

# 'Elbow Room' and News from 'Backstage'

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the sake of a true perspective on the full reality of the Church, but also that he may see that his mind, his heart and his will are needed for the good of the Church.

Callahan commented that the greatest practical drawback in presenting the Church only in its "triumphal reality" is that this says to the layman: "You are not needed; victory is here already." An even greater drawback, he added, is that "it induces the layman to look at the Church in a thoroughly unrealistic way, to ignore the discrepancies between ideal and reality and to think that nothing more is needed in the Church than very slight and minor adjustments."

He paid tribute to the pseudonymous Xavier Rynne's letters from Rome that appeared in The New Yorker magazine. "Regardless of the accuracy of Rynne's information, and regardless of the 'progressive' slant from which he wrote, he has had a trail for the Catholic press to follow. For what he did was to take the human side of the Church seriously."

"He wrote what everyone else close to the Council knows that there existed from the very first a division of opinion, a variety of conflicting viewpoints, and considerable jockeying for position, influence and power. He revealed just the stage center preparations for and progress of the Council — he also showed what was going on backstage. More than that, he made clear a simple fact which most of the Catholic press shied away from admitting at all: that there does exist a backstage."

FOURPOINT program for assisting the ecumenical movement was recommended to editors by Father Gregory Baum, O.S.A. of the Centre of Ecumenical Studies at St. Michael's College, Toronto, and a consultant to the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome. He listed them as follows:

- (1) by reporting honestly what happens in the Church;
- (2) by presenting a dynamic image of the Church; (3) by reporting on the ecumenical progress among Christians separated from the Catholic Church, and (4) by refusing to regard ecumenism as a goodwill movement.

Referring to the first point, Father Baum said Catholic editors "must have the courage to regard the Church as a true sociological reality, not as a moralistic stage play."

"In the past we have often been afraid to tell the truth," he declared. "We thought that we could serve the cause of the kingdom by distorting or embellishing reality. We believed that people would be shocked if they knew the truth."

On point two, the priest said the Catholic press has "an educational role of greatest importance" to play among Catholics disturbed over the changes that are taking place in the Church and among Protestants as well.

In commenting on the third point, Father Baum noted that "the majority of Catholics are, without any fault of their own, quite ignorant of the faith and religious practice of their Protestant brethren. When they want to know anything about those things."

On his last point, he cautioned against the tendency "to consider the ecumenical movement as a social movement for increasing social harmony between Catholics, Protestants and Jews, a sort of permanent brotherhood banquet."

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# Vatican Opens Door To Non-Christian Religions

(By Religion News Service)

History was made — but some questions remained unanswered — when Pope Paul VI announced on Pentecost Sunday the formation of a new Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians that will serve as a liaison between the Roman Catholic Church and the more than two-thirds of the world that is non-Christian.

Catholic leaders have established contacts with representatives of non-Christian faiths in many parts of the world, and this is being done in a more systematic way among the latest Pope Paul VI's successors of Arab origin have become increasingly frequent.

However, the establishment of the new secretariat, headed by Cardinal Paolo Marella, a veteran diplomat, marks the first formal effort by the Vatican to establish closer ties with the non-Christian religions.

It has not yet been specified how the new secretariat will function or what problems it will take up with the non-Christian religions, especially in the Church's far-flung mission fields.

Perhaps the most vital unanswered question is whether or not the new body will handle contacts with Judaism as well as with Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other faiths outside the Christian orbit.

Up till now, the Catholic Church's expanding ecumenical

dialogue has been confined to a few restricted areas. The Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, headed by Cardinal Augustin Bea, S.J., although this body set up by Pope John XXIII during the preparatory phase of the Second Vatican Council, was designed to deal exclusively with the Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

In a statement last year, Cardinal Bea stressed, however, that although his body did not handle relations with non-Christians "we must hope and desire that it will find concrete formulas to foster such contacts, since this was 'bound up with the question of the unity of all men of goodwill for the good of humanity.'"

It was Cardinal Bea's secretariat which drafted the statement on Catholic-Jewish relations on which the Vatican Council voted at its second session last year, but which is coming up at the third session opening next September — this time as a separate declaration and not as originally chapter four of the schema on ecumenism.

