

Critics Rap Rite Changes In England

London — (RNS) — Use of English in the Mass began in England, as it did in the United States, attended by some confusion, some opposition by older Roman Catholics, and by great enthusiasm in those parishes which had prepared for the great change with so-called demonstration Masses.

Douglas Woodruff, editor of the Tablet, long a distinguished Catholic paper in England, earlier had described the English Mass as "a regression into nationalism."

Archbishop Francis Joseph Grishaw of Birmingham, president of the Liturgical Commission in England and Wales, had recognized that the older Catholics would be hesitant in accepting the changes in the Mass. In a pastoral letter he wrote:

"Those who are older, who throughout a long lifetime loved the old ways and the set pattern of the Latin Mass, cannot be expected to view with any great pleasure the possibility of changes being made in it at all."

However, he noted the need for the liturgical change. "The Church is, at one and the same time, divine and human. Being divine her message does not alter. But that message is given to human beings and change is an inseparable part of human life. The Church, therefore, keeping intact the content of her message, must always be ready to adjust the way she gives it. It is this very anxiety to make her message better understood which has led to the changes in the Mass."

Ecumenism Center Begun

Nijmegen — (RNS) — Bernard Jan Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, has authorized the establishment of an international center to foster the ecumenical movement among non-Catholic Christians and Jews.

To be known as the International Center of St. Peter and Paul, it will be directed by Father Frederic Davis, O.S.A., a Boston-born priest who is now a British subject.

Mass Texts Published

Washington — (NC) — The new English translations of the Gospels, Epistles and other Lessons of the Mass have been issued for lecturers use by the National Center of the Confraternities of Christian Doctrine.

The soft-covered book, entitled "Confraternities Lecturers of Scriptural Readings," is arranged according to the liturgical year and follows the format of the Roman Missal. It is priced at \$5 a copy and can be ordered through CCD center at 1312 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.



Pavement Portrait of Pontiff

Rome — (RNS) — A young Belgian has one of the more unusual occupations in Rome. A "pavement painter," he is an artist who cannot sell his works — they are done for appreciative passersby who contribute a few coins. Here the young man is shown as he completed a portrait of Pope Paul VI on a heavy-trafficked sidewalk.

Priest Replies To Critic of Papal Gift

New York — (NC) — Exhibition of Pope Paul VI's tiara will raise a far larger sum for the poor than outright sale of it would have earned, a secretary to Cardinal Spellman of New York said.

Mgr. Patrick V. Ahern gave some additional details about the gift of the tiara to Cardinal Spellman in response to what he called "misstatements" by a National Catholic Reporter columnist, John Leo, who questioned the appearance of the tiara in the United States.

On Nov. 13, before 1,000 Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, the Pope dramatically relinquished the bejeweled tiara putting it on the altar in St. Peter's basilica as a gesture of his concern for the world's poor.

On Nov. 30 Cardinal Spellman revealed that the tiara was in New York and would go on a nationwide tour as a tribute of the Pontiff to American generosity to the poor and as an inspiration for further generosity.

"Pope Paul gave the tiara not to Cardinal Spellman personally, but to all the American people, of whatever religious persuasion, in recognition of their well-known generosity to those in need," wrote Msgr. Ahern. He accompanied the tiara to this country and brought it to the event at which Cardinal Spellman's disclosure was made.

"Mr. Leo suggests it should have been sold and given to the poor," he wrote. "Had this been done, it would have netted them perhaps \$10,000. Instead, Cardinal Spellman will go to a great deal of trouble to exhibit the tiara in order to raise a far larger sum for the poor. Is there something wrong with this? I am sure those who benefit will not complain," Msgr. Ahern wrote.

Giving Papal Tiara to U.S. 'Undercuts' Pope's Intent

Kansas City — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic journalist has charged that the Pope's presentation of a tiara to U.S. Catholics "undercuts" the pontiff's intention to offer the papal headpiece as a gift to the world's needy.

Wrote John Leo in his column in the Dec. 9 issue of the National Catholic Reporter:

"... the most disturbing aspect to me was that in the name of poverty, the Pope should send an expensive tiara to the richest nation on earth the very week that he was departing on a pilgrimage to one of the poorest nations."

