

Preludes To Common Worship

Vatican Unity Prelate Blesses Grass Roots Ecumenical Action

Boston — (RNS) — Cardinal Augustin Bea, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, held an "off the record" discussion here with the Boston Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission before his departure for Rome.

It was the first such meeting in the United States of the Vatican official and a diocesan commission for promoting Christian unity. Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Riley of Boston is chairman of the commission.

A spokesman disclosed some details of the meeting held at St. John's Seminary. He said Cardinal Bea gave the commission members — including two laymen — his personal blessing and congratulated the group for "the practical manner in which implications of ecumenism were being brought to a diocesan and parish level."

The Vatican official stressed that Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI have given close supervision to all ecumenical endeavors of the Secretariat and given

it the advantage of their personal direction and interest.

Cardinal Bea reportedly described his hope for the future of ecumenism, some aspects of the statement on Christian and Jewish relations and a short history of the forming of the Vatican Secretariat.

A STATEMENT on "Common Worship" was issued by the Commission following the meeting.

It noted that in the Boston area in recent years there has been a "divinely inspired activity of Christians coming together in trust, conversation, and in prayer." It said that the "historical and cultural heritage" of the area "makes it at times easy for us to respond to this call, at other times difficult."

The statement stressed that common worship — Catholics joining in prayer with their Christian brothers — is "one very important and central area of ecumenical concern."

It said that in the light of such concern "the spirit prompts us to offer the

following statements" on common worship:

"We recognize that all who are brothers by baptism and faith in the Lord have a yearning to worship together in professing this faith and manifesting the charity of this one baptism."

"The deep and saddening divisions among Christians, however, necessarily prevent complete union in Eucharistic worship. This union, as the sign and mystic cause of unity, is that for which we most yearn and pray."

It urged Catholics to pray "with our separated brothers" privately, and in certain circumstances, publicly "to further the day when we can be one at the Eucharistic altar and table, and to foster mutual charity."

The statement noted that the archdiocesan commission "is ready and eager not only to encourage in every way possible and to give counsel regarding Common Worship" but also to grant necessary permission when required by present Church law.



ROBERT WEGMAN JOHN DESSAUER

Fisher College Names Two To Regents' Board

Robert E. Wegman, president of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., has been elected chairman of the Board of Regents at St. John Fisher College and John H. Dessauer, D.Sc., executive vice-president of the Xerox Corporation, has been named vice-chairman of the Board.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS were made today by Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., president of St. John Fisher College.

Wegman and Dr. Dessauer replace Joseph J. Myler and Otto A. Shultz whose terms of office have been completed.

Wegman, 45, is a native of Rochester. He has been president of Wegmans Food Markets since 1950. He is a graduate of

Lithuania Resists Atheism

Berlin — (NC) — Militant atheism is meeting strong resistance in the high schools of communist-ruled Lithuania, according to reports reaching here.

Komjunistas Tiesa, communist publication of Vilno, Lithuania, states in a recent issue that "some students are deeply, even fanatically religious."

"Religion is an ideology based on idealistic philosophy," the paper warned. "Its dogma, morality and ancient traditions maintain very great vitality in the consciousness of the people. If one wishes to combat them successfully, it is not enough not to believe in God and not to attend church. . . . One must be a militant atheist."

The article outlines the task of atheistic youth circles established in the high schools as one of removing students from the "clutches of hardened religious fanatics."

Brockport Prexy Joins Fisher Staff

Dr. Donald M. Tower, who resigned last week as president of the State University College at Brockport, has accepted appointment as a part time assistant to the president for academic affairs at St. John Fisher College. Announcement was made by the Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., president of the men's college.

IN A STATEMENT to the Courier Journal, Dr. Tower said: "I have long admired the progress St. John Fisher College has made in its relatively short history. I have great respect for the St. John Fisher staff, both lay and clerical. Because of my close association with Father John Murphy, the college's first president, and Father Lavery, I am delighted to accept this opportunity at St. John Fisher College."

Dr. Tower was named Brockport president July 1, 1964, coming from Oswego State Teachers College where he had been director of training for several years.

In his 20 years at Brockport, he had seen the college grow from a faculty of 37 and a student body of 205 to a faculty of 213 and a student body of 2,039.

Dr. Tower received his doctorate at New York University in 1934.

He taught English at Olean High School in 1919-20, and for the next six years was head of the speech and dramatic arts department at Central High School in Binghamton.

He then became principal of East Junior High School, Binghamton, and in 1930 was named director of the Binghamton public schools' division of instruction.

Dean of Bishops

Archbishop John Mark Gannon, of Erie, Pa., dean of U.S. Bishops, marked his 87th birthday with plans to return to the Vatican Council when its third session opens Sept. 14. Bailed to the episcopacy in 1918, he is the oldest bishop in point of service in the U.S. hierarchy. A leader for Christian unity and better human relations, Archbishop Gannon says, "We are trying to get rid of the age where you say 'he is a Catholic, that one is a Protestant, he is black, that one is white.'" The prelate adds, "I think of everyone. They are always with me. Protestant, Catholic, priest or rabbi, white or colored." Archbishop Gannon has headed the Erie diocese since 1920.

Beatles Are A Menace

Middleborough — (RNS) — The Beatles, the popular British "pop" song group which recently scored a hit in the United States, were described as "a menace" by England's Bishop George Brunner, of Middleborough, when he opened a new \$700,000 school here.

Saying he was glad the school's emblem included an archbishop's cross, Bishop Brunner added: "I don't know whether you are fans of the Beatles. I think they are a menace. Perhaps they make music and perhaps they don't, but they seem to create excitement, especially among the weaker sex, if it is the weaker. They cause an unhealthy attitude of screaming just for the sake of making noise."

"It would be much better if those who scream would sit down themselves and learn some musical instrument, giving pleasure to others rather than have pleasure given to them always," the bishop added.

New Seminary

Boston — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has expressed personal interest in and continued prayers for the U.S. national seminary for delayed vocations which opens in September in Weston, Mass.

This was reported here by Msgr. George A. Schlichte, rector of the seminary, upon his return from Rome where he had a private audience with Pope Paul and made a "progress report" to the Vatican's Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities.

Msgr. Schlichte said the Pope will send Archbishop Dino Staffa, secretary of the congregation, as his personal representative to the Sept. 6 cornerstone laying ceremony and official opening of the Pope John XXIII National Seminary for Delayed Vocations in Weston.

A Family Of Vocations

Terre Haute, Ind. — (NC) — When Father Paul M. Dede offers his first Solemn Mass at St. Margaret Mary parish here May 10, his two brothers, both priests, will assist him at the altar.

His five sisters, all nuns, will be watching from their pews.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dede have given all eight of their children in the clerical and religious life. Mr. Dede is an instructor at the Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute.

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