



Pope Paul enters St. Peter's to open Vatican Council.

Bishop Tells Jurists

Sanctity of Law Threatened

Bishop Kearney, in his sermon this week, judges judges and lawyers at the annual Red Mass open in the autumn court sessions, said two tendencies in the United States threaten the sanctity of law in our country.

Rearing children without religious knowledge, and adults who "take the law into their own hands," pose the threat to the nation's traditional observance of law, said the Bishop.

St. Joseph's Church downtown Rochester will hold Tuesday morning with judges and law enforcement officials to receive God's blessing that nothing may interfere with the process of law, and that it is in the interest of our public to do so.

Citing episodes from Scripture, the Bishop noted that "law is marked by sanctity."

The described the Old Testament meeting of Moses and God at the burning bush, where God cautioned Moses to remove his shoes, for "you stand on holy ground."

The ground was holy, said the Bishop, because it was the ground for law and justice. Again at Mount Sinai, only Moses was allowed to ascend the mountain because of the sanctity of the place where the law was to be conferred.

The Bishop recalled Christ's sermon on the Mount, which he said in the words of Edmund Burke, was "the finest piece of jurisprudence man ever listened to."

THE BISHOP then pointed to the two tendencies which could destroy the sanctity of law in our land:

"People are growing up without a knowledge of God and His law," the Bishop stated.

Recalling his own public school days, he mentioned the daily readings from Scripture, which instilled in youngsters a reverence for law and their accountability to God.

The Bishop lamented the fact "we have developed a generation of people who do not know God nor realize what it means to call upon Him as their witness" when they take a solemn oath.

The taking of law into one's own hands was the second tendency, the Bishop cautioned against.

"The law is too holy to be mishandled," he said, "though we may not agree with each decision of the court. If people can disregard those decisions and do as they please, what

becomes of the sanctity of law?" the Bishop asked.

The Bishop called on those present to renew their personal dedication to the sanctity of the law, that "as you put on the robes of justice and ascend the bench, the God of justice may be at your side."

Bishop Kearney noted his own concern for people on both sides of the bench—that many of those appearing before the court as culprits as well as many presiding over the court are people of his flock for whom he is responsible before God.

"Your vocation is a holy thing," the Bishop said in concluding his sermon to the jurists, "for you are dealing with souls as well as bodies and that is why we begin the court's term here at prayer before the altar of God."



Bishop Kearney greets jurists at annual Red Mass.

Rush Parish To Mark Centenary

Freedom in Vietnam

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR,
Society of St. Columban

Saigon — (NC) — South Vietnam is slipping, at increasing speed, downward to disaster.

It is not irretrievably lost yet. Indeed six months it may be.

If the half of Vietnam, hitherto free, falls definitely to the communists, nearly 15 million people will pass under permanent Red rule.

Among them will be nearly one and a half million Catholics. The children of today will grow up under communism.

The children of tomorrow will be born into communism.

Aggressive atheist communism will have won an enormous strategic, political and economic victory in Southeast Asia.

The struggle of years, with its loss of lives and its vast expense, will have become only the rear-guard action of a defeated Republic of Vietnam and retreating America.

Some of the country's most determined anti-communists have been victimized instead of encouraged. Scores of them are still held for "investigation" after 10 months' imprisonment.

Meanwhile the military-dominated government has compromised and surrendered before a pressure group that has contributed little to the country's defense. In fact, there are no grounds for suspecting that the group has been infiltrated by communists.

If South Vietnam is to be saved, it must be by reversing at least half the processes that have brought it close to catastrophe. That means among other things that somebody must have the courage to say "no" to Buddhist leaders who have created disorder for their own political ends.

Those ends have not been made clear. It is at best uncertain.

Bethany Nuns Come to U.S.

Pittsburgh — (NC) — The first U.S. establishment has been opened here by a community of nuns who wear street clothes and go by the title of "Sisters" instead of "Sister."

The Ladies of Bethany, a 900-strong Sisterhood with headquarters in Holland, opened the community's only novitiate outside of Holland in a 22-room white frame house surrounded by 16 acres of woodland on the outskirts of the city.

Ember Days Next Week

The autumn Ember Days occur Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23, 25 and 26.

Catholics may eat meat but once on Wednesday and Saturday.

Catholics between 21 and 55 are also restricted to but one full meal on all three days.

Pope Paul has asked that the prayers and penances of the people be offered for the success of the Vatican Council.

43 Letters In Alphabet

Cleveland — (RNS) — Twenty-four first grade classes in the Catholic school system will take part in an experiment to test the new ITA (Initial Teaching Alphabet) which uses 43 characters instead of the traditional 26.

The ITA has one letter or character for each sound and is used in several parts of the country as an aid to quicker reading. Usually it is used only in the first and second grades.

Auxiliary Bishop Clarence E. Elwell of Cleveland, superintendent of schools, said 12 fifth graders will use the ITA and others in the test will not.

Two Holidays for Pupils

Teachers Conference Next Week

Herman R. Goldberg, superintendent of schools for the Rochester City School District, will give the keynote address for the Catholic School Teachers Conference to be held at the Rochester Community War Memorial Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 21 and 22.

1,500 teachers from the twelve counties of the Rochester Diocese will hear Mr. Goldberg's talk, "As Many Beacons as Beads."

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Roche said, will be the address, "The Teaching of Word and Worship in the School" at 1:00 p.m., Monday, by Monsignor John T. Doyle, assistant superintendent for religious education in the New York Archdiocese.

Father William Shannon of Nazareth College will speak on "The Council, the Liturgy, and the School" Tuesday, at 1:00 p.m.

The closing address will be given by Bishop Kearney, Tuesday afternoon.

Other speakers on the program—Theresa Bitzum, a read-

ing specialist who will address the elementary school teachers, and Ernest Pohl, director of the Laboratory School for the University of Chicago, who will address the high school teachers Monday afternoon. The Monday program also includes Rev. John F. Nevin, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Albany, and chairman of the Catholic Curriculum Testing Committee, and Sister Marie Stanislaus S.S.J., a science curriculum specialist.

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Pope Tells World

You Are in Our Heart

"Know this for sure — already we hold you in our heart," Pope Paul said in St. Peter's this week to the people of the whole world.

The Vicar of the Saviour who died with his arms outstretched to the world opened the third session of the Vatican Council with an appeal to religious people of all denominations to work for the "restoration" of unity.

He admitted "maybe great distances separate us yet" and that "maybe it will be a long time" before the goal is gained but he emphasized willy-nilly was nonetheless his "deeply felt yearning and hope."

He also emphasized — for the benefit of Council critics — that the Holy Spirit "is here" to guide the bishops in their decisions.

"To doubt this would be an insult to Christ's faithfulness to His promises," he stated definitively.

Several times in his talk, he repeated that the principal task of the third session — as that of the whole Council itself — will be to round out the incompletely teaching of the 1870 Council on the role of pope and bishops in governing the worldwide church.

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