



Pope John, God's Jolly Revolutionary

Two years ago the world wept when Pope John died. Legends and anecdotes have mushroomed about this lovable Pontiff. Many news analysts consider him the twentieth century's greatest religious leader. Here is the way he looks to a writer who is not a Roman Catholic, Chad Walsh. The article is reprinted with permission from the May issue of The Episcopal magazine.

Pope John has been dead less than two years. He has passed not merely into history but into mythology.

Already a sizable body of anecdote clusters about his name; publishers are beginning to collect his florets (little flowers) as though he were St. Francis.

The very human—and tangible—man who so briefly but so memorably wore the triple tiara is in danger of being annexed by the legends and myth-makers of the popular press and the devotional market.

Still, this is not all bad or false.

Whatever myths spring up around the name of John bear witness to the real man who once lived, who once guided the destiny of the Roman Catholic Church, who wrestled it out of its hallowed rut, and who also—perhaps more than any other person of postwar decades—gave the course of human history a jolt and shove and sent it into different—and hopefully better—directions.

A legend or myth is rarely complete falsehood. Possibly Lincoln never walked miles to return a penny, but there was something about him that made the story plausible. Though Washington's prowess with tree-felling hatchets may have been exaggerated, his traditional avowal of the naughty deed tallies with the impression of his character that sober history presents.

In the same way, the legends and mythologies, now feeding a growing and lucrative market, bear witness to Christ's complete servant, who served his Church all the better because he served Christ and mankind first, and the visible Church second.

In what way did Pope John give a wrench and a new direction to history?

Most obviously, though perhaps not most importantly, in what he did with his own Church. Under the Piuses of recent decades, the Roman Catholic Church remained the creation of the Council of Trent. It was a fortress, built strong for defense and formidable against all attacks, religious or secular. But its psychology was defensive. It was in a state of spiritual sleep.

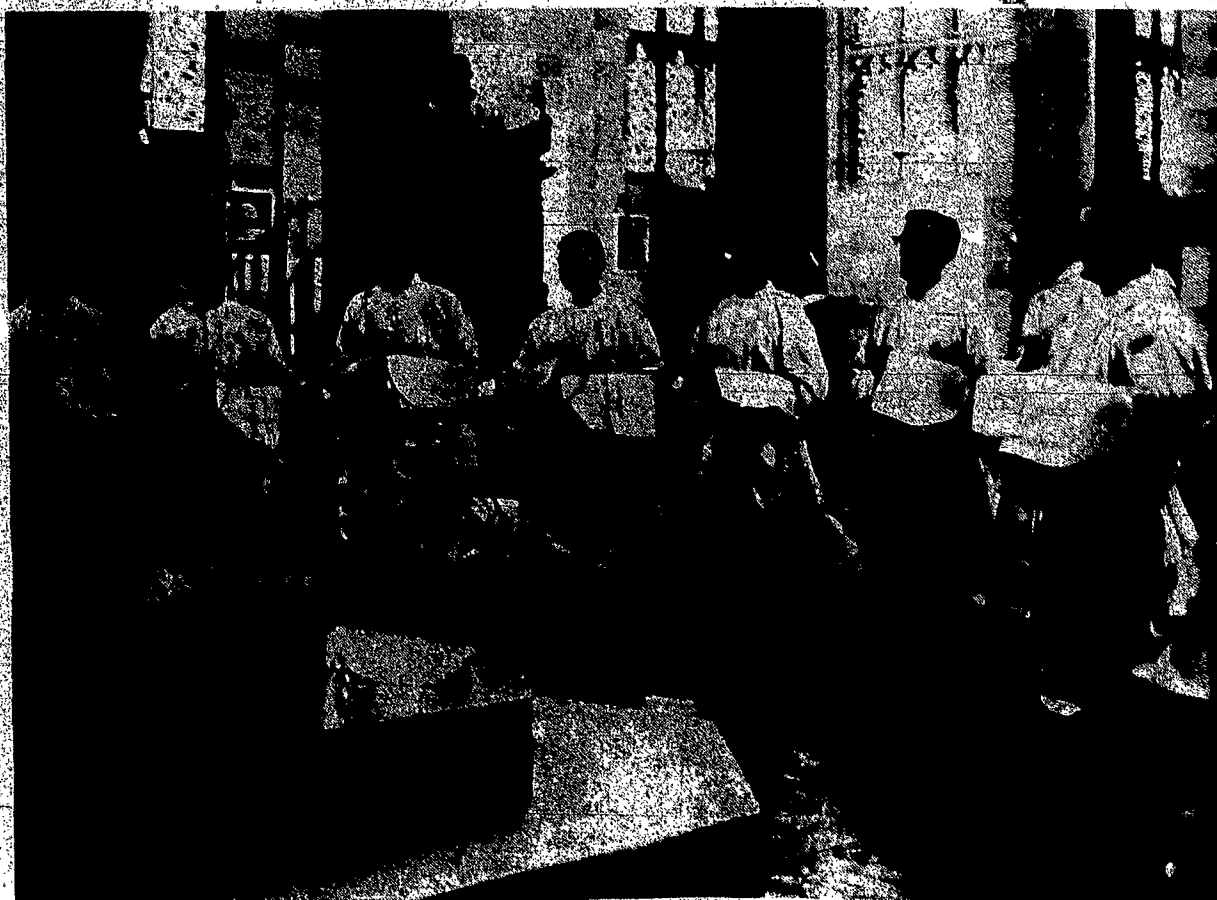
The traumatic shock of the Protestant Reformation had given it a certain stance in the world. Being a beleaguered fortress, no matter how mighty and threatening it looked to outsiders, it was obliged to exercise an almost military discipline within its own ranks. In time of siege, no general can afford to encourage excessive individualism and self-expression among his troops.

