

Church to Step Up Mass Media Use

BY JAMES C. O'NEILL

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has extended the scope of the Pontifical Commission for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television to include "daily and periodical press" and changed the commission's name to that of the Pontifical Commission for Mass Media.

In a motu proprio, a papal document drawn up by the Pope and issued on his authority, dated March 7 and published April 7, Pope Paul implemented the decree on communications media approved by the Vatican Council and promulgated by the Pope. The motu proprio bears the Latin title of In Fructibus from the opening words and is the second motu proprio to be issued by the Pope putting into motion acts of the council.

The first of these was the motu proprio Sacram Liturgiam, issued Jan. 25, implementing portions of the conciliar constitution on liturgical reform.

In addition to changing the commission's name and extending its competence to the press, the Pope's motu proprio specifies that the commission now has the authority to implement the "directive norms of the decree" on communications media and that it is to prepare for the Pope's approval "an appropriate pastoral instruction" which would help bishops "in the fulfillment of their pastoral activities in this sector" of mass media.

The motu proprio also stresses the importance of the cooperation of laymen with the commission and in its work.

A spokesman for the commission pointed out that there are already three laymen on the commission, Prince Carlo Pacelli, Count Enrico Galeazzi and Vittorio Veronese. In the terms of the motu proprio it is foreseeable that lay experts in all fields of social communications from around the world will be called on as members and advisers.

The papal document notes that instruments of mass media "among the press, radio, television and motion pictures have a particular importance, owing to their close and mutual relationships, pose in our times problems of grave importance not only culture, civilization and public morality, but religion itself."

The spokesman said that though it is not specified in the motu proprio, the sense of the conciliar decree not only asks for extension of the commission's competence to the press but also all other aspects of the field such as theater, records and other forms of communication.

POPE PAUL states that the late Pope John in his motu proprio Boni Pastoris issued in early 1959, had given "new impetus" to the Pontifical Commission for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television which is headed by Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the North American college in Rome. This commission, which has now been renamed the Commission for Mass Media, has been given the task of:

Examining the various activities related to motion pictures, radio and television, to foster them and direct them, in conformity with the teaching contained in the encyclical Miranda Prostris (by Pius XII) and with the directives which were to be given later by the Apostolic See.

The motu proprio says the commission carried out its task "with such thoroughness and such zeal as to deserve the appreciation of all." The document further notes that the Council Fathers had agreed it was necessary that the competence of the pontifical commission be extended.

THE DOCUMENT then continues to its essential point: "Therefore since this authoritative vote of the venerable Fathers of the Council is in accordance with our desires, we, modifying the name and amplifying the task of the above commission, by our own initiative, with certain knowledge and after mature deliberation, by virtue of this letter, and from henceforth institute the Pontifical Commission for Mass Media, entrusting to it as regards the interests of the Catholic religion the problems relating to motion pictures, to radio and to television and to the daily and periodical press."

Camden — (RNS) — The phrases "Act of God" and "total loss" run hand-in-hand in American disasters and insurance policies—a condition that a Catholic newspaper here feels can be corrected by government action.

The Catholic Standard, a weekly newspaper of the Camden diocese, proposed editorially that the federal government find a way to insure homes and properties that are destroyed in such disasters as the Alaskan earthquake.

According to the Standard, the "act of God" clause is an ancient device for insurance companies.

"Isn't it time Congress investigated why no payments are made by losses sustained in so-called Acts of God?"

Mothers List Fashions

CORPUS CHRISTI Mothers Club will sponsor a fashion show Tuesday, May 12 at 8 p.m. in the school hall. From left are Paula Grassel, president; Barbara Buckert, chairman; and Betty Godden, model.

May Day at Nazareth

Traditional May Day ceremonies will be held at Nazareth College, Thursday, May 7. (Ascension Thursday) The Blessed Virgin Mary will be honored by a 4:30 p.m. Mass followed by a symbolic presentation of flowers. Big-Little Sister Banquets will be held in the evening.

BISHOP KEARNEY will celebrate the Mass and deliver a short talk on Mary. New this year is the ceremony that will follow during which a senior student, elected by the student body to represent ideal Christian womanhood, and her four attendants will place flowers before Mary's status and pay her honor.

Chosen for the May Day rita are Beth LeValley, Joyce Korsch, Ann McArthur, Ann McDonald and Kathy Bender.

The Freshman-Junior Banquet, scheduled in the college cafeteria, will have as its theme "May Day 503 (Salute Our Sisters)." A variety show, including a skit, will highlight entertainment provided by the freshmen.

The singing of Mary Jo Spenser and "The Townsman," a soprano singing group, will be among the entertainment highlights at the Sophomore-Senior Banquet at Logan's on Scottsville Road.

General co-chairmen of the Freshman-Junior Banquet are Louise Schaeffer (clean-up), Co-chairmen of the Sophomore-Senior Banquet are Carol Grisco and Camille Vistocco. Committee heads include: Gail Whitmore (transportation), Aura Ramirez (invitations), Connie Ryan (decorations), Judy Sheflia (programs).