It has been reported that Cardinal Bea would present the statement (along with another separate one on religious liberty) also prepared by his secretariat when the Council reconvenes.

But in other quarters, it is considered more likely that the

secretariat, which has been authorized to deal with all non-Christians, will be headed by Cardinal Marella as head of the new secretariat.

The confusion arises from the fact that Pope Paul VI in his announcement, did not make clear whether the new body dealing with faiths outside Christianity would also include Judaism in its activities. The pontiff merely stated that it would handle "difficult questions" from the parallel Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity.

Commenting this week on the Pope's new action, Rabbi Marc S. Tanenbaum of New York, a well-known authority on Christian-Jewish history and relations, saw it as representing "a development of great potential theological significance."

One Vatican source was reported as saying that it would be difficult for a secretariat to function if it tried to foster close relations with both the Jews and Muslim faiths. The source said, "It would be difficult to have it as a plain of absolute good will mark the secretariat's work."

On the other hand, Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, chief consultant to the National Conference of Christians and Jews Religious Freedom and Public Affairs Project, just returned to New York from Rome, told officials of the Vatican Council as looking with great hope on "the wider 'reconciling' role" they would be able to play in virtue of the fact that both Muslims and Jews are included in the secretariat headed by Cardinal Marella.

Some Jewish commentators argued that Judaism should be dealt with within the scope of Cardinal Bea's secretariat rather than being treated in the new secretariat just as any other non-Christian body. Their argument: the Jews are a chosen people of God, and share a special relationship with Christians who hold to the Old Testament traditions.

In a final word of caution, Rabbi Tanenbaum said it was of "the utmost prudence not to speculate idly over such an important decision until the facts themselves are clarified and until the theological and related implications are fully defined and crystallized."

"In simple words," he added, "this new action of Pope Paul VI could be as great a reversal in Christian-Jewish understanding as it could be an advance."

Meanwhile, an informed Catholic source in New York said the question as to which of the Vatican secretariats would handle contacts with Judaism might well be decided on the basis of whether the Jews should be treated exclusively as a religious body or as a group

of people.

It was not expected that any startling or dramatic decision would be made by the new Secretariat for Non-Christians, especially since its methods and activities will come into focus only gradually. One of its first jobs, it has been suggested, will be to invite non-Christian observers to the Vatican Council's third session but this is still regarded as a remote possibility.

One thing seems clear. The new secretariat will in no sense be an instrument of proselytizing, despite the fact that in his homily in St. Peter's Basilica following the formation, Pope Paul deplored the fact that "innumerable peoples and entire continents are still outside of Christian evangelism."

The Pope spoke instead of the solicitude that impels the Church to come to loyal and respectful dialogue with all souls, with all forms of modern life, with all expressions, social and political, that are willing to receive it as a plain of absolute sincerity and true humanity.

In naming Cardinal Marella to head the new secretariat, Pope Paul chose a 69-year-old Italian who is a specialist in Eastern religions and spent 18 of his 27 years as a Vatican diplomat in Japan. In Asia, he acquired a close knowledge of the Eastern faiths and wrote a book of his experiences there, entitled "Visions of Hope."

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Cardinal Marella was appointed to the position of Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Middle East and the Near East, which he held from 1961 to 1963, and later named Archbishop of the Apostolic Delegation in the Middle East, which he held from 1963 to 1964.

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## Dolls Promote Vocations

Cleveland—(RNS)—Dolls representing the 41 women's religious communities in the Cleveland diocese are exhibited in several of the city's downtown stores. The exhibit of the figures, dressed authentically by the congregations they represent, was sponsored by the Theresians, a group of women dedicated to promoting vocations to the Sisterhoods. Shown placing the dolls in a bank window are Mrs. Edward J. Conard, vocations chairman of the Theresians, and her granddaughter, Donna Steiger. The dolls ultimately will be sent to various Catholic high schools in the

## Two Bishops For Capital

Washington — (NC) — The consecration of two auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Washington was hailed as the fulfillment of "a new Pentecost" by Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart of Brooklyn in his sermon during the ceremony.

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