

# Mary, Mother of Christ and His Church

The following article examines the impact of actions of the Second Vatican Council on devotion to the Mother of God. The author is a Carmelite friar who is associate professor of sacred theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He has played an active role in the work of the Mariological Society of America.

By **FATHER EAMON R. CARROLL, O. C. A. R. M.**

The bishops of the Second Vatican Council have decided that the interests of the Church would be better served by considering Mary in her own relationship to the Church.

In a procedural vote in October, 1963, the bishops chose by a slim majority to discuss Our Lady not in a separate schema, as originally proposed, but as a chapter in the larger schema on the Church.

An immense amount has been

published about the significance of this move. Some reports characterized it as a "deemphasis" of Mary.

The fact is that the Council is not playing down Mary, but attempting to present Marian doctrine in a way that will make the Church more understandable and attractive to the modern mind.

The vote on Mary was motivated by the compelling concern that the Council judges all matters, including Our Lady, in the light of the Church itself.

The traditional truth about MARY remains their full validity—she is the one conceived without original sin, the ever-Virgin Mother of God, taken in the company of the risen Christ body as well as soul.

The Council is not turning its back on the legitimate past, but is vibrantly aware of the present needs and future hopes of the Church.

The Council is in continuity with the thought of this century on the relationship between Mary and the Church.

Since the Second World War, especially among Swiss and German authors, a new school of thought has suggested that the official role of Mary in the Church is to be seen in the light of the redemptive work of Christ. Many experts favored the position that Our Lady had a proximate and direct involvement in the Saviour's Passion and death. The Mother of Christ was considered in God's plan as having shared in the objective redemption by which Christ won all graces for His Church.

Other theologians preferred to speak of Mary as the spiritual mother of the members of Christ's Mystical Body. Mary's spiritual maternity began through her consent at the Annunciation. She brought forth spiritually the brethren of Christ on Calvary in an intimate union of will and suffering with Christ the Saviour. Now she

continues to fulfill her maternal role in association with the risen Christ.

Our Lady's involvement in Our Lord's redemptive work was an active, receptive role such as the Church now has. Hence she is a prototype of the Church, this school suggests. Mary is held to be the one most perfectly redeemed, and thereby a model of the Church made holy by Christ.

What is the Council likely to say about Our Lady?

To date, there has been no official statement on the contents of the Marian chapter.

A fair conjecture on the approach of the Council can be made in the light of two events at the end of the second session: adoption of the new Constitution on the Liturgy and Pope Paul's address of Dec. 4, 1959.

The constitution's fifth chapter, on the liturgical year, places Our Lady in the context of her divine Son: "In celebrating the annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, Holy Church honors with special love the blessed Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her the Church holds up and admires the most excellent fruit of redemption, and joyfully contemplates, as in a faultless image, that which she herself desires and hopes wholly to be."

An encouraging note is that the separated brethren regard

with favor the conciliar decision to study Mary in the light of the Church. One official observer at the Council, Max Thurian, of the Calvinist French monastic community of Taizé, has written a book on Mary as "mother of the Lord, figure of the Church," just published in the United States under the hopeful title "Mary, Mother of All Christians."

Far from downgrading Our Lady, the Council is leading all Christians to a new appreciation of Mary in this conciliar age.

**MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM COURT** of 317 N. Seward Ave. co-chairmen of the 8th Annual Mercy Hospital Cotillion to be held June 6 at Springside Inn, Auburn, are shown as they check details of the project. The cotillion is an annual dance sponsored by the hospital auxiliary.

## Annual Cotillion To Aid Auburn's Mercy Hospital

Auburn—Mr. and Mrs. William Court, co-chairmen of the Eighth Annual Mercy Hospital Cotillion announced today that this year's Cotillion will be held June 6 at Springside Inn.

The Mercy Hospital Cotillion is an annual Spring dance sponsored by the hospital's auxiliary.

PROCEEDS FROM the dance will be applied by the auxiliary to buy equipment and to modernize the hospital facilities.

Serving on the committee are Mr. and Mrs. James G. Cuddy, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Rybarczyk, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Karpinski, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Mebler, Christopher McAvoy, Miss Kathleen McAvoy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Killen and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lynch.

Auxiliary officers are Mrs. Joseph J. Rybarczyk, president; Mrs. Arthur A. Karpinski, first vice president; Mrs. Maury George, second vice president; Mrs. George B. Shannon, financial sec-

retary; Mrs. Lillian Alger, recording secretary and Mrs. Edward T. Boyle, treasurer.

