

# 1964 in Review

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 tiff not only to travel by air but to visit the Near East and Asia.

His first trip was in January to the Holy Land, where he was joined by Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras. This was the first occasion in five centuries that a Roman Pontiff had exchanged personal greetings with the holder of Orthodoxy's supreme office.

Paul VI's second visit was in December to Bombay, India, for the 38th International Eucharistic Congress. Met at the airport by top government as well as ecclesiastical leaders, he was given a tumultuous popular reception never before experienced by any foreign visitor in predominantly Hindu India. His visit was seen as a fitting aftermath to his announcement of the creation of a new Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians — another extension of the Church's ecumenical outreach.

**THE POPE'S** visit came shortly after Vatican II — attended by 63 non-Catholic delegates — had promulgated three decrees expected to shape the Church's course for centuries to come. The most vital was the Decree on the Nature of the Church — a sort of postscript to the teachings of Vatican I on papal infallibility — which declared that, collectively, the bishops of the Church share with the Pope in its government. The decree, among other things, also provided for the creation of permanent deacons, including married men, to assist priests.

In its second decree — hailed by some Protestant observers as an unbelievable step forward — the council set forth the Catholic principles of ecumenism. It formally declared the church's will to establish dialogue with other Christian churches, although warning against "imprudent zeal in ecumenical efforts." The third decree confirmed the relative autonomy of the Eastern Rite churches accepted as valid marriages of Eastern Catholics and Eastern Orthodox in ceremonies performed by Orthodox priests, and paved the way for interdenominational worship and communion.

Pope Paul, acting on his own authority, conferred on the Blessed Virgin Mary the new title of Mother of the Church. This had been debated by the bishops, who had finally decided to defer decision on the matter. The Pope also shortened from three hours to one hour the period during which Catholics must fast before receiving communion. During the Council, the Pope appointed 15 women to the list of lay auditors. This marked the first time in history that women had been admitted to an ecumenical council.

In December, the American Jewish Committee announced the opening of a joint Catholic-Jewish research center in Rome to analyze and combat prejudice. Six months earlier, Pope Paul had read a formal statement to leaders of the Jewish group deploring "the horrible deeds of which the Jews have been the victims in recent years." In a talk later on the same day to members of the Italian Association of War Prisoners, the Pope took issue — at least implicitly — with charges in the controversial play, "The Deputy," by German playwright Rolf Hochhuth that the late Pope Pius XII failed to speak adequately against the Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II.

Although the year saw racial tension erupt also in such areas as the Congo, the Union of South Africa, Tanganyika, Northern Rhodesia and British Guyana, the chief spotlight was on the United States, where mushrooming church-supported Negro non-violent demonstrations in the South culminated

**Council Rated Top Story**

Syracuse (RNS) — A Vatican Council II action and the overall move toward updating of the Roman Catholic Church constituted the top religious story of 1964 according to students in the religious foundation program at Syracuse University School of Journalism here.

If an annual listing of the ten biggest news events of the year — the graduate students' past year's retrospectives and senior's graduate rankings — ranked the martyrdom of Congo mission archbishop in second place and listed the Nobel Peace Prize Award to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in third position.

The year's highlight in the ten biggest news events of the year was the Vatican Council II, which opened in Rome in June. The council's decisions were judged as important.

Among the significant events of the year were the opening of the European Council of churches

finally in enactment of the civil rights law.

Three months before, more than 2,000 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergymen had converged on Washington to demand immediate passage of the law.

When a backlash of racial riots erupted in New York, Philadelphia, Rochester and other northern cities, church leaders spoke out in sharp condemnation.

Hero of the year was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and symbol of Negro resistance to Jim Crow laws and other restrictions, who was awarded the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize to the accompaniment of worldwide general acclaim. Accepting the award, a Baptist minister said it was "a

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## Pope Rated First by AP

Washington (RNS) — For the third straight year and the sixth in the last seven years, the Associated Press rated the Pope as the biggest news maker in religion during 1964. Cited was the strength of Pope Paul's leadership of the Catholic Church, his support of Vatican II, and his visit last month as the "missionary Pope" to India.

Pope Paul also made headlines when last January, he became the first pontiff to take a plane trip, and during his historic meeting with Patriarch Athenagoras, supreme spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy, in the Holy Land. It marked the first meeting in 500 years of the leaders of the two branches of Christendom.

