

Bishop Casey Writes from Vatican Council

'New Vision' Gained on Mountain of Work

Dear Friends: This is Saturday, October 24, a month since I wrote you, a crowded and eventful month. I have tried to sift out some topics which would be of interest to you. Here they are and hang on to your hats because it may be a long news letter.

If there is time before this session adjourns, I shall write Courier readers again, mentioning ecumenism, the permanent disapproval and the famous Schema 13, "The Church in the Modern World," about which there has been so much comment in the press.

How the Council Operates

When Archbishop Felici, Secretary of the Council, announced October 13, "This is the hundredth General Congregation," there was loud applause

around the Aula. Archbishop Felici wisecracked, "One hundred makes us sound old but the Council is still young in spirit."

The handclapping of the Fathers springs from a sense of achievement. They had come a long way in their quest for the renewal of the Church and the People of God since the opening session in October, 1962, and had seen dramatic breakthroughs in liturgical reform, and a deepening of the Church's awareness of its own nature and her mission in the world, the new vision of the world's relationship to the Church, the new ecumenical missionary approach.

This progress has been bought at a high price. The time spent in the aula of St. Peter's is relatively small in

comparison to the work that has gone into this Council. Figure it this way: The Council begins each day's session with Mass at 9 o'clock. By the time St. Peter's is cleared of its temporary guests, the priests and nuns and laymen and laywomen who attended the Mass and watched the Book of the Gospels being enthroned on the temporary altar, it is 9:45.

Then Archbishop Felici's opening remarks — the con-

tent of this day's program, the names of the speakers, the votes that will be taken and other routine announcements — consume another fifteen minutes. The language of the Council, as you know, is Latin. Sessions adjourn at 12:30.

Subtract the time taken by voting (IBM machines give us the results within 20 minutes), by the "Relations" (described below) of the bishops who work on the particular schema

under discussion, and you have barely two hours each morning for the "interventions," the speeches of the Fathers. So actually, the "meat" of the Council has been compressed over the space of three years into 200 hours — a brief space for a history making Council.

However, it is not as simple as this. Consider the work that has gone into Vatican II — the thousands of suggestions made by the Bishops of the world

prior to 1962 about the subjects to be treated by the Council, the laborious task of the Preparatory Commissions which whittled this mountain of material into workable shape, the hesitant beginning and the creative, impractical organization of October, 1962, the gradual realization that the original 70 schemata (now streamlined to 17) were too unwieldy to be treated by the Council. The hundreds of meetings held by the Commissions and Subcommissions during and between sessions.

Someone has remarked that most of the work has been done by only one-tenth of the Fathers and the priest experts on the Commissions. This is true.

These Bishops, usually the leaders among their national hierarchies, attend the morn-

ing sessions. Then they return to the various Commission rooms in the Vatican Palace two or three times a week from four to eight o'clock. Moreover, they are on call to journey to Rome for sessions lasting from two to three weeks between December and the following fall. They are the real heroes of the Council and their consecrated work has taken its physical toll.

The completed schemata, in Latin, are sent to all the Bishops before each session. When each schema (for example, "Ecumenism") is treated, a bishop from the special Commission which wrote it gets up in the Council hall, gives a "Relatio" — he tells the Fathers what his Commission did when it wrote that particular proposition, why it included certain items, rejected others; tells

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Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey wrote this letter from Rome for Courier readers. In this inside view of the Council, he describes how the Council operates. He also clarifies the Council's decision on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Now in its third year the Council aims to revitalize the Catholic Church and pave the way for ultimate unity with other Christian churches.

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A Debt Still Due to LBJ

The nation's massive vote of confidence is only one ingredient in President Lyndon B. Johnson's "work for a new American greatness."

He has repeatedly stated his urgent need also for spiritual strength from God — that was the plea he made when he first became President, "I will do my best. That is all I can do. I ask for your help — and God's."

And he hasn't hid his conviction on this subject.

He is a man who has great confidence in prayer — "The private unity of public men with their God in prayer is the enduring source of our unity."

As vice president he once said, "Awesome responsibility and awesome power are vested in the hands of the leaders of this nation today. National power without prayers and humbleness before God would be only national arrogance."

We owe him, therefore, the help of our constant prayers as we thrust this "awesome power" back into his custody.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-argument plan. TRUETT BROS., 120 Mt. Hope. GR 3-3771. — Adv.

