

Worker's Task

Bring Christ to World

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, speaking at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the feast of St. Joseph, urged workers everywhere to bring Christ to the industrial world and the world of social controversies.

The Pope celebrated the Mass for employees of the Fiat automobile works in Turin, who were in Rome on a pilgrimage.

Noting that St. Joseph was the patron of workers, he said the mission of "the silent and zealous carpenter, the foster father of Jesus" had been to give Christ a civil status, a social level, an economic condition of life, professional training and an education.

"Do you," he asked his com-

rades, "feel the same mission, that of protecting Christ in the conditions, the adventures and difficulties described in the evangelic history. Do you feel you could protect Him in the modern world of labor, in the industrial world, in the world of social controversies?"

"Perhaps you do not think that the least of St. Joseph could bring such an unexpected challenge aimed so directly at you. Nor did you expect the Pope would delegate to you a role which is entirely his, or move his than yours, namely, that of defending and caring for the interests of Christ in present-day society."

However, "the world of labor has the necessity and the right to be penetrated, to be regenerated, to be renewed by the Christian spirit, and this must be done chiefly by workers themselves," the Pope stressed.

"This," he said, "is the fundamental point which might call for a lengthy debate. But you, since you have come here, are already persuaded. An impartial and sincere judgment on the evolutional development of the modern world testifies to the point and confirms it."

"Either the world will be pervaded by the spirit of Christ or it will be tormented by the same progress to the point of reaching the worst consequences of conflicts and tyrannies and ruin. More than ever before, Christ is needed today."



Jewish Leaders Confer With Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — American Jewish leaders are shown with Pope Paul VI following a private audience at the Vatican. They called on the Pope to express their "profound interest" in chapters of the Second Vatican Council schema on ecumenism involving a condemnation of anti-Semitism and a definition of religious liberty. With the pontiff, left to right, are Label A. Katz, international president of the welfare and human relations agency called B'nai B'rith; and Maurice Bisgver, executive vice-president.

U.S. Laymen Meet

Council Progress Reported

Washington — (NC) — It may have been a blessing in disguise that last year's session of the Vatican Council didn't take conclusive action on proposed statements about religious freedom and Jewish-Christian relations, a bishop said here.

Auxiliary Bishop Stephen A. Leven of San Antonio, Tex., said this is because a new draft of the ecumenism schema, of which these statements are part, is so much "better" than the original.

BISHOP LEVEN said one American bishop serving with the Council body responsible for the ecumenism schema told him that for this reason he was "thankful to God" that the religious liberty and Jewish-Christian relations statements weren't voted on last year.

(Council Fathers and experts of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity met recently for two weeks near Rome to revise the ecumenism schema. Following their closed meeting, Father Thomas F. Stranksy, C.S.P., an American on the unity secretariat staff, called the new draft "bolder" than the original.)

Bishop Leven gave his assessment of the progress and prospects of the ecumenical Council at the 1964 president's conference of the National Council of Catholic Men. The meeting (March 19-22) brought together some 150 officials and moderators of diocesan men's councils for discussions on the theme "Planning and Action for Renewal."

Bishop Leven in his talk stressed the fresh look the Vatican Council is taking at the roles of the members of the Church — pope, bishops, priests and laymen.

The key concept being examined with regard to the relation between the pope and bishops, he said, is that of "collegiality." But he described as erroneous newspaper reports that what the bishops were doing was "robbing more power to themselves and taking it away from the pope."

"No one ever questioned the primacy of Peter or the primacy of the pope," he said. Rather, he said, the meaning of collegiality is that as Christ gave the power to teach, rule and sacrifice — the "magisterium" — to "the body of the Apostles with Peter at their head," so it is "to the body of the bishops with the pope at their head that the magisterium is given today."

The alternative to this, he said, is a view that makes the pope a "super-bishop" with the

other bishops of the world his "venerand boys."

Bishop Leven said the Council was abandoning the notion of the Church as a "pyramid of power" with the pope at the top, the bishops and priests in the middle, and the laymen on the bottom. Rather, he said, the new concept is that of "a series of concentric circles with Christ at the center," and radiating out from Him — the bishops, priests and laymen. He called this a "much more fruitful basis" for Catholic action and the lay apostolate.

The Bishop said the Council is viewing laymen as "the people of God" who are called to bear witness to God in the world.

On the subject of ecumenism, he said that one of the basic principles of the ecumenical movement is that "we must recognize the action of the Holy Spirit wherever He acts," including among Non-Catholics and their churches.

He said the original version of the ecumenism schema made an "odious" distinction between Protestants and Orthodox, in that it referred to the Orthodox bodies as "churches," but the Protestant denominations only as "communities."

Bishop Leven recalled that it was during the discussion on ecumenism that he took the Council floor to say that "some of the dangers being portrayed by bishops who had never seen a Protestant were exaggerated."

REPLYING to questions, the Bishop said he does not see how the Council can finish in one more session if it is to deal with all the matters that still remain before it. Among these, he noted, are the status of Catholic schools and seminaries, the lay apostolate, religious orders and the missions.

Asked about reports describing Pope Paul VI as a "Hamlet" unable to make up his mind between conflicting points of view, or a "Lincoln" who wants reform but can't carry it through, he said there is "no question" but that Pope Paul wants aggiornamento — updating — for the Church and will get it.

"The Council is going to achieve reform," Bishop Leven said. "We're just instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit, and willy-nilly we're going to get the job done."

A liturgical expert told the meeting that the liturgy constitution adopted by the council and promulgated last fall by Pope Paul "in a sense" has "participated" in the Council's eventual conclusions about the nature of the Church.

