal Suenens quoted these words of Pope John: "When it comes to a Council, we are all novices. The Holy Spirit will be present when the bishops assemble; we'll see." Then the Cardinal added, "Indeed, for Pope John, the Council was not first of all a meeting of the bishops with the Pope, a horizontal coming together. It was first and above all, a collective gathering of the whole episcopal college with the Holy Spirit, a kind of new Pentecost. . . . The Council is the light of the Holy Spirit which will penetrate deeper into the Church, and through the Church into the world. It is a gift of God's magnanimity to our age."

Have we not confidence in the Council Fathers and their leader, the Pope? First and foremost, they are the pastors of a self people, men of sound religious sense, inspired by the Holy Spirit as they are. They are not going to be swayed by the religious zeal of their flock, they are not going to be swayed by the religious zeal of their flock, they are not going to be swayed by the religious zeal of their flock.

Should the new liturgical reforms be promulgated at this session, it will be some time before it is integrated into the religious practice of the people.

The U.S. bishops were told two weeks ago that a commission has been formed for the English speaking hierarchy of the world to plan the translation of those parts of the Mass and the administration of the sacraments which will be in the vernacular. This will not be done overnight.

It remains also for the national bodies of bishops (for the United States, the National Catholic Welfare Conference) to spell out the reforms which will be practical for the Catholics of our country. Some of the details in the schema on liturgy would not be feasible for the American religious mentality. This also will take time and will be done gradually in the individual dioceses of the United States.

Worship is your daily encounter with God. The Council aims to make that encounter more vital, to freshen it, to make it more personal, to renew your inner self spiritually. This should become a reality when the liturgical reforms go into effect. Your religious faith will be strengthened, not weakened. Have confidence in the Holy Spirit who guides those working in the Council.

An American Saint  
The formal briefs naming John Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia, as "beatus" were read at the morning Mass in St. Peter's, Sunday, October 13. At five o'clock that same afternoon we were present for the veneration of the relics of this saintly bishop. The basilica was crowded, a large delegation of pilgrims from Philadelphia occupied the place of honor. All the bishops from the United States were there. We also noticed many bishops from Germany and other countries. Pope Paul was carried down the central nave in the golden sedia statoria, preceded by fifty cardinals in their scarlet robes.

The ceremony at the Altar of the Chair, in the nave, lasted only an hour. The music for the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was sung by the St. Peter's Choir, a special prayer to the newly beatified was said by the Holy Father. After Benediction.

LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION  
**67,419**



### Mass for Pope John

Vatican City — (RNS) — In St. Peter's Basilica before the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI celebrates a memorial Mass for his distinguished predecessor, Pope John XXIII. The Council cancelled its meetings for a day to observe the fifth anniversary of the election of Pope John.

dition, the Superior General carried a beautiful gold reliquary to the Pope for veneration, the relics of a man who had once walked the streets of Rochester as a missionary to the German pioneers of our community.

Pope Paul, in his sermon on Blessed John Neumann paid a glowing tribute to the American Church. His were not the polite, diplomatic words one expects on such an occasion but warm personal praise for the vitality of the American faith, almost a rebuke to those who believe that the Church in this country is prosperous in only a material way.

"This beatification," the Pope said, "disproves the erroneous belief that American Catholicism is not oriented to the singular and sublime expression of sanctity, but rather toward the ordinary Christian life. America has its saints and we know that America exactly is a longer individual but collective. When we see the different features of American Catholic life, the parishes, the schools, the universities, the missions, the hospitals, when we observe the faith and sacrifice underlying these works, when we have before us, priests and religious who reflect the example of John Neumann, how great a hope fills our soul! One felt good to be an American Catholic that afternoon."

Headlines — And The Truth  
The reporters of the English-language press covering the Council are briefed at three o'clock each afternoon by experts from the American Bishops' Press Panel. As a result, the newspaper coverage back home has been excellent, on the whole. However, these reporters are not theologians and they have the newspaper flair for the sensational. They pounce on facts which mean little in the scale of values with which the Council deals. They emphasize the trivial on occasion. Not used to viewing events "in the light of eternity" they miss completely truths and statements of vast spiritual import. This they do unwittingly but their accounts often confuse our Catholic people.