Holy Name's 400th Year

New Orleans — (NC) — A Mass in English will be offered at Municipal Auditorium here Nov. 15, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the canonical establishment of the Holy Name Society. Archbishop John P. Cody, apostolic administrator of New Orleans, granted permission for the Mass.

New Churches in Hungary

Budapest — (NC) — The recently signed agreement between the Vatican and the Hungarian government has given new impetus to the restoration and construction of churches in this country.

Sunbeam Appliances, Easters, Mixers etc. Budget Payments. William S. Thomas Jeweler, 318 Main St. East. — Adv.

Sermons On New English Mass

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will be cued in on the Nov. 29th switch from Latin to English in major portions of the Mass in sermons the next three Sundays.

Bishop Kearney has issued a six-page directive to priests of the Diocese "to establish guidelines to promote active vocal participation" at all Masses beginning the first Sunday of Advent.

His directive spells out a program that is to be uniformly observed in all churches and chapels in his twelve county Diocese.

Congregations will respond to the priest at the altar and join him in such prayers as the Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Lord's Prayer, Agnus Dei — all in English.

More than 400 priests in the Diocese attended two Liturgy Days — one last week at St. Patrick's Church in Elmira, the other one yesterday at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

Mass was celebrated on both occasions in the new English language format. Members of the diocesan Liturgy Commission — Monsignor George Cocuzzi, Rev. Benedict Ehmann and Rev. William Shannon — explained reasons for the change voted by the world's Catholic bishops at last year's sessions of the Vatican Council.

Meat OK Friday November 27th

Bishop Kearney has dispensed Catholics in the Rochester Diocese from the Church's law of abstinence for Friday, Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving. "They may, therefore, eat meat as on any other day."



A bishop at prayer — (the photographer caught Rochester's Auxiliary Bishop Casey in a moment of prayer before one of the sessions of the Vatican Council in vast St. Peter's Basilica at Rome. Bishops utilize "in-between" moments to read their breviaries, say the Rosary, visit the Blessed Sacrament or make their meditation — there is little free time for them in the Eternal City. (Photo by Felici)

Changes to be Explained On Radio Rosary Program

Coming changes in the ways Catholics will worship will be explained in a series of talks by six priests of the Rochester Diocese on the Family Rosary for Peace radio program.

The Rosary program, broadcast each evening at 7 p.m., is heard on Rochester's station WSAY and Auburn's WMO-FM.

Father Henry Atwell will begin the series this Sunday evening with a talk, "Why Change Now?" following recitation of the Rosary.

Other priests in the series will be Fathers Benedict Ehmann, William Shannon, Albert Szamosi, Charles Curran and Joseph Brennan.

Their talks will be broadcast each Monday and Thursday in November prior to the change-over from Latin to English at Mass on Sunday, Nov. 20.

Transition Time Over There Too

Abidjan, Ivory Coast — (NC) — Among those welcoming new marriage laws that move the Ivory Coast from tribal to Western ways are Archbishop Bernard Yago of Abidjan and Family Catholic Action members, who worked hard for the change.

The new code suppresses polygamy and matriarchy, and demands consent of both partners in marriages. Dowries formerly paid by bridegrooms to brides' parents, which in many cases were distinctly commercial transactions, are outlawed.

A Time of Great Courage

Top conservative Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani told bishops at the Vatican Council he was the tenth of twelve children — proof, he intimated, that Catholics need not limit the size of their families.

Some who listened wondered what his mother's thoughts had been on the same subject — or what half the mothers of the world are thinking today as they watch their babies waste away in hunger and sickness.

At last the world's bishops had come to the topic which most Catholics consider the most urgent on the Council's agenda.

Following is Religious News Service Correspondent John Cogley's report from Rome on this historic development in the Council's progress.

For a time, it seemed as if the subject — family planning and the control of population — might not come up at all for general discussion but be dealt with secretly by commissions protected from the ever-urging press. That certainly is the way many of the bishops would have liked it. It would be less than honest to say that the Fathers of the Council seem to be on it. The possibility that by airing their differences they would create a scandal was always present in their minds.

The breakthrough was made last Thursday. The general —

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Prelates arrive by bus and then, trudge up ramp to huge St. Peter's Basilica for a meeting of the Vatican Council.

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