

Hostility, Ridicule

U.S. Parishes 'Fail' In Council Plan

Notre Dame (RNS) — The inauguration of active lay participation in the Mass, called for in the Vatican Council's liturgical reforms, "is being ignored or postponed, in a large measure," a priest charged here.

Father Francis Syriany of St. Plus X church, Aurora, Colo., long active in the liturgical movement, said that hesitancy in implementing this reform is a "sad commentary on the failure of American parishes to accept what is obviously the mind of the Church."

He urged an immediate program "to help the laity understand the meaning and importance of the Mass which would lead to the celebration of the liturgy as a community of Christians."

Father Syriany suggested as aid the Vatican Council's Sacred Constitution on the Liturgy—a basic program of instruction on the liturgy promoted by pastors "with zeal and patience."

He also asked use of lay commentators on the Mass, better amplifying systems to bring the priest's words throughout the church, and altars facing the congregation.

Stressing the importance of instructions, he said that the "homily (sermon) is to be esteemed as part of the liturgy itself."

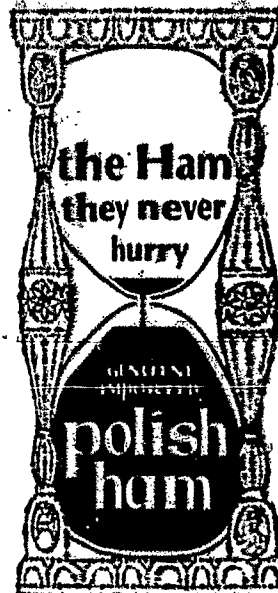
He observed that "for many years the only opportunity they have for adult instruction is in the five to ten minutes of 'sermon time' in the Sunday Mass. It is tragic that this time has been ignored, misused and wasted in so many instances."

Asserting that "too many regard their Mass as a 'necessary evil,'" Father Syriany said it is "scandalous" that "for many, 'ambassador for world unity'—mulate thinking on a wide variety of subjects."

"We have a right and duty to communicate with all the other members of the human family, whose Sunday worship is some-

thing done only out of duty, or out of habit, or out of fear."

In urging that the Mass be made "something real and meaningful" for the laity, he said the liturgy "will never come alive unless we, priests and congregations, give ourselves to it totally, unless we realize the great privilege we have of making Christ's offering our own."



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Franciscan Bishop Benedict Cocola of Jatal, Brazil, confers Confirmation in one of churches in his far-flung diocese where nuns from Rochester Diocese will direct five public schools.

Slum Missions Rebuild Faith

Lima (NC) — The men are the problem. All the Columbian missionaries here admit it. In the Columbian slums parishes on the outskirts of Lima, the women and children worship fitfully. But the majority of the men do not go to Church.

"I haven't been to Mass or the sacraments since I left school," a man told me typically last week as he came for pre-marriage instruction. "That was in 1947."

THIS YEAR Father Dermot Carthy, S.S.C., came back from a visit to Chile very enthusiastic about the general mission that the Chilean bishops sponsored.

According to him, it put new life into the parishes. Father

Owen O'Kane, S.S.C., Columbian superior here, worried about the absence of men in the churches, asked: "Why not have a general mission here, and confine it to men?"

San Mateo was selected as the pilot parish. Small by our standards here, 15,000 people live within its borders. Most have brick-walled houses now and work either in the city or in factories nearby. Two Irish volunteers staff the parish, Fathers Michael Lynn and Gerard Stanley.

As immediate preparation for the mission, 10 men from San Mateo went to a "cursillo." This was a very intense weekend retreat where a team of 11 trained laymen and a priest presented Catholic teachings.

This team of cursillistas formed the core of the San Mateo mission. They divided the parish into sectors. Father O'Kane asked 12 priests—one from each Columbian parish here—to take charge of the 12 sectors. The priest and one or two laymen visited the 150-odd families in the sector when the men had returned from work at night, told them about the two-week mission beginning on June 20, and invited them to the meetings.

A Bad Day At The Press

Rio de Janeiro (NC) — The Post Office Department will release a new stamp honoring Pope John XXIII in spite of two errors.

The Pope is pictured in green cardinal's hat and the word "memoriam" is spelled with a final "n."

Postal authorities decided to allow the sale of the stamp since 5 million have already been delivered to Brazil's 31 regional postal districts.

Departure Rites for Five Nuns

(Continued from Page 1)

Nuns who are also going to staff a mission in Brazil. Four of the six are, like the nuns from Rochester, new at the task of communicating and understanding between the U.S. and its cold war opponents.

Attending the departure ceremony were Franciscan Fathers Harold Blake, vice provincial of the Holy Name Province with headquarters in New York City, Canon Mitchell, vicar of St. Bonaventure University, and Cornelius Welch, dean. They represented Franciscan Bishop Benedict Cocola of Jatal, in whose diocese the nuns from Rochester Diocese will work.

Bishop Casey, Cathedral rector, gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to conclude the departure rite.

Ambassador of Unity

Louisville (RNS) — A Franciscan priest suggested here that President Johnson appoint an "ambassador for world unity" — mulate thinking on a wide variety of subjects.

Specialists in education who gathered, as one put it, "to pick each other's brains" and to stimulate thinking on a wide variety of subjects.

Father Owen Pollard, O.F.M., Conv., speaking before the annual Franciscan Educational Conference, proposed Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy for such a post.

The priest's suggestion was made before a group of priest-

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