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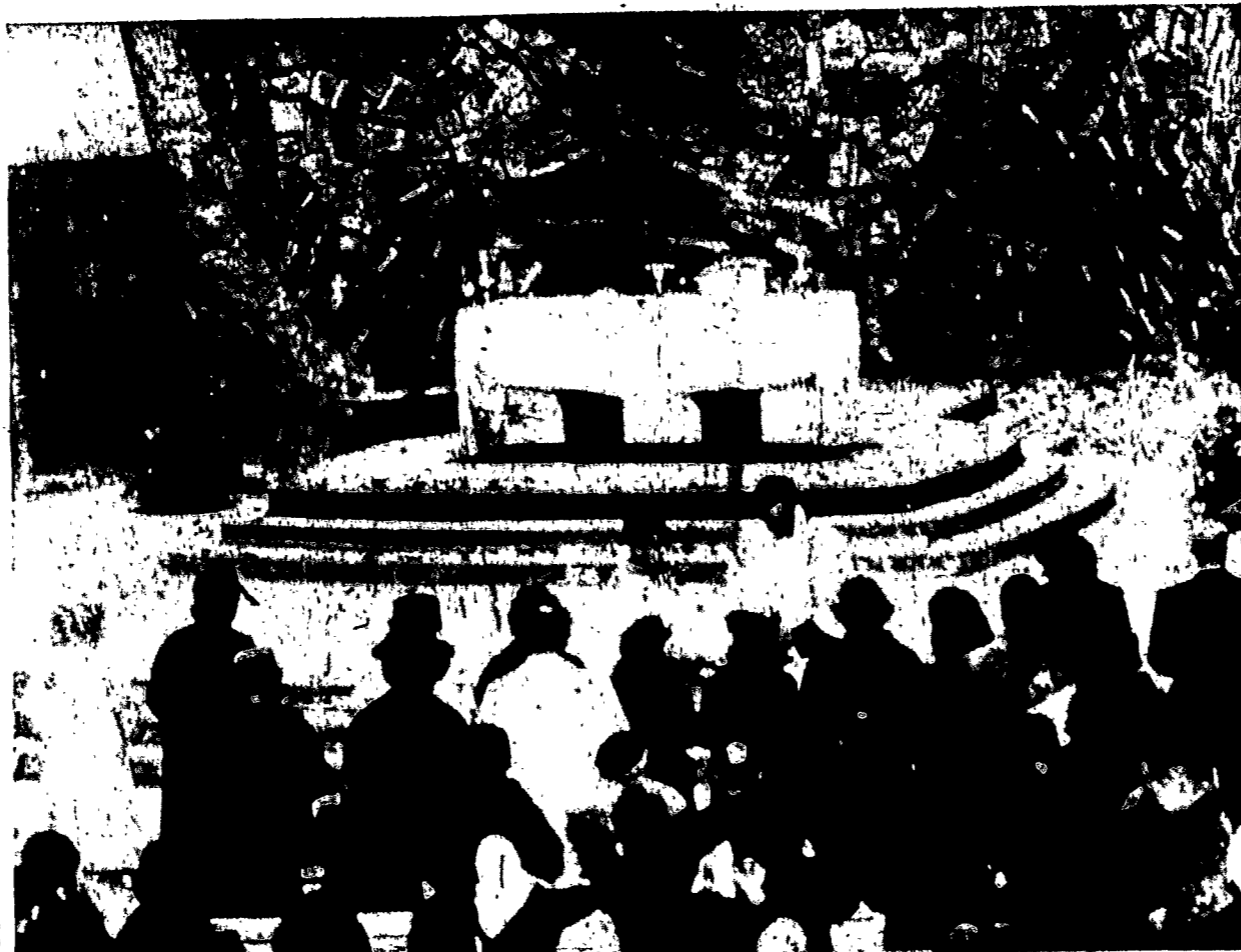
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## New St. John's Church in Greece



Exterior of church lifts cross above Greece skyline.



Congregation thronged altar for Holy Communion at noon Mass last Sunday in new St. John the Evangelist Church on Ridge Road West.

**\$6 Million Hospital** 2  
 San Juan, P.R. (RNS) — The Most Rev. Luis Aponte announced here that one of his first undertakings as archbishop of San Juan will be to erect a \$6 million Our Lady of the Providence Hospital planned by his predecessor, Archbishop James Peter Davis, now head of the Santa Fe, N.M. archdiocese.

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## Film Listing For Children

Albany (RNS) — The New York State Board of Regents has decided to ask the Legislature for authority to classify motion pictures according to their suitability for children.

Under the terms of the bill proposed by the Regents, the motion picture division of the Department of Education would review all films submitted by movie distributors and exhibitors for classification.

The bill would authorize the board only to label films as acceptable for minors under 18 — not to say that objectionable ones were unacceptible for showing in that group.

## New Novel Raps Clergy, Council

Paris (RNS) — The success of a recent book which asserts that a new breed of progressive priest is seeking to bring about a Marxist social order has prompted censure by the executive vice president of the French bishops' council.

The novel, "The New Priest" by Michel de Saint Pierre, was published in early fall and has sold over 100,000 copies. Its main thesis is that a sizeable percentage of the French clergy has twisted the message of the Gospels in order to serve left wing purposes. The author, a prominent writer and a member of an old aristocratic family, recently announced that he planned to sue for defamation.

The French Catholic weekly L'Emancipation Chrétienne, a Christian Witness, because of a critical article it published on the book, returned to France from the Vatican Council II. Archbishop of Toulouse who directs the work of the top conference issued a letter to his people stating that the book casts into doubt "the council itself."

After returning to the council, a work of opening the church to new ideas. Archbishop Garçon said: "There is no question of twisting the Gospels, but the Holy Spirit was sent to enlighten our minds and hearts. We must ask of some the aid for our faith and others for their zeal. It is not a matter of a man for the common good, a charity which is still more doctrine, more patient."

## Medical Survey to Ask Why Children Smoke

Atlantic City (RNS) — Allan Smokers will be asked at what age they began smoking, why they started, whether their smoking habits were influenced by television commercials, older brothers or sisters or other factors, how many cigarettes they smoke a day, and whether they would like to stop smoking.

The study was devised on a health project by the medical group, a spokesman said, because of the mounting body of evidence linking smoking to lung cancer and emphysema, and because prevention work among young people offers the best hope in the long run of reducing the toll of these diseases.

Dr. Leonard E. Ellenbogen, chairman of the society's public relations committee, explained: "The most fertile field in which to work is that of prevention and the place to start is children wherever you find them in schools." Administrators of parochial as well as public schools have been invited to cooperate with the project.

Information will be elicited through questionnaires, which will be distributed by teachers to children in grades 5 through 12. Teachers will read a prepared statement explaining the purpose of the survey. When the pupils have completed the questionnaires, they are instructed to place the questionnaires in a large envelope sealed and mailed directly to the society. It is hoped that these safeguards of anonymity will produce truthful responses.

The questionnaire designed by Dr. Ellenbogen, is divided into sections for smokers and non-smokers. Non-smokers will be asked if they ever smoked, and if so, why they stopped.

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