



### Helping Hands

Vatican City — (RNS) — An incident of episcopal warmth was recorded here as Auxiliary Bishop Clement Chabuka, and his (right) of Fort Rosebery, Northern Rhodesia, adjust the mitre of Italian Bishop Federico Sargolini. They were both sitting in St. Peter's Basilica during the closing meeting of the Second Vatican Council's second session.

### Curia Told Council's Success Depends on Them

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has told the Cardinals of the Roman Curia that the success of the Second Vatican Council depends on them. He also emphasized that this trip to the Holy Land is a pilgrimage to obtain success for the council. He said that if it were a political excursion or a pleasure trip, he might encounter a renovating Christ as St. Peter did — according to the "Quo Vadis" legend when he was fleeing Rome.

THE POPE was speaking at the traditional Christmas Eve meeting between the Pope and the Cardinals of Rome. He was replying to traditional greetings from the Dean of the Sacred College, who is now Eugene Cardinal Tisserant.

Almost at the outset of this reply, the Pope recalled "the pious death of our venerated and regretted predecessor, John XXIII, whose spiritual heritage, Divine Providence decreed we should receive and whose great and difficult work we should continue."

### Unity Theme in Vermont

Burlington — (RNS) — A Commission on Church Unity in Vermont will be organized to foster better understanding, sympathy and love among Vermont people of all religious faiths. It was announced by Roman Catholic Bishop Robert F. Joyce of Burlington.

### Vietnam Under Diem

## Political Turmoil, Not Persecution

By ALBA ZIZZAMIA  
United Nations — (NC) — Evidence presented to the United Nations fact-finding mission to South Vietnam did not show policy of religious discrimination or persecution by the regime of the late President Ngo Dinh Diem.

This is the view of Ambassador Fernando Vollo, chairman of the mission, who said that the mission team that went to Vietnam on Diem's invitation, Ambassador Vollo is the permanent representative of Costa Rica at the UN.

IN THE FIRST interview he has granted, he told the N.C.W. News Service.

"It is my personal feeling that there was no policy of discrimination, oppression or persecution against the Buddhists on the basis of religion. Testimony to this effect was usually hearsay, and was expressed in vague or general terms.

"When a witness tried to give some concrete proof to the mission, the incident he cited came down to the individual or personal actions. On the basis of the evidence, there was not a governmental policy against the Buddhists on religious grounds."

"The clash between Buddhist groups and the regime of President Diem, a Catholic, flared up on May 8 in Hue. Buddhists in that city were celebrating Buddha's birthday protesting against a government order restricting the flying of religious flags. During the protest, troops were called out and in the ensuing riot eight civilians were killed. The incident touched off a six-month crisis ending in the overthrow of the government of President Diem, who was shot to death on Nov. 2.

"During the crisis, Diem invited the UN mission to investigate charges of religious persecution against Buddhists. The

### God's World

## After Christmas

By REV. LEO J. TRESE

Christmas is past, and in all probability many of us are experiencing a feeling of mild depression. The cause of our melancholy is partly physical and partly psychological. On the physical side, we are suffering from exhaustion. We probably were short on sleep for several nights preceding Christmas. There was so much to be done that days just were not long enough. By the time we got to bed on Christmas night we were physically drained.

Psychologically we are experiencing a letdown from all the pre-Christmas stimulation: the shopping, the Christmas card sending, the tree trimming, the wrapping, the thrill of our gifts, the children's excitement and all else that goes to make the annual delirium which we call Christmas.

Now, suddenly, it is over. Christmas decorations are whisked overnight from store counters and display windows. "White Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" disappear from the airwaves. The house is littered with debris like a tidal beach after the sea recedes. It is a humdrum world again, and we feel vaguely dejected.

THIS IS THE price we pay for having overlaid Christmas with so much that is ephemeral, for having made Christmas an end in itself. Christmas is not a conclusion. It is a beginning. When Jesus was born He initiated His great act of redemption. Hope dawned, and a world enslaved by sin stirred in its chains. With Christ, grace too was born.

