

Pope Crowns Madonna, Stresses 'Mother of God'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, at solemn rites in St. Peter's Basilica, crowned a statue of the Madonna which had been previously exposed to the veneration of the faithful. At the same time, he called on the faithful for renewed and ardent devotion to the Mother of Christ.

He placed two diamond-studded crowns on an image of the Virgin of the Rosary from the sanctuary of Pompei which had been sent to Rome some time ago to have some restoration work done on it. It was returned shortly afterwards to its shrine near Mount Vesuvius.

Attending the rites were eleven cardinals, 25 bishops and thousands of faithful, mainly from the Naples region.

During the ceremony, the Pope stressed the great importance the Church attaches to the cult of Mary, saying:

"In this world, there will be a renewal of our devotion to Mary and in particular to the Rosary, that simple, deep act of prayer which helps to spread the Marian devotion and all devotion."

Priest Advises

End Scruples On Baptism

St. Louis — (RNS) — Baptisms by Episcopalians, Lutherans, and many other Protestant groups should be accepted by Roman Catholic priests as valid, a member of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity said here.

Assumptionist Father George H. Tavard, A.A., said it could be a sacrifice for priests to rebaptize someone they were reasonably sure was already baptized.

The Vatican Council expert urged an end to indiscriminate rebaptizing of Protestant converts. He collaborated on the conciliar document on common worship.

Father Tavard said that Catholics must take Protestant rituals on baptism at their face value, and overcome their scruples about validity.

Speaking at a workshop on modern catechetics at Maryville College of the Sacred Heart here, the French-born ecumenist said the question of validity of the previous baptism, while important, wasn't any more important than the possibility of committing sacrilege by attempting to baptize twice.

"The practice of conditional baptism, to me, is a peculiar one," Father Tavard said. "I must say that I myself have never rebaptized anyone. I have very strong feelings against it."

"Any conditional baptism exposes the ritual that we use to non-validity — to nullity. For if we are wrong in thinking that the previous baptism was not valid, the baptism we are

New 'Shrine' For Scrolls

Jerusalem — (RNS) — A shrine designed to house some of the Dead Sea Scrolls was formally opened here by President Zalman Shazar of Israel.

Known as "The Shrine of the Book," it was built with funds contributed by the D.S. and R.H. Gottesman Foundation of New York. The white-domed, partly subterranean sanctuary represents the first completed section of the Israel Museum. The museum itself is scheduled to be opened in May with an exhibition devoted to "The Bible in the Arts."

The Shrine of the Book was built by the Israeli government through its agency, the Israel American Museum Foundation. The Gottesman Fund was established by the late S. Samuel Gottesman of New York, industrialist and philanthropist, who donated four Dead Sea Scrolls to Israel in 1955. He established the foundation before his death in 1956.

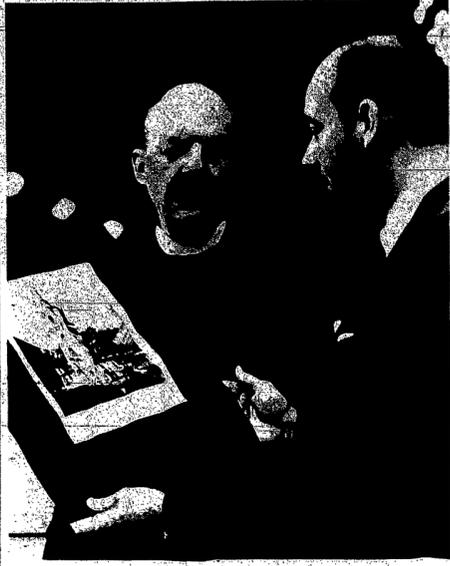
The sanctuary enshrines seven of the first discovered Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as 15 letters dispatched by Simon Bar Kochba, Hebrew military leader, to the commanders of the rebellion against the Romans in the Dead Sea district in 135 A.D.

Consultant

St. Louis — (RNS) — A St. Louis Roman Catholic nun who began the first graduate program in home economics in a Catholic university has been selected as the first religious to act as a consultant on "Project Head Start" of the government's war-on-poverty program. She teaches at St. Louis University.

