

## Nuns Hear About Council

Nearly 1000 nuns of several different religious orders gave rapt attention to Bishop Casey as he described the third session of the Vatican Council at a talk in Mercy High School auditorium last week.

He described the lengthy documents the world's Catholic bishops debated prior to final decision on decrees which will shape Church action for decades to come.

He cited the "Constitution on the Church" as "sufficient by itself to justify the holding of the Council." He termed it a "magnificent" summary of the Church's hopes for clergy and laity in the modern world.

Bishop Casey said many prelates at the Council called for greater apostolic activity on the part of nuns. He assured the nuns at his talk that in their classrooms and hospitals they were already fulfilling this goal. He gave his own endorsement to suggestions made at the Council that nuns adapt their garb to a simpler form.

Pictures show Bishop Casey and nuns of various orders listening to him.



## Latin America Gains Priests

Madrid—(NC)—Pope John's plea to the Spanish bishops to send 1,500 diocesan priests to Latin America before the end of the Vatican Council is two-thirds of the way toward fulfillment.

Mgr. Antonio Garriga, secretary general of Spain's Society for Latin American Priestly Cooperation, told journalists here (Feb. 14) that his organization has sent 1,016 diocesan priests to 26 Latin American countries. In addition there are 8,000 Spanish men Religious and 8,000 Spanish Sisters working in Latin America. But he said the society has on hand urgent requests for 254 Latin American dioceses for nearly 3,000 more priests.

He stated that Latin America, with virtually 200 million Catholics has only about 28,000 priests, whereas Spain, with 31 million Catholics, has 25,000. If the Latin American ratio held true in Spain, he said, this country would have only 930 priests.

## Million Given To Notre Dame

Notre Dame, (NC)—The University of Notre Dame has received two \$500,000 gifts toward construction of a mammoth athletic and convocation center. Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., university president said both donors are alumni and former Notre Dame athletes who prefer to remain anonymous. The athletic and convocation center is a major objective of the university's three-year, \$20 million program.

## Ruled Constitutional

Baltimore—(NC)—A circuit court judge has ruled that tax exemptions for church property violate neither the U.S. nor the Maryland constitutions and has suggested that it might in fact be unconstitutional to tax church property.

These views were expressed in a memorandum opinion by Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Wilson Barnes explaining his dismissal of a suit against property tax exemptions for churches.

The suit was brought by Mrs. Madelyn Murray, much-published Baltimore atheist, and others against a number of state tax officials. Entering the case as intervenors in support of the anonymous. The athletic and convocation center were Archbishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Baltimore, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, the Maryland Synod

of the Lutheran Church in America, Temple Emanuel of Baltimore, and United Christian Citizens, Inc.

Judge Barnes dismissed the suit Dec. 17, explaining at the time that he would file a memorandum giving his reasons later.

"The exemption . . . represents government neutrality, not prohibited by the First Amendment," he held.

## Mass in French Causes Spurt in Eye Glasses

Paris — (RNS) — Aggiornamento has meant big business for, of all people, the opticians of France.

They attribute the boom in sales to use of the vernacular French instead of Latin in many parts of the Roman Catholic Mass.

Since January, they say, their best customers have been priests. Here's the way one optician explains the phenomenon:

1. Priests whose eyesight was "average" for their years didn't wear spectacles.
2. The longer in the priesthood the more likely they were to know the Latin by heart.
3. The old missals had big print.
4. The new missals, some of them temporary, were rushed into print when the vernacular was approved by Vatican II. Unfortunately most of them were published in fine print or, at best, type sizes smaller than the Latin missals.

So more and more priests are turning to eye-glasses.

## Toledo Prelate Says

### Ecumenism, Duty for All

Toledo — (NC) — Bishop George J. Rehring publicly called upon every Catholic in the Toledo diocese to give his best efforts in a whole-hearted participation in the ecumenical movement.

This enlistment should result from a proper appreciation of ecumenism, the bishop said in an address at a meeting of the Toledo Area Council of Churches. Taking part in the ecumenical movement is not a

matter of choice but of obligation, he asserted.

The bishop said a common prayer must be distinguished this way:

"COMMON PRAYER consisting of prayers, hymns and Sacred Scripture readings to which all present can give conscientious assent—such as frequently takes place at assemblies in halls—is acceptable and worthy of encouragement. Such, at least, is my opinion.

"But if by common prayer is meant joint religious services, I see inconsistencies. For religious services are an expression of belief and as long as our beliefs are in conflict with one another and even contradictory, I fail to see how we can share them.

"We must be true to conscience; only by doing so can we please God; and our purpose certainly is to please Him."

Bishop Rehring said interfaith religious activities are being carried on across the nation and in other countries, generating enthusiasm and receiving warm praise.

"However, I fail to see how they come to grips with pertinent problems," said the bishop.

"The problems are complex and involved and in the wake of often harsh and bitter polemics they have taken on new aspects that cannot be solved mainly by good intentions nor by prayer, necessary as they are," he said. "I am fearful that hasty, poorly-convicted religious programs may destroy the progress made to date and retard the movement indefinitely. I think we have more to gain by proceeding intelligently and cautiously than by moving fast with ill-advised zeal. Desire for action must be controlled by Christian prudence and rational orientation."

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## Dialogue Soon At The Summit

Geneva—(RNS)—Representatives of the Vatican and the World Council of Churches will hold their first joint conversations within the next four months, Dr. W. A. Visser-'t Hooft, general secretary of the WCC, said here.

He said the representatives, formulated as a "working group," are scheduled to discuss possible collaboration in such fields as social and international affairs and philanthropy.

Other topics, he said, would include theological studies bearing on "Christian unity," and problems which cause tensions among church groups, such as mixed marriages, religious liberty and proselytism.

Dr. Visser-'t Hooft also observed that the conversations will mark the first official "practical step" taken by the Roman Catholic Church toward non-Catholics since the 16th Century Reformation.

At the same time he cautioned that "nobody should expect immediate results because we have very difficult tasks facing us."

The proposal to set up "working groups" of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and Catholic representatives was approved by the WCC's Central Committee at its sessions in January at Enugu, Nigeria.

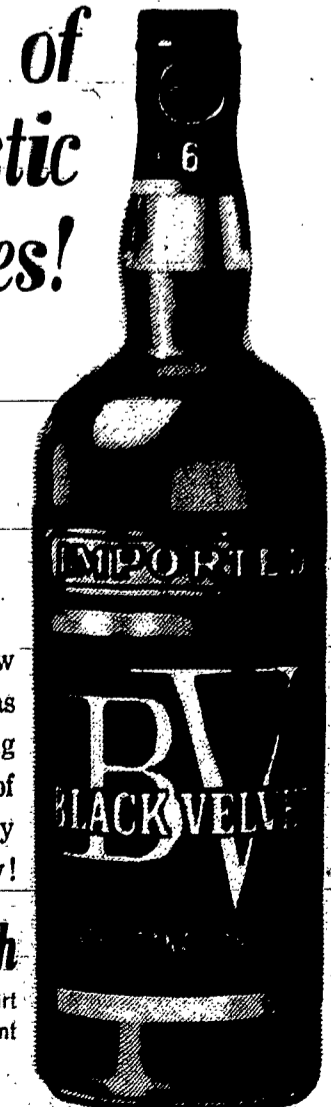


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