At the beginning of time, God did not complete His work of creation. He chose to make man a partner in that work, in a progressive unfolding of what God has begun. Similarly Jesus did not, in a sense, complete His work of redemption during His years on earth. He chose to make each of us a partner in His redemptive action, with the task of progressively deepening the life of grace within ourselves and of widening the influence of grace in the world.

For us, then, Christmas beginning each year. One factor should be a beginning—a new contributing to our post-Christmas despondency may be an obscure awareness that this has not been so. We suspect that this Christmas found us no better than last Christmas or the Christmas before.

These after-Christmas days are a good time for some honest self-questioning. Do we really think that we have reached, spiritually, the peak of our performance? Are we all as good as we could be, as we ought to be? Have we actually quit trying to develop our spiritual resources?

If we have let ourselves settle into a state of spiritual lethargy, there is no better occasion than now to make a new beginning. It need not be anything great or heroic that we undertake to do. Indeed, the ruin of many of our good intentions in the past may have been that we made resolutions which were beyond our present strength.

We may determine, now, upon nothing more pretentious than to begin every day with prayer; with acts of faith, hope and love and an offering of our day to God. If we have been neglectful of prayer, this will be an excellent beginning. Or days if we turn away from the perhaps we could receive Holy Communion more frequently. Or it may be that we have a tongue that needs disciplining, to a tongue given to criticism, to sarcasm, to gossip or to angry



## Ecumenism To Stay In Church

Boston — (NC) — Ecumenism is staying in the Catholic Church to stay," Father Gustave Weigel, S.J., told some 400 Catholic and Protestant clergymen here.

Father Weigel, a faculty member at Woodstock (Md.) College and a leader in the ecumenical movement, said he spoke against Christian union, although there are different ideas on how to achieve it.

He said the success of the Council must be measured by spiritual values. "You cannot regard the Council workings as merely human," he said. "We must see things through the eyes of the Holy Spirit, and from this point of view much has been done."

The Jesuit theologian took part in a discussion on the Council with Dr. Douglas Horton, former dean of the Harvard University divinity school. The discussion was sponsored by the Faithful Information Center.

Dr. Horton, an official Non-Catholic observer at both sessions of the Council, called contacts between council officials and the non-Catholic observers "a major step" toward ecumenical understanding.

## Missioners Finish Course

Peace, P.R. — (NC) — Forty-two persons have finished the first course offered especially for volunteer missionaries in Latin America by the Institute for Intercultural Communications.

The group, which underwent an intensive four-month course includes 18 U.S. and Canadian laymen, sisters and priests. Of the lay people, there are three married couples, one with five children and a second with two youngsters.

The group will teach, do nursing and other medical work and help establish cooperative and credit unions.

## Unity, Peace, Food

(Continued from Page 1)  
ly of nations, bringing with them their own original civilization as well as their recent cultural and social progress in the spirit of solidarity, harmony, and peace."

Pope Paul said particular reasons for mentioning peace in his Christmas message were the world's youth and because "We see that peace is still weak, fragile, threatened, and that it is not a few, fortunately limited regions of the world, peace is violated."

"We observe with some apprehension, the obvious facts," the Pope added, "in the present time is being more on a fear than on friendship. It is maintained more by error of deadly weapons than by mutual harmony and faith among peoples. And if tomorrow peace were to be broken—which God forbid—all humanity could be destroyed."

The Pope urgently besought all men of goodwill, yes, all

## Protestant Sermons on Our Lady

Toronto — (RNS) — The United Church Observer has urged its clergymen readers to preach some Christmas sermons on Mary this year.

In an editorial, the official publication of the United Church of Canada noted that Protestants are asking Roman Catholics to "focus up" to problems involving religious liberty and mixed marriages.

"We expect that Catholics feel Protestants have been neglectful of the mother of our Lord, and superficial in criticism of Catholic emphasis on the Virgin Mary," the editorial said.

