

Council Expert Says

God at Work
In Other Faiths

By JOSEPH D. McLELLAN

Waltham, Mass. — (NC) — The world may never achieve complete religious unity "in the sense that we will all belong to the same outfit," Father Gregory Baum, O.S.A., said in an address at Brandeis University here.

The theology professor at St. Michael's College, Toronto, and an adviser at the Second Vatican Council, speculated on whether such a situation would be regrettable. He questioned the benefits of complete, formal religious unity by calling attention to nations where it presently exists.

"When I look at the countries where there is only one religion," he said, "well... I just don't want to live there."

Speaking on "Christianity and Other Religions — A Catholic Problem," Father Baum said Scripture and tradition both indicate that God may be working through non-Catholic and even non-Christian religions. His talk was one in a series of addresses sponsored by the Jewish-founded, non-sectarian university, marking the 10th anniversary of its unusual establishment of three separate chapels — Catholic, Protestant and Jewish — for its students.

In the present situation, Father Baum said, Catholic theology must work out means of dealing with non-Catholic beliefs that go beyond the traditional positions on "baptism of desire" or "implicit faith." Father Baum, who came from a Jewish family, is a convert to the Catholic faith.

He outlined four historical Catholic attitudes toward non-Christian religions and the reaction naturally accompanying each attitude:

1. That such religions are demonic in origin. Catholics who have accepted this view in the past naturally worked for the total eradication of such religions.

2. That non-Christian religions are a result of "human pride, trying to elbow its way into God's presence." In such a case, he said, Catholics would advise non-Christians to humble themselves and accept God's revelation.

3. That non-Christian religions are "a natural expression of man's quest for the Creator." In such cases, he noted, the Catholic reaction has been quite benevolent. Admirable things have been found in some natural religions, and what is good and true in them has been appreciated, kept and Christianized.

4. That non-Christian religions are part of the divine plan for salvation and for the transformation of mankind. The Catholic reaction to such an attitude should be to engage in dialogue with these religions.

Summing up this fourth position, which he indicated was his own view, Father Baum said it can be held that "the great religions of the world are structures originated by God to lead men to a deeper knowledge of who they are and who He is."

Among Scriptural passages supporting this view, he said, are a number of statements in the epistles of St. Paul from the Old Testament, he cited the passage in Genesis where God makes a covenant with Noah, all his descendants and all living creatures, as an example of God dealing directly with groups which were neither Christian nor Jewish.

On the individual level, as distinguished from formal religious groups, Father Baum said that men who follow their conscience, in or outside of the Church, are "under the influence of God's beneficent action."

The basic human experience in the conflict between good and evil, self-centeredness and altruism is "the same for all men," he added.

A man does not need to be Christian to feel that he is "the object of love" or "the receiver of gifts," Father Baum said. "All men find within themselves destructive tendencies and the means to transcend them. If a non-Christian succeeds in dying to self-centeredness and rising again to self-giving, has he not done what Christians mean by saying they share in Christ's death and resurrection?"

On relations between Catholics and Jews, Father Baum said that most Christian theologians "suffer a total ignorance of post-Biblical Judaism."

"God continues to operate in the Jewish people," he said. "Christians must regard the Jewish religion as an authentic, God-inspired, supernatural worship of the one, true God."

Most Christians who respect Jews today respect them as "precursors" of Christianity — "as potential Christians, not for what they are but for what they may become," he said. He described this attitude as "inadequate and insulting."

Squires Stress
Holiday Theme

Hornell — The Columbian Squires, an organization of high school boys, is encouraging Hornell merchants to emphasize the spiritual aspects of Christmas.

A few days ago the members visited stores in Hornell's business section and distributed posters on the theme, "Keep Christ in Christmas."

Reminding the merchants that Christmas is the birthday of Christ is the current project of the spiritual committee of the organization which is sponsored by the Hornell Council, Knights of Columbus.

On the committee are Martin McLaughlin, chairman, Thomas Mooney, Eugene Grooley, Richard McElaine and Thomas Marino.

The Rev. Gerald T. Connor, assistant pastor of St. Ann's Church, is spiritual advisor of the group.

Victims of Accidents
Dublin — (NC) — A Requiem Mass for the souls of the thousands killed every year on the roads of Ireland was offered here at the pro-cathedral as the beginning of a two-week road safety campaign throughout the country.



Christmas Dinner Dance Planned

NOTRE DAME CLUB of Rochester will hold its annual Christmas dinner dance Dec. 26 at 8 p.m. at Oak Hill Country Club. Discussing plans are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Yurgealitis, left, and Mr. and Mrs. Royal Hanna.

