

'I Looked at it with Awe'—As Thousands Do Daily

An Interview . . .

The thousands who daily stand in awe before Michaelangelo's masterpiece of the Pieta at the New York World's Fair see it in its most dramatic setting in its nearly 500-year history.

This week we talked with the priest and the layman who deserve the credit—Father Stanley Kusman of the Brothers of Mary and famed stage designer Jo Mielziner.

One of the thousands of visitors to the Fair commented on the Pieta's deep blue, chapel-like setting, "The man who did this must have had great faith!"

And that accurately describes Mielziner, a convert to the Catholic Church since 1928.

How did the stage designer for South Pacific, My Fair Lady, The King and I and more than 300 other Broadway plays become a chapel designer?

His friend of more than a quarter century, Father Kusman was giving a retreat in Rome in 1960 when he heard Cardinal Spellman asked Pope John to bring the Pieta from the Vatican to this year's Fair in New York City.

As soon as he returned to this



Jo Mielziner, famed New York stage designer, shows his sketches of the setting for the Pieta to Father Stanley Kusman in the artist's studio.

. . . with Jo Mielziner

country, the priest told Mielziner, "Why not ask the Cardinal if you can submit a design?"

Within an hour, Cardinal Spellman phoned his reply—an enthusiastic assent.

Mielziner worked at preliminary sketches until 2 a.m. that night—the start of a project which would ultimately take nearly a full year of his time.

He remarked about another artist — said he admired him "because he works with an eraser." Mielziner also piled up scores of sketches and wore out scores of erasers before he came to his final design—the one

the critics criticize and the people like.

His goal was to focus attention on the Pieta, not on its setting, but one of the Vatican officials who guarded the statue on its journey stated, "We'll never be happy unless we do something like this for the Pieta when we get it back in Rome."

Mielziner — who's seen the Pieta many times in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome—said when it was put in its place at the Vatican Pavilion at the Fair, "I just stood back and looked at it with awe." And that's what thousands of others are doing daily.

—Father Henry Avall

Michaelangelo's Pieta

Draws Throngs at Fair

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Pentecost Prayers For Council

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has called on the world's bishops to offer special prayers on Pentecost Sunday for the success of the Vatican Council.

He also asked clergy and laity to pray for the Council, and to inform themselves about it and in particular to "draw close to our separated brethren."

Noting that the Church's bishops "are preparing themselves with the greatest diligence for the third session of the council," scheduled to open Sept. 14, the Pope declared that "such a great event calls therefore for the overflowing virtue of the Holy Spirit who fills minds with enlightenment and who strengthens wills to undertake new projects and to accept responsibility."

THE POPE'S appeal was contained in a letter dated April 30 and addressed to all the bishops of the world.

He urged them "especially as Pentecost draws near, to redouble your prayers to obtain for the ecumenical Council those copious and considerable fruits which all of us desire."

The Pope called upon the clergy and laity to "continue with calm and reverence to draw closer to our separated brethren, not turning down some opportunities for calm and friendly conversations and, being more concerned for their welfare rather than our honor, they may seek together the

means for re-composing brotherhood, based on the identity of the faith and mutual charity which was desired by Christ for His Church."

Referring to the Council, the Pope urged all the faithful that "in this time of diligent preparation, they accompany the Church's effort with their prayers and voluntary acts of penitence." He expressed the wish that they "be interested about the themes of the Council with opportune methods, especially by means of the press and by suitable talks."

The Pope recalled his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, during which he prayed that all Christians may participate in the riches of divine grace, and that "men of our day" may be brought efficaciously to a better knowledge of the mind of Christ."

From Defeat To Victory By Courage

Washington — (NC) — President Johnson lauded the courage of a Catholic layman here, saying he and other physically handicapped persons had "taught us all that personal courage and individual fortitude can turn defeat into victory."

Our greatness as a nation rests not in our cities, prairies or wealth, but "on the unconquerable spirit of our people," the President declared.

He spoke at the annual meeting of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, and presented the President's Trophy for the "Handicapped American of the Year" to Jerry J. Walsh of Corona, N.Y.