## Mothers Unit Set Banquet

Auburn—The annual banquet of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn will be held May 14 at the Auburn Golf and Country Club.

Members of the committee are as follows: Chairman—Mrs. Robert Gallo, Decorations—Mrs. Pat Petrosino, Entertainment—Mrs. Robert Buschman, Tickets—Mrs. Robert Bishop and Mrs. John Gower, Arrangements—Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh and Mrs. Chas. Hundley, Publicity—Mrs. William Dinn.

## Neutrals Rapped On Racial Topic

New York—(RNS)—Existence of a "neutrality" between church and state does not mean that churches can take a neutral attitude toward "the problems around them." U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Arthur J. Goldberg declared here.

Addressing an interreligious audience of over 1,000 church, business, government and labor leaders at the 15th anniversary of Religion in American Life, he said:

"The history of all churches, through all ages, has demonstrated that religion must recognize its obligations as well as to preach and practice moral values—or fail in its mission."

Justice Goldberg, stating that if members of different religious groups are tied by "an ancient unity of belief," warned that "there is also isolation of that belief, and of its practice, from the pressing problems of contemporary life."

Calling churches and synagogues to greater involvement in the moral and ethical issues of our times, the Jewish jurist said that the existence of poverty, unemployment, racial justice and immorality all are "the proper concern of religion... part of the ancient evils that have burdened man; it is religion's part to confront them."

"The new heritage of religion," he said, "is a return to the old frontier of involvement

## Negro Rights Defended

Cleveland—(RNS)—The Diocese of Cleveland issued a statement that it is in sympathy with "and supports the Negro in his struggle for justice, and will work to end discrimination in housing, education and employment."

In an editorial in the Catholic Universe Bulletin, official paper of the diocese it said "this is to be accomplished by educating the minds and hearts of men to their Christian and civic duties. For, in the words of Pope Pius XII:

"Salvation and justice are not found in revolution, but in evolution through concord. Violence has always achieved only destruction, not construction, the kindling of passions, not their pacification, the accumulation of hate and ruin, not the reconciliation of the contending parties."



## Will Compete In Spelling Bee

THREE PAROCHIAL school pupils and one public school pupil won the spell-downs in Holy Family School and will be among the 150 youngsters competing in the Syracuse Herald-Journal, Herald-American Spelling Bee to be held in Syracuse, May 4. The students competed against 80 students from nine schools in the elimination contest. From left are: Keven Daly, 13, 9th grade student at Holy Family School, first place with 100%; David Sharun, 14, 8th grade student at St. Hyacinth's School, and Mary Yaworsky, 14, 8th grade student at St. Hyacinth's School, tied for second place with 97%; and Priscilla George, 12, 6th grade student at Owasco Elementary School, third with 90%.

## Exchange Views With Masons

Lucerne—(RNS)—A leading Swiss Catholic daily newspaper here has advocated "an exchange of views between representatives of the Church and Masonic lodges."

Dr. Karl Wick, veteran editor of Vaterland and a former member of the Swiss Congress, expressed this view in a front page editorial suggesting whether a "modus vivendi" is not possible between the two.

He said many Masons no longer subscribe to ideas prevailing among them in the last century, although he admitted different trends are present in various Masonic national groups.

Wick said he feels a book by Alec Mellor, published in France with the title "Our Separated Brethren, the Masons" bearing the imprimatur of Bishop Joseph Schiswohl of Graz-Seekau, Austria, in its German edition, and the fact that it is now available in English and Italian translations, would seem to indicate the issue requires classification one way or another.

## Seton Groups In Action

20TH BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital was to meet Tuesday, May 6 at home of Mrs. Maris Van Graefeland on Meigs St.

34TH BRANCH to be entertained at lunch at home of Mrs. Charles Seuffert, 730 Beach Ave., Tuesday, May 12. Workshop on Seton Sale project to begin at 10:30 a.m.

43RD BRANCH White Elephant Sale at meeting Thursday, evening, May 14 at home of Mrs. Raymond C. Shady, 81 Cohasset Drive.

64TH BRANCH to meet at home of Mrs. Gordon Wahl, Sansharon Drive, Tuesday, May 12 at 8:30 p.m. White Elephant Sale to be held.

60TH BRANCH to hold monthly meeting Thursday, May 7 at home of Mrs. Jack Moore of Melville St.

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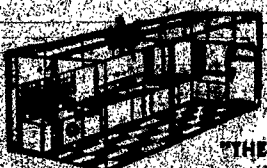
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