Reasons for Thanks at Mass in Vietnam

Bubble-gum and Rockets

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Society of St. Columban Saigon — (NC) — Capt. Bob Hackett had extra reasons for thanking God at Mass on Sunday, Dec. 5, in Sao Tran in South Vietnam's delta.

On the previous day two of the three armed helicopters he had flown in action, down Camau way, had been hit by communist Viet Cong fire. Each time he had been able to fly back to the Camau airfield.

He was flying at about 400 feet over communist positions when one of the rocket pods attached to his helicopter was hit and went on fire. In his pilot's seat he heard a shout from his

crew chief, Spec. 5 Clifton R. Bedell of Portland, Me. Glancing back, he saw Bedell stepping down through the open door to put both feet on one of the helicopter's skids.

Holding on to a seat belt section with one hand, the crew chief released the burning rocket pod with the other. It was just in time to save the "chopper" from being blown up by the exploding rocket. Bedell climbed back into the ship.

Out of 23 armed "Hueys" — HU-13 helicopters — under Hackett's command during the daylong operation, 13 were hit. One ship took 11 hits. But none crashed, and none of the crew was seriously wounded.

One helicopter piloted by Hackett got a bullet in a rotor blade. "We could feel the vibration caused by the hole and when we landed at Camau we saw what it was," he said. There seemed to be no means of repairing the damage there.

But then WO Jerome Daly from Long Branch, N.F., saw another serviceman chewing bubblegum. "Give me that bubblegum," he begged. It was sticky and gooey, but he plugged the hole in the rotor blade with it. Then he pasted adhesive plaster over it. It worked.

So Jerry Daly, also a helicopter pilot, had likewise reason to be thankful at Mass the next day.

Capt. Hackett is an alumnus of St. Mary's parish school, Amboy, N.J., and of West Point. He is a platoon commander in the 121st U.S. Army Aviation Company.

Fr. John Maloney Received
Into The Legion of Valor

The Rev. John S. Maloney, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross and administrator of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, has been received into the Legion of Valor according to the organization's publication.

Father Maloney's membership in the organization with headquarters in Arlington, Va., was proposed by the Rev. Elmer W. Heindel, also a holder of the DSC and pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Cato.

The citation in General Orders, Legion of Valor said:

"Father Maloney parachuted into occupied France on the 6th of June 1944 when his regiment was part of the airborne assault force that bearded the German in the fabled safety of 'Fortress Europe.' As regimental Chaplain with the 506th Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Father Maloney was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary heroism in action in France.

"Captain Maloney, completely disregarding his own personal safety, assisted medical aid men in administering first aid to the wounded under intense enemy machine gun fire. He further assisted in the evacuation under continuous mortar fire. His initiative and courage reflects Captain Maloney's fortitude, integrity and his high credit to himself and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces."

Father Gannon
Back at Fordham

New York — (RNS) — Father Robert I. Gannon, S.J., superior of the Jesuit Missions Residence here, has been named assistant to the president of Fordham University, the school he once headed for 13 years.

Appointment of the noted educator was announced by Father Vincent T. O'Keefe, S.J., president of Fordham. He said Father Gannon's first major assignment would be to write a history of the 123-year-old Catholic university, expected to be published in 1968.

Father Gannon, who resigned as superior of Jesuit Missions, served at Fordham's president from June 28, 1938 to Feb. 2, 1949. Prior to this assignment he was dean of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N.J.

Since leaving Fordham, he has been superior of Mt. Mansara Retreat House, Staten Island, N.Y., rector of Loyola School and Regis High School.

COURIER-JOURNAL
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Churches Lag
On Race Issue

New York — (RNS) — A noted Southern newsman and civil rights advocate has charged that inaction by Christian churches in America "with a few notable exceptions" in the racial revolution is "perhaps the single most melancholy aspect of what has been called the moral decline of our time."

Ralph McGill, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution and a layman of the Protestant Episcopal Church, made his sharp attack in an article in the December issue of Church and Race, monthly publication of his denomination's Department of Christian Social Relations.

"No Dixie demagogue has been more loud of pietistic in protesting that things are moving too fast or that we are not understood" than the average member.

Christian church," McGill wrote. While accusing the Christian church in general of being a "bit player in the greatest social revolution of our time," the publisher was particularly critical of Southern churches.

McGill maintained that the General Convention of the Episcopal Church this fall "did not make all bishops or laymen happy" concerning racial justice matters and also charged that "the average church failed... in giving members or communicants perspective on the slum riots during the past summer."



KC Christmas Campaign

William Jenny, Grand Knight of Henrietta Council, K. of C., holds miniature Christmas croche while Harry Hall displays one of the posters being distributed by Henrietta Council to merchants in the Henrietta area. Roger Hogan and Charles Murphy display bumper sticker. All are for the "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign of the Council. A contest is currently being conducted for home displays supporting the theme of the campaign.

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