The constitution does not speak of the Church as a "structure or organization" but as "a divine mystery, the people of God," said Father Frederick R. McManus, a canon law professor at the Catholic University of America. Father McManus is past president of the national Liturgical Conference and a liturgical expert at the Vatican Council.

He said one of the major values of the liturgy constitution is its emphasis on the communal nature of the Church and "higher worship," a concept which underlines the active role of laymen in the liturgy.

Calling the constitution "evidence of great achievement" and "the sign of the Council's success," he said that Church leaders, both clergy and laymen, have "a responsibility to move with the Church, a responsibility indeed to lead the way" in the matter of liturgical reform and renewal.

Answering a question about the timetable for introducing the vernacular into parts of the Mass, he noted that the U.S. Bishops will meet after Easter and "it is assumed" they will then approve English texts for use. He said English would be used in the Mass in this country "in the reasonable future."

He said the wide-ranging liturgy constitution is a sign that "the Church is not old and tired, but young and vigorous... It is the first step in bringing the Church's ways up to date."

Dialogue on Television

Philadelphia — (RNS) — Catholics and Protestants are slowly but surely moving toward better understanding and cooperation, Catholic Archbishop John J. Krol and Methodist Bishop Fred Pierce agreed in a televised "ecumenical dialogue" here.

The Philadelphia churchmen expressed hope and optimism that friendly relations would continue and open new doors to understanding in the spirit of unity — and move from the Vatican to the diocesan and community level.

Archbishop Krol, an undersecretary of the Second Vatican Council, and Bishop Corson, president of the World Methodist Council and the Council's ranking Protestant delegate-observer, were interviewed together on WRCV-TV. They had exchanged views on the first session of the Council on television a year ago.

"Catholics and Protestants are enjoying getting to know one another, and finding they can have encounter without compromising their different viewpoints," asserted Bishop Corson.

Having spoken with Pope Paul VI, as he had earlier with the late Pope John XXIII, Bishop Corson said he was "impressed by his charity and common sense and his attitude that 'we forget the past and press forward.'"

"We must continue to stress those things we hold in common, seek understanding of differences, cultivate the spirit of unity in ways which have been opened, and extend it to the parish level," he added.

Archbishop Krol noted that the Council, as a body, limits its fraternal relations with "separated brethren" to the top leaders, but has nonetheless created an atmosphere of char-

Cardinal's Talks In Protestant Churches Cited

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican Radio broadcast a summary here of the remarks of Cardinal Cushing of Boston from the pulpit of a Congregational church in Massachusetts.

The summary, given in many languages, cited Cardinal Cushing's comments in which he said Roman Catholics must respect the religious convictions of others.

It also summarized his talk condemning the charge which blames Jews alone for the death of Christ.

In his talk from the pulpit of the Wellesley (Mass.) Congregational church, the Boston prelate had expressed hope that the Second Vatican Council would issue a declaration on religious liberty and a statement on Christian-Jewish relations that would condemn anti-Semitism.

Observers here noted that Vatican Radio has increasingly cited the comments of Cardinal Cushing on ecumenism and has given thorough coverage of his many appearances before Protestant churches.

In its most recent broadcast, the station stressed that the speech covered was one of several given by Cardinal Cushing in Protestant churches.

When the third session of the Council opens in September it will discuss the schema on ecumenism; one chapter is related to religious freedom in the modern world, another is devoted to Christian-Jewish relations.

Discussed briefly at the second session just before its close, the chapters won hearty endorsement from U.S. bishops. Recently, Archbishop John J. Krol of Philadelphia and Vatican sources here confirmed that the chapters had been revised and "made stronger" before submission to Council Fathers for study.

(In his talk at Wellesley, Cardinal Cushing addressed members of Protestant Episcopal, Methodist and Congregational churches.

"There is no hope, humanly speaking" for an amalgamation of all churches "in our lifetime," he said, but a "unity of love" can embrace persons of every faith "talking together, working together, and praying together."

(He said it was "regrettable" that in the past "we have been living in our ghettos... We have hardly talked with one another — and sometimes we were fighting."

"Our task," he continued, "is to know, respect and esteem the conscientious religious beliefs of all people... It is to love one another, to work with all people for the common good of our country and the world."

(Taking part in the program with Cardinal Cushing were the Rev. Henry Rust, pastor of the host church; the Rev. Samuel S. Johnston of St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal church; the Rev. Guy Morrison of Wellesley Methodist church, and Rabbi Jacob Lantz of Temple Beth Dinohin.)

Liturgy, Unity

Chicago — (RNS) — Cardinal Meyer of Chicago has set up an Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission to advise him on forthcoming changes, and use of English, in parts of the Mass and other ceremonies as a result of the Vatican Council's Constitution on the Liturgy.

Liturgy Officials' Meeting To Study Revised Rites

Kansas City — (NC) — A meeting for diocesan liturgical officials to help them carry out reforms decreed by the Vatican Council and Pope Paul VI will be sponsored here April 27-30 by the national Liturgical Conference.

All diocesan liturgical commissions in the country and all bishops without such commissions have been invited to send representatives to the meeting. Among the liturgy reforms is a requirement that every diocese establish such a commission.

The meeting here will follow a gathering April 2 and 3 in Washington, D.C., of the U.S. bishops at which they will discuss the Council decrees.

A spokesman for the Liturgical Conference, which has headquarters in Washington, said it is hoped that some 250 persons will attend the meeting here. Sessions will be held at the Hotel Muehlebach and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



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