"The Pope had spoken movingly of his intent to make the trip to India in the spirit of Gandhi. If he had instructed the men around him to ship the tiara to India... he might have made a profound impact on all India and the world. Certainly it would have been somewhat closer to the spirit of Gandhi."

"But instead of being divided about as much significance as the tiara has had, a rich man's decision to move a tiara from the drawing room kept intact for the alleged edi-

fication of rich Americans. So goes the opening skirmish of the war on poverty."

Leo, an associate editor of The Commonweal, a national Catholic weekly edited by laymen, maintains a weekly column in the national Reporter, also edited by laymen.

The writer said the Pope's announcement about donating the tiara to the poor "struck me as a moving and telling gesture. It said more than a dozen pompous sermons on the subject. It seemed to subtly suggest a whole new tone for the Church in its attitude to worldly riches and its traditional fascination with pomp and gold objects of veneration." Or so it seemed.

Churches Pinched In Money Squeeze

London — (NC) — The Church in England and Wales, living and developing largely on borrowed money, will be hard hit by the British economic crisis.

The government, to prevent a slump in the pound sterling, has borrowed \$3 billion of additional credit from the international banks. To back this move at home it has jacked up the bank rate — the rate of interest charged on bank loans — from 5% to 7%.

Every diocese in Britain will be affected. Practically every parish will have to take a new look at expenditures.

The British banks have always, with justification, considered the Catholic Church a reliable customer. They have readily lent it money to build churches, schools and other projects. Though no official figures are published, the Church in Britain must already be paying back with interest quite a few million pounds sterling.

As most loans carry interest of 1% above bank rate, the charge on money borrowed will now rise to 8%. And with the banks themselves finding money harder to obtain new loans will be harder to secure.

The bishops returning home from their long absence at the ecumenical council and from the International Eucharistic Congress in Bombay may have

to review their plans drastically.

The demands for more Catholic school facilities are growing all the time. It is generally agreed that no diocese can afford to cut down on present plans for education. This means extensions to existing schools or new schools and, in the case of the latter, the dioceses often have to build them in the first place without any help from the government by borrowing money from the banks and relying on the state to take them on and pay back part of the original cost later.

The Westminster diocese, which serves about half the London area, has just announced plans for a \$14 million school expansion program over the next five years. Much of this money will have to be borrowed. Most other dioceses are equally deep in debt.

The Liverpool diocese has a bill of \$7 million for its new cathedral — and for this, as for the new parish churches, Catholics have to find all the money. It comes mostly from the banks.

Protestants At Lecture In Cathedral

Geneva — (NC) — The Catholic Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba welcomed some 500 Protestants and Catholic clergymen, seminarians and lay to his cathedral for a special lecture on current trends in Catholic theology, it was reported here.

The Ecumenical Press Service, news agency of the World Council of Churches, said the Catholic-Protestant meeting, the first of its kind in Cuba was arranged on the initiative of the Baptist seminary of Santiago.

It said that Archbishop Enrique Perez Serantes introduced the speaker, Father Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, professor of dogmatic theology at the Catholic seminary in Havana, who had recently returned to Cuba after graduate studies in Rome.

Ohio Woman Gets Rome Job

Cleveland — (RNS) — A Cleveland newspaper woman will move to Rome in April to take up her duties as executive secretary of the World Federation of Sodalties of Our Lady.

Miss Edythe Westenhaver, 36, will coordinate activities of 25,000 sodalties in some 40 countries of the world. There are some 8,000,000 members in the Catholic lay organization, 1,800,000 of them in the U.S. It is the third largest lay Catholic organization in the world.

A member of the Letunis Sodality at Suburban Gesu Parish here, Miss Westenhaver served as managing editor of a weekly suburban newspaper and has been a staff member of the Cleveland Plain Dealer for eight years. For the past three years she has been writing Catholic news.

During the second and third session of the Vatican Council, Miss Westenhaver worked part-time at the Central Secretariate of Sodalties in Rome.

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