'Don't Expect Too Much' Caution on Council

Boston — (RNS) — Cardinal Franz Konig, Archbishop of Vienna, warned an interreligious audience of some 1,800 persons here that "to expect too much" from the Second Vatican Council would lead to certain disillusionment and "even bitter-disappointment."

He gave the Paulist Fathers' Christian Culture Series Lecture here before the largest audience of its kind ever assembled in the city.

Cardinal Cushing of Boston hailed Cardinal Konig as "one of the most brilliant lights" of the Second Vatican Council.

The 58-year-old Austrian prelate, who has carried out Vatican diplomatic missions in Iron Curtain countries, is a member of the Council's Theological Commission.

He stressed that the "discussions, deliberations and declarations" of the Council should be afforded "realistic appraisal" in light of the ecumenical body's extensive goals and historic perspectives.

However, he warned that those who expect an immediate solution to all of the world's problems from the Council would be "gravely disappointed."

Cardinal Konig observed, however, that mankind has "moved forward through the Council" to such an extent that "we might look with optimism to the Council as a sign of hope in a rapidly unifying world."

"A worldwide ecumenical movement is in progress, drawing all races and continents," he said. "Bridges will be built which will join Rome to the Protestant world... contacts are already established which would hardly have been possible before."

Citing "extensive bridges" linking Rome and Eastern Orthodox Churches, Cardinal Konig noted that "on both sides there has been a desire to tear down the barricades."

He told the interreligious audience that the impact of the Council has been felt beyond the Protestant and Orthodox communities and into areas where "a progressive secularization of the intellectual world has not made man better or happier."

The Council's widening effects has touched inhabitants of Communist countries, he stressed. "Even this Iron Curtain may one day show even larger openings so that the hope for a better future can pass through."

Emphasizing that because "the world has not become better through materialists" and "because many people believe that religion is essential to make people better," he said, "We can hope that one day a bridge will reach across the Iron Curtain to unite the people with God and bring them to a lasting peace."

He said the impressive impact of the Council "is all the more surprising because at the beginning, both within and without the Catholic Church, there was a suspicion that the Council might become merely a splendid showpiece of Catholicism."

But, he added, Pope John XXIII "created a favorable climate—the most significant factor contributing to the Council's success."

Cardinal Konig credited the U.S. press — "with few exceptions" — with reporting Council activities "more and better than some in the so-called Catholic countries of Europe." He said this helped the Council "especially in its second session — to present to the world as a sign of hope in the spiritual inspiration of our times."

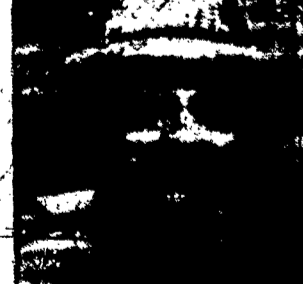
The Austrian cardinal observed that the Council Fathers uncovered in the Council "a climate of encounter that would be impossible elsewhere in modern times."

"Whether one met in the coffee bar or at one of the many conferences and discussions or became acquainted at one of the official sessions, everyone was conscious of the ties that bound us all."

He noted that Europeans and some other bishops showed themselves well-armed with intellectual qualifications for the great theological debates.

The American bishops, he added, "while not very conversant in Latin, were among the most dramatic speakers and debaters and won acclaim from all sides."

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Senior Tea Slated

SENIOR TEA in honor of mothers will be held May 13 at 2:15 p.m. at Mercy High School. Mrs. David Spaker, rights chairman, and Mrs. F. A. Desiderio, co-chairman.

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PLANS FOR fund drives are outlined by the Rev. Vincent P. Collins, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rexville, and St. Joseph's Church, Canisteo. Co-chairing with him are committee chairmen (from left) John Schwartz of Canisteo; Emmett Hakenrider, Rexville; Paul Dempsey, Troupsburg, and Allan Hechel, Canisteo.

Fund Campaigns Listed In Rexville, Canisteo

Rexville — Campaigns for increased parish support will be conducted Sunday, May 17, at St. Mary's Church, Rexville, and St. Joseph's Church, Canisteo, according to the Rev. Vincent P. Collins, pastor of both churches.

St. MARY'S drive is aimed at an increase in weekly contributions to meet operating and maintenance expenses. St. Joseph's parishioners will be asked to subscribe funds for enlargement of the Canisteo church and expansion of catechetical facilities.

Nearly 100 committeemen from both churches will attend a kickoff dinner at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16 in Somers Hall, Canisteo. Guests will include the Rev. Leonard A. Kelly, pastor of the Church of the Assumption, Fairport; the Rev. Robert G. Kress, former pastor of the Rexville and Canisteo churches; and the Rev. William H. Hickey, chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell. Women who have just completed a parish census also will attend.

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Renovation of St. Joseph's Church will include an addition to the rear of the building, providing new sanctuary and sacristy facilities and effecting a 50 per cent increase in the present 125-person seating capacity.

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'Act of God' Said 'Out' For Insurance Companies

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