Walsh, 41, former Providence College student, is a special educational consultant with the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation in New York. Stricken when 18, he underwent two operations and spent several years in bed.

With a crutch and a cane, he has since traveled hundreds of thousands of miles in scores of cities; founded a firm which placed hundreds of handicapped persons in work and has written, spoken and appeared before legislative groups; to make known the plight of the country's arthritis sufferers and to stimulate research on this disease.

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75th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1964 Price 15 Cents



A new altar and a new parish were blessed Sunday afternoon. Archbishop George Flahiff of Winnipeg consecrated the chapel altar at the new House of Studies for Basilian seminarians at St. John Fisher College and Bishop

Kearney blessed the new St. John of Rochester church and school in Perinton. St. John Fisher, sixteenth century bishop of Rochester, England, was martyred for his loyalty to the Catholic faith.

LBJ Asks Memorial Day Prayers for World Peace

Washington — (RNS) — President Johnson has proclaimed Memorial Day as a national day of prayer, asking that Americans observe it as a "day of prayer for permanent peace."

In making the proclamation, President Johnson called upon "all the people of the nation to invoke God's blessing on those who have died in defense of our country and to pray for a world of law and order."

He set 11 a.m. in each locality as the time for its citizens to unite in such a prayer.

Pope Paul Voices Hopes For Reforms in Brazil

Rome — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI expressed hopes for "opportune and timely reforms" in Brazil in the wake of its recent

bloodless revolution and stressed the need for a priesthood there "that can live up to the needs of a new Brazilian society."

The occasion was a visit he paid to the Pontifical Brazilian College on the Via Aurelia in Rome on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its establishment by Pope Pius XI in 1934.

Recalling that he had been in Brazil as a cardinal "not long ago," Pope Paul declared in a talk to the faculty members and students of the College that during the last few weeks the eyes of the world had turned anxiously toward this South American country, which "constitutes a stable geographical entity and, above all, a spiritual unity."

HAMILTON and Omega Watches—Bridget Swann, 115 Main St., 754-1111, 754-1112, 115 Main St. East—Adv.



Americans will honor Mother on her day this Sunday, May 10. The month of May is also dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our divine Lord. Murillo, seventeenth century artist, depicts the double theme of motherhood and religious devotion in his Virgin and Child, a painting now in the Pitti Palace, Florence, Italy.

Mass, May Day Rite On Television This Sunday

Mother's Day Mass will be telecast from St. Ambrose Church, Rochester, by WROCTV, Channel 8, this Sunday, 10 to 11 a.m.

Following the Mass rite, Sodality of the parish will conduct a May Day ceremony honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Monsignor Arthur Ratigan, pastor, will celebrate the Mass. Rev. Raymond Ringwood, curate, will preach. The parish choir, directed by Kenneth Scarciotta, will sing the Mass chants.

Continue Catholic Schools, Pope's Delegate Says

Philadelphia — (NC) — The Apostolic Delegate said here U.S. Catholics should continue their devotion to Catholic education, "the brightest jewel in the crown of the Church in America."

Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi spoke at the dedication of the new Cardinal O'Hara High School. It is a \$3.2 million facility which will enroll 2,000 girls and an equal number of boys in separate wings.

"I trust you to know that today I am speaking not in my own name, but for the Holy Father and I am speaking to the entire nation, that you should continue in your devotion to Catholic education," he said.

Honor your Mother on her day, Sunday, May 10 by wearing a flower. Wear white in her memory, a colored flower if she is living. Richard Florist, 25 Lake Ave., or call RA 3-9141—Adv.

"And I want you to know," he added, "that this dedication of yours to Catholic education is shared by the overwhelming majority of the bishops."

Archbishop Vagnozzi, who blessed the new school, told the audience that Pope Paul VI became enthusiastic about the Catholic school system during a visit here several years ago. "He still frequently talks of your schools as the glory of the Church in America," he said.

The Delegate said that 30 years ago, when he was a secretary at the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, "we would receive letters of complaint from people about their pastors who were urging them to build Catholic schools."

"I should like to see the other dioceses in the country compete with Philadelphia for the primacy in Catholic education, but even then I hope Philadelphia keeps this primacy," he said.