

Pope's Trip 'A Return to Sources'

(Continued from Page 2)

becoming an Israel citizen. When the number of his country's citizens is increased, the country's trade will be increased.

Last August 15, in the name of the Holy See, the Secretary of State, Cardinal Gaetano Martino, addressed a letter to Pope Paul that made two points. The first stated that the success of the Holy Father's return to the Holy Land is dependent on the support of the Holy See. The second point urged a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Church of the Poor

On October 11, Giacomo Cardinal Lercaro, himself an apostle of the poor, told Father Gaullier that the Holy Father had received the documentation of the Nazareth group and had charged the Archbishop of Bologna to pursue its study. No mention was made of the invitation to the Holy Land.

Significantly, it was Cardinal Lercaro who in the closing days of the first session of the Council begged that the Church be the Church of the poor, that the mystery of humanity and its evangelization be the principal preoccupations of the Council. During this session there were reminders of the urgency of that theme. The director general of the Food and Agricultural Organization told the annual conference of that U.N. specialized agency, meeting in Rome in November, that nearly half a million people are starving and that a million more lack the essential necessities of life. The situation is deteriorating.

A report in August of the Office of Economic Cooperation and Development predicted that

the average income of people in the developed countries (48 million in all) would increase 36 per cent between 1963 and 1970 while in the underdeveloped countries (1,452 million of people) the average income will increase only 2 per cent. At present, income in the developed countries is 16 times that of the underdeveloped countries. In seven years it will be 17 times greater.

Others in the Catholic Church were influential. Jean Cardinal Gaullier, secretary of the Council, shared his preoccupations. Each week during the session of the Council an international group of bishops worked as a unit. Bishop Gerard Casanova of St. Jean de Quebec, Bishop Joseph Blomjous of Mwanza, Tanzania, the blind Bishop of Senegal, and Bishop Charles Hennen, whose diocese of Tournai includes the played-out coal fields of Belgium's Bourinage.

The group wants to have its own color every year—scholarship, a permanent center at the Vatican for its multiple activities. The presence of the church in the modern world is to be central in all ecclesiastical activity. At the same time, the Council at the Second Vatican Council in November 28, Pope Paul assured the group through Cardinal Lercaro, that when it will be given full consideration at the next session but after the amended document on the Church.

As for the reason for Pope Paul's pilgrimage, it is most

likely to take the simple appearance of the Holy Land. Undoubtedly, there was also a realization that the visit would affirm the prestige of the Holy See and make possible a firmer reconnection with some of the Orthodox Churches. The Holy See is waiting to see if the Holy See is to take the first step.

First Step

However, Father Gaullier and his high-placed friends pray that it means, too, a deliberate attitude of identification of the Holy See with the future of the world. It is a future which John once said was that of "a Persian safari."

A youngish French theologian, Father Rene Laurentin, has said that he is returning to the Holy Land. Paul VI will accept the offer of an American museum to buy the Sedia Gestatoria (the raised platform on which the Pope is borne) and the money given for new houses in the poor village of Nazareth.

At a minimum the pilgrimage proves that a Pope is (if the word can be used without irreverence) portable and that Pope John XXIII was right once again. Some months before his death he told a missionary bishop from Africa: "I am too old to return your visit. At best I can only travel by train. But my successor will be much younger than I and he will go visit you in an airplane."

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Council News

Said 'Much Ado About Nothing'

Atlanta — (RNS) — The Christian Index has noted news coverage given to the Second Vatican Council as "much ado about nothing."

Published by the Ecumenical Baptist Convention, the journal commented in a lead editorial that "never before has so much been written about... little as for Vatican Council II."

Editors expressed disappointment "that the secular press, radio and television have given millions of words to the Council's bid for better understanding among Christians who in truth little if anything was done."

"There was conversation, to be sure, which is the prerequisite for progress," the editorial said. "But Protestants expected much more and they were disappointed."

The Baptist magazine noted that of particular interest to Protestants, and "likely to be acted upon by the Council," were proposals dealing with religious liberty and recognition by the Catholic Church of the validity of mixed marriages.

Catholic Faith, Hindu Yoga Compatible

Chicago — (RNS) — A Jesuit from Bombay asserted here that Hinduism — except for a few of its orthodox tenets — is compatible with Christianity.

Father Anthony de Mello, S.J., an Indian who is working on his master's degree at Loyola University, cited Hindu statements in his lecture at the annual institution. His subject was "Modern Trends in Hinduism."

