

Bishop Casey Writes from Vatican Council

World Looks for Vote on Faith Liberty

Dear Friends: Greetings from the Council. During the first two sessions of Vatican II, 1962 and 1963, I wrote four newsletters for the people back home. Across this 20th, 19th like to fill you in on some of the happenings here in Rome.

As in the past, there won't be much to report in this letter—just a rambling account of some impressions about major and minor events.

THE TRIP OVER was last night's pleasant. Left Kennedy Airport by Pan-American for Sunday night Sept. 13 at 8:50 p.m. and saw the first streaks of dawn over the Atlantic from 20,000 feet up at 1:30 a.m. Rochester time. Arrived Paris at 8:10 a.m. (3:10 Rochester time) and, after a smooth flight over the French Alps—one could see Mount Blanc in the distance—arrived in Rome at 11:00 a.m. With no sleep Saturday or Sunday nights, I was bushed, but a 3-hour nap at the hotel Monday afternoon fixed me up.

I missed the opening ceremonial session Sept. 14 because I preached at the Masses at the Cathedral Sept. 13, but was on hand for the first General Congregation (business session) Tuesday, Sept. 15. All was confusion as 2,200 bishops from all

parts of the world tried to find their seats in St. Peter's.

I wound up next to my old neighbor, the friendly Bishop Sedlmayr of Germany. This year I have 50,000 (\$ in for sinistras, the left or epistle side of the altar). These seats are allocated by seniority, the date of the bishop's consecration.

Mine is about halfway down the aisle, 200-places above my seat in 1962. The turnover in this league is fast because most of us are 50 by the time we become a bishop.

Archbishop Ferlic, Felici, Secretary of the Council, called the gathering to order at 10:07 a.m. after the opening Mass, and the historic session was underway. Cardinal Tisserant, the Dean of the Sacred College, an imposing figure with a long beard, gave some straight advice to the Council Fathers.

It was couched in elegant Latin but the message was clear: "Brethren, get a move on. We want to wind up this Council this Fall, if possible."

The Cardinal stated that many bishops had complained that the length of the Council made it impossible for them to keep up with their pressing duties at home. This is the truth; each bishop faces a backlog of two months work when

he returns home and he never really does get caught up.

The 1963 session dragged along in slow, tedious fashion; the session last Fall went faster and the tempo of the Council will be speeded up even more this year. The business sessions are held each morning Monday through Friday. This enables us to do some paper work and correspondence during the weekend.

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence R. Casey wrote this letter from Rome for the Catholic Courier. His inside view of the historic Vatican Council describes the color and background of this meeting of the world's Catholic bishops. Now in his third year, the Council aims at revitalizing the Catholic Church and ultimate unity with other Christian churches.

Each session opens with a Low Mass, usually in the Roman rite, and the Fathers answer the responses of the celebrant. Then, Archbishop Felici, announces the day's program, voting, speakers, subject, etc. Once the speakers begin, they go straight through at 10-minute intervals, with no interruptions save for voting, until 12:30 noon.

An average of 15-20 Fathers speak each day. As in previous years, there is some repetition, although most of the speakers bring out a new point.

Bishop Camilotti of Novara, Italy, on Sept. 20 became the first speaker on record in the three years of the Council to stand up and say that previous orators had perfectly expressed his views and then sit down. He got a round of applause.

You are probably experiencing somewhat the same thing on your TV sets as the political candidates deliver arguments you've heard before.

The Angelus is said by Cardinal Tisserant at 12:30 and then the exodus begins. Monsignor George Cocuzzi, the Chancellor of the Diocese, who is with me, was quite impressed by the sight of the "purple flood" of prelates pouring out of St. Peter's on their way to their buses and cars.

American tourists behind the barricades at the edge of the square always give a big hand as the U.S. bishops pass by in their four buses. 190 of the 2,200 bishops attending this session are from the United States and 51 of them are berthed at the Cavalieri Hilton Hotel, 50 of us from the Hilton ride the bus to and from the Council. It's for free and the tab is picked up by N.O.W.C.

A COLORFUL SESSION. The 86th General Congregation on Sept. 23 had plenty of action. You read about the gesture of Pope Paul returning the head of the Apostle St. Andrew, the brother of St. Peter, to Patras, Greece, where the saint was crucified.

The return of the relics, sent to St. Peter's in Rome in 1552 for safekeeping against the Moslem invasion, is interpreted as a gesture of good will toward the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Holy Father carried the head, encased in a silver reliquary, up the aisle of St. Peter's. It must have been heavy because Archbishop Enrico D'Ercole, the Master of Ceremonies, helped him carry it. He placed the reliquary on a stand by the temporary altar and knelt before it while Cardinal Marella said the Mass of St. Andrew.