The Observer added that Protestants had to be just as honest in searching out and acknowledging their own shortcomings "as we are forthright in reminding Catholics of theirs."

ten who hold responsible positions in the field of culture should be considered as fundamental to the Church's mission.

"TRUE PEACE," he said, "is not that hypocritical, double-edged peace which is aimed at lulling the adversary to sleep and concealing one's own preparation for war. Peace does not consist in political treaties that renege the indispensable, patient and tireless negotiations which are the only efficacious means."

"Peace is not based merely on the precarious balance of opposing economic interests, and in the ocean of proud superiority. It is based on the abolition, or, at least, on the mitigation, of the causes that endanger its security, such as nationalistic pride, ideological pride, the arms race, lack of confidence in the methods of the spiritual-religious that have been constituted to render the relations among nations orderly and friendly."

Pope Paul began his message by extending best wishes for a blessed Christmas, especially to the children of the world, to the aged and suffering, and to those of you who are exiles and fugitives.

"In our desire to extend to all our brotherly and fatherly wishes," he said, "our eyes try to perceive the view of the whole world as seen from what we might call the watchtower over the world, the lofty position on which our responsibility has placed us."

In speaking of his Jan. 4 to pilgrimage to the Holy Land he stressed it was "solely religious" in nature and purpose.

"Our journey," he said, "will be to repeat Peter's witness. We wish to include in our own faith that of the whole Church, and with Peter at Caesarea Philippi, say to Jesus: Yes, Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Caesarea Philippi, located 50 miles northeast of Nazareth and close to the Jordan-Israel border, is the place where, according to St. Matthew's Gospel, Christ told the leader of the Apostles: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church."

The itinerary of the Pope's pilgrimage, drawn up by Vatican authorities on the basis of possible last-minute changes has so far not included a visit to Caesarea Philippi.

In his message, the Pope made no mention of his anticipated meeting in Jerusalem with Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras.

However, he said, "We shall greet respectfully and cordially, whatever be their origin, whom we shall meet in our way, especially those in authority: the pilgrims and the tourists, but without stopping our hurried pilgrim's journey, and without allowing ourselves to be distracted from the sole religious purpose of our journey."

"It will thus," he added, "be a journey of prayer, made with humility and with love. In our heart will be present the whole world. No one will be forgotten."

The Pope said he had been moved to undertake the pilgrimage "because we wish to express anew our faith and our love for Christ, the Son of God, and also because we feel that by uniting ourselves with Him in the Gospel setting, we shall be able to carry out with greater perfection and success the mission entrusted to us for the world's salvation."

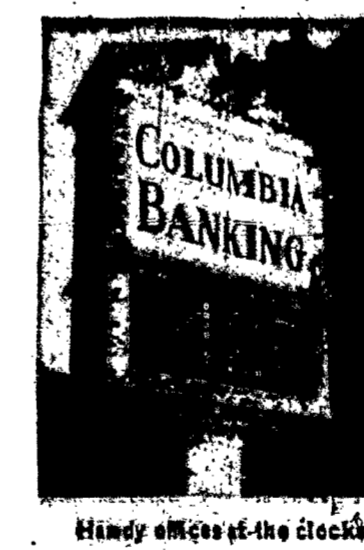
"It will be a journey of offering," Pope Paul continued, "as the Magi from the East, the symbols and precursors of all peoples of the earth, so we from the West wish to bring to Jesus the offering of His Church, and to acknowledge in Him the Founder and its Master, its Lord and its Saviour."

In addition, Pope Paul added, it will be "a journey of search and of hope."

It will be, he said, "a search for all those who are for us sons and brothers in Christ in the atmosphere of the Gospels evoked by this land of benediction. How can we not ask ourselves: Where is the full flock of Christ? Where are the lambs and the sheep of His fold? Are they all here? Which ones are missing? And so we cannot but implore Jesus, the Good Shepherd, using His own words: May there be one fold and one shepherd."

And our heart will reach out also to those outside the fold of Christ, and our good intentions will embrace all the peoples of the earth, those far and near, with sentiments of respect and of love, wishing them happiness and peace."

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