Sister Anselm O'Brien accepted the request of Dr. Julius Richmond, who heads the preschool program, to join the project. Another St. Louis nun, Sister Jacqueline Grenmar, is involved in the administration of "Head Start."

Sister Anselm said that as part of her work she will travel in a region which includes the states of Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, and Missouri. She will help select qualified teachers and set up physical surroundings that will include playground equipment to, in Sister's words, "help build up those young muscles."



Etching of Pioneer School

New York — (RNS) — Msgr. Raymond P. Rigney, superintendent of schools in the New York archdiocese, accepts an etching of St. Peter's school, a pioneer church school founded at Trinity Place, New York, in 1758. The presentation was made by John L. Paige, vice-president of the Waterman-Bic Pen Corp., at the New York Coliseum where an exhibition of education material was held in connection with the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Burma Confiscates Religious Schools

Rangoon — (RNS) — All Christian schools in Burma have been taken over by the Revolutionary Government as a part of its social revolution. Effective April 1, 129 private schools in various parts of the country were nationalized by the State, among them 85 Christian schools, most of them long-established institutions and some more than 100 years old.

Roman Catholic schools affected numbered 49; Baptist, 16; Anglican (Church of England), 10; Methodist, 7; and interdenominational, 3. Other schools taken over included Chinese, 16; Indian, 6; Buddhist, 3; and other privately-run schools, 19.

In the Rangoon area alone, 18 Roman Catholic schools became state schools, three Baptist, three Methodist, two Anglican, and one combined Baptist-Methodist school.

The Methodist English High School of Rangoon, established in 1882 and rated one of the largest schools in the country with a student body of more than 4,000 and a staff of 123 teachers, was renamed State High School No. 1 Dagon. From now on, the school staff will be working in cooperation with the Army chairman of the Dagon Security and Administrative Council, the Divisional Inspector of Schools and an Assistant Education Research Officer. These officials will be in charge of all aspects of running the school. Similar arrangements have been made for the other schools taken over.

The Revolutionary Government took over the schools under the Nationalization of Enterprises Law, 1963, according to a notification issued March 26 by Col. Ko Ko, Secretary of the Office of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. However, the decree was not announced until the actual takeover on April 1, when many of the schools were open as centers for Government high school matriculation examinations and others were closed for summer vacation.

Children under religious instruction totaled 5,050,366, an increase of 733,435. These include 3,285,899 elementary school students and 1,764,467 high school pupils learning the Catholic faith under released time programs, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine courses, religious vacation schools and classes.

You can't solve the problems of your community by yourself but you can help by donating to the Community Chest-Red Cross Campaign, May 5 through 17.

Family of Six Adds Nine

Charlotte, N.C. — (NC) — This is, in a way, the end of a story.

Chapter One, steeped in tragedy, began on Jan. 12, 1962, near Battle Creek, Mich. On that day, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Baker died in a wreck, and left nine surviving children.

The story of that accident was printed in newspapers throughout the country. And here in Charlotte, a man and his wife read that story. They called a priest and said they would like to adopt those nine orphans. They already had four

U.S. Catholics Up 766,248

New York — (RNS) — Catholics in the U.S. totaled 45,640,619 as of January 1, an increase of 766,248 over the previous year, according to the 1965 Official Catholic Directory issued by P. J. Kennedy & Sons here.

Included in the total—which represents a ten-year gain of more than 13 million or 40.1 per cent—are all Catholics in the 50 states, members of the armed forces and their families in this country and overseas, and personnel of the diplomatic corps and other American services abroad.

Full-time pupils in Catholic high and elementary schools gained 37,288, for a total of 5,662,328. These are divided as follows: 698,032 students in 1,566 parish and diocesan high schools; 397,487 in 899 private high schools; 4,476,881 in 10,503 parish grade schools; and 89,928 in 428 private elementary schools.

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Now Chapter Three has been written — officially recording 13 children in the Meyers family. The final adoption papers have been signed. What the family has known for a long time, the government now recognizes as official — there are 13 children in the family.

The adoption becomes final on Jean Meyers' birthday. Donald and Jean and their children still shy from publicity. But the nun who handled the adoption case, Sister Amadeus of the Catholic Social Services, reported everything went smoothly, and all are happy in one big family.

That's the way Don and Jean planned it when they made that formal adoption proceedings to continue.

They have 13.

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