I wish the faculty and students of St. Andrew's Seminary could have been present for this ceremony in honor of their patron.

After the Mass, the Holy Father walked briskly down the central nave, gesturing to the members of the Council. It was the first time I had seen him in a year and he appeared to be in good health. His expression is usually grave although he has a gentle look. He does not smile often and we probably wouldn't either if we carried the crushing load that is his.

You read newspaper or magazine articles "second-guessing" something the Holy Father has done or failed to do. Who can judge the Pope? If these glib writers possessed the facts and the acumen he does, they would not sit in judgment so casually. He has the divine grace that goes with the office of Vicar of Christ and we can be grateful he is our Shepherd. Pray often for him.

THE DECLARATION on religious liberty was discussed following the Mass of Cardinal Marella. Few left their seats that morning because some of the big names in the Council were on the program. Cardinals Ottaviani and Ruffini of Italy, Quiroga and Bueno of Spain, Lopez of Canada, Henriquez of Chile, Meyer, Ritter and Cushing of the United States spoke on this subject.

It was the first time Cardinal Cushing had addressed the Council since it began in 1962 and all sat back in their seats waiting. Boston's Cardinal speaks in a nasal "downcast" twang, and his voice is strong and strident. He hardly needed the mike and the loudspeakers.

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The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

70th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1964

Price 15 Cents



Crowds line the barricades to watch world's Catholic bishops leave St. Peter's plaza at noon after one of daily morning meetings of the Vatican Council.



English Used At Confirmation

Bishop Kearney gave the sacrament of Confirmation for the first time in English at St. Ann's Church in Hornell Monday evening, Oct. 5.

There were 148 children and 14 adults in the historic class receiving the sacrament.

In his talk before the rite, the Bishop said, "Being able to understand the language and to hear every word through electronic devices such as this loud speaker system makes us more conscious of the presence of the Holy Ghost."

Father Hubert A. Bisky is pastor of St. Ann's Church.

Both the Bishop and Monsignor James C. McAniff will continue to confer Confirmation in the new English format.

Book Printed On Deacons

Feeney, III, (NC)—"The New Vocation," a book on married deacons, has been published by Divine Word Publications, coinciding with a Sept. 29 vote by the ecumenical council approving conferring the order of deacon on older married men. A translation of a work by German author Joseph Hornet, the paperback book is priced at \$1 per copy.

Bishops Affirm

God at Work in Other Churches

The Vatican Council overwhelmingly voted its conviction this week that God isn't in a Catholic box.

His Spirit is at work in other churches too, said the world's Catholic bishops.

And unity with these churches is one of the basic aims of the Catholic Church.

Editorial — No Substitute For Honesty See Page 4

The bishops agreed Catholics should avoid any and all words or actions which hamper this drive toward unity.

Catholics were also authorized to pray with other Christians to attain unity.

This quest for unity — talk-

ed in an official movement — the bishops said, is "a sign of the times" and urged Catholics to become personally involved in it.

In meeting Christians of other churches, the bishops told Catholics to expect to find God's grace and truth already there.

The bishops' decisions were made in their votes on the crucial schema "De Ecumenismo — On Ecumenism."

They began by admitting the



Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI received more than 70 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox delegate-observers and guests attending the Vatican Council and met them individually. Shown here are, left to right: Dr. William B. Blakemore, dean of the Disciples' Divinity House, University of Chicago; Dr. William G. Baker, lecturer in practical theology, Scottish Congregational College, Edinburgh, Scotland; Cardinal Augustin Bea, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, and Bishop Jan Willibrands, secretary of the unity secretariat.

SYMPATHY FLOWERS — Properly arranged help to alleviate the pains of bereavement. C. I. BLANCHARD, FLORIST, 28 Lake Ave., RA 6-9144 and he sure. — Adv.

CLOCKS — Electric or Key wound \$2.25 and up. WILLIAM S. THORNE Jeweler, 318 Main St., East. — Adv.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TRUETT BECK, 1120 Mt. Hope, GE 3-5711. — Adv.

Priests' Evening Of Reflection

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 6:15 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Victor

Conducted by Rev. Paul Schnackey



Bishop Casey, briefcase in hand, arrives at St. Peter's for a business session of the Vatican Council. In accompanying article he describes the way decisions are reached, the accomplishments of the Council to date and the Council's goals for the Church set by Pope Paul and the world's 2,500 Catholic bishops.