Hinduism has changed considerably in the last generation, Father de Mello declared. The caste system is rapidly disintegrating, he said, and for the first time in history Hinduism is seeking converts.

Hindu missionaries already are at work in France, Germany, and the U.S., he added. He estimated that 100,000 Americans regularly receive Hindu literature from India.

The ancient Hindu mental discipline, Yoga, is attracting the interest of both Russian scientists and Benedictine monks, Father de Mello noted.

"Present knowledge of the power of mind and body over each other has given scientists and interest in Yoga's techniques for controlling mind and body," he said.

Father de Mello said a team of Russian scientists recently went to India to conduct a study on possible scientific values in the practice of Yoga.

He said he had also heard of several Benedictine monks in Europe who are trying to develop, from Yoga, techniques of value in Christian meditation and prayer.

In Yoga, he explained, a Hindu seeks unity with God by first controlling his body and mind. Through exercises to control breathing, posture, and mental concentration, the followers of Hinduism try to gain control over every organ of the body. But it is a long and difficult discipline which takes years to learn, he said.

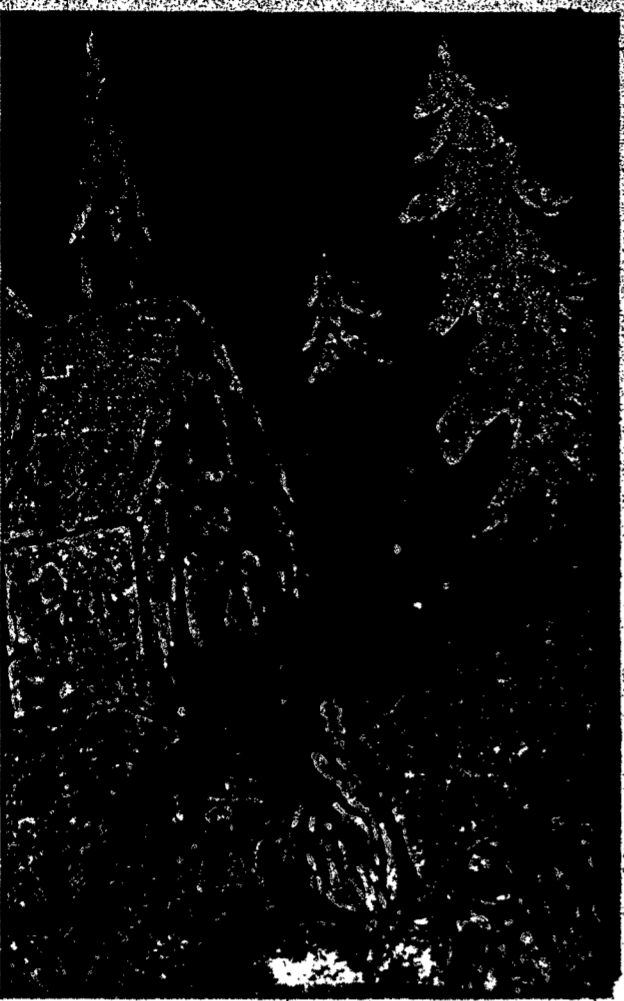
Modern psychology has shown that mind and body have profound effects upon each other, as in psychosomatic illnesses, Father de Mello said. Through Yoga, Hindus have made use of these effects for more than 4,000 years, he added.

Irish Prelate Dies At 75

Dublin — (RNS) — Norman Catholic Bishop William MacNulty of Raphoe, who was taken ill at the Second Vatican Council this fall, died in a Dublin hospital at the age of 75.

Born in Donegal, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1912. During World War I, he volunteered as a medical army chaplain and spent two years with armed forces in France and Flanders.

When Bishop MacNulty was named to his See in 1952, he was the youngest member of the Irish hierarchy at age 35.



'Midnight Mass'

New York — (RNS) — This is one of the more than 100 paintings being exhibited in New York under auspices of the Christian Children's Fund, an interdenominational association administering to needs of children the world over. It is "Midnight Mass," the creation of 14-year-old Gaston Harancot of France. He pictures a traditional winter scene, little orphans being led on a Christmas Eve pilgrimage to celebrate the Nativity. Paintings in the exhibit were executed by children, aged 5 to 16, who live in CCF Homes in 55 countries.

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