Take the schema on Our Blessed Lady. It was scheduled to be treated as a separate schema at this session. However, during the crucial debate on "De Ecclesia," it was the thought of many of the Fathers that "De B. V. M." should be included as a separate chapter within the framework of De Ecclesia, showing Mary's important place in the Church and the work of salvation.

This is a pastoral Council, one not primarily concerned with defining articles of faith, our Lord, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit did not receive separate schemata. In any case, Cardinal Santos, on October 24, gave his reasons to the Council why the Blessed Mother should have a separate schema. Cardinal Koenig spoke for the inclusion of the treatise on Our Lady in De Ecclesia.

Cardinal Agagianian, moderator for that day, then stated a truth all the Fathers already knew: "No vote for either side," he said, "can be construed as constituting any lessening of the dignity of the Blessed Virgin, or any down-grading of her pre-eminent role in the Church."

The crucial vote on October 29 reminded us of the closeness of the last presidential election. 2193 Fathers were present, 51%, an absolute majority, was

required for a decision, or 1087. Little ones of his flock.

The funeral Mass of Bishop Leo Smith of Ogdensburg here in Rome on October 10 at Nostra Signora Della Mercede was a simple ceremony. Bishop James Navagh of Paterson, his "wif," (both were consecrated the same day in Buffalo in 1930), said a Low Mass and Cardinal Spellman gave the absolution. There was no singing, no organ music, no eulogy. 150 U.S. bishops, a scattering of bishops from other countries, and a few Cardinals, all of them in plain black cassocks, a few nuns and lay people.

Here was our brother, dead in a country far from home, and there was a feeling of solidarity as we prayed for the repose of his soul. One felt the truth of the words of John Donne: "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." Contrasted to the pomp

and circumstance of some of the funerals we have attended at home, it was so very simple. It was the Requiem Mass and the prayers which mattered; all else was accidental.

In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, near the sacristy of St. Peter's, confessions are heard in six languages each morning from 8 to 9:30. Many of the bishops who arrive early for the sessions take the opportunity either to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or to go to confession. Last Wednesday morning, after I went to confession, I saw at least 300 bishops and a few Cardinals there, many kneeling on the stone pavement, because there were relatively few pews — a very edifying sight to observe these pastors of souls gathering strength for the tasks ahead.

Keeping this example of press coverage in mind, we would like to see in our Catholic press for Council news. Only there will we find comprehensive coverage of this great event in the life of the Church, with correct emphasis on the things that really count.

Human Interest Incidents  
Pope Paul said Mass at the temporary altar facing the Council Fathers on October 28, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the election of Pope John XXIII. It was a Low Mass and of us answered the responses. It was a moving experience for me, the first time I had ever seen a Pope say Mass.

After this Mass, Cardinal Suenens preached a sermon on the Late Pope, the architect of this Council. The Cardinal, an intimate friend of both John and Paul, a man who will be known in history as one of the leading figures of this Council, could not help but be moved. His face, very personal, and done in the grand manner, I noticed some of the old Cardinals using their handkerchiefs to wipe away their tears. At the conclusion of his sermon, Cardinal Suenens walked up the steps of the papal altar for a blessing and the Holy Father embraced him warmly.

As the Pope walked down the central nave of the aula at the end of the ceremony, blessing the Fathers of the Council, he appeared much more relaxed than he was at the opening session, September 29. There was even a half-smile on his face as he acknowledged the hand-clapping of the bishops.

By temperament the present Holy Father is more austere, more like Pope Pius XII than Pope John. However, I saw a photo of him visiting a bishop who was ill in a Roman hospital. His face, a kind face, with smiling eyes when he is relaxed, and an intense look which seems to go right through you. Only last night, the Vatican newspaper "L'Osservatore Romano" had a photo of Pope Paul, clasping the hands of a little girl in her first communion, done at Wednesday's solemn audience. There was a look of wonderment in the eyes of the child as she gazed at the

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