Thus the Roman Church spent more than half of the twentieth century trying to shield itself against that century—its savage political ideologies, the acid philosophic currents that dissolved all faiths, the sociological trends that more and more made the Church, any Church, seem a faded thing of old lace without even a pinch of arsenic.

Spring of new life, of course, bubbled here and there within the Roman Church. In France, the worker-priests made their daring experiment as a means of winning back an estranged proletariat. Despite all obstacles, Roman Catholic scholars were advancing in Biblical studies, and finding a new meeting ground with their Protestant fellow-scholars.

The ecumenical movement, which was steadily bringing the

(Continued on Page 3)



Nine young men were ordained priests at Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday morning. The new priests, as they knelt in the Cathedral sanctuary, are Fathers Walter Wainwright, John Reif, Daniel Holland, John Dettleff, Thomas Corbett, Robert Hoffman, Richard Murphy, Richard



Salvatore (hidden in photo) and Timothy Welder. Bishop Kearney presented each new priest with bread and wine on paten and in chalice with command "to offer sacrifice for the living and for the dead." Other photos on page two.

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One-year-old St. Mark's parish in the Town of Greece will soon have a new church. Father Joseph D. Donovan, flanked by parish auditor Elmer Boehmer and Men's Club president Emmett V. Norton and parishioners, dug the first spadeful of earth at the twelve-acre site on Kuhn Road. A parish hall attached to the church will double the church capacity by means of sliding panels.

Laity in the Curia

Pope Paul's 'Cabinet' To be Reorganized

A new Secretariat for the Laity, and probably another one to promote Peace, will be part of a wide-scale reorganization of the Roman Curia, according to reports circulating in Rome.

Add the controversial Holy Office will be radically changed and be known instead as the Congregation of the Faith.

Census 90 Per Cent Completed

Most of the 156 parishes of the Diocese reported this week a more than 90 per cent completion of their Catholic census programs.

Final completion in many cases has been delayed by the necessity of re-visits to dwellings where no one was found at home.

Also contributing to a slowdown in finishing the huge diocesanwide census program is the setting of forms at the Diocesan Census Office, 140 East Ave., Rochester. Forms of persons indicating affiliation with a parish other than the one in which they reside are being delivered to the parishes named.

As of this week, all parishes have undertaken their census tasks. A few have reported 100 per cent completion.

Forms are being counted at the Census Office before being shipped to a computer firm. They then will be returned to the parishes.

Compilation of the vast amount of statistics from the forms is expected to take several weeks. It is for this reason that parish census committees are being urged to complete the processing of forms as soon as possible.

Deacons to be Parish Interns

Detroit — (NC) — Detroit's Archbishop John F. Dearden will ordain 23 young men to the diaconate on June 12 a week after raising them to the subdiaconate.

The move is being taken to provide archdiocesan parishes with needed assistance during the summer months and to provide the future priests with pastoral experience. The diaconate until now was administered in September before the seminarians began the final year of study for the priesthood.

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The Consistorial Congregation will have its name changed to the Congregation of Bishops and the Congregation of the Council, originally established to enforce the directives of the sixteenth century Council of Trent, will be called the Congregation of Discipline.

The Curia is the Church's central administrative agency, the Pope's "Cabinet." It's a complex of numerous subsidiary agencies often with methods and objectives quite out of keeping with twentieth century standards in or out of the Church.

Pope Paul appointed Cardinal Francesco Roberti in early 1964 to draft a project to update the Curia. The work is said to be completed and the Pope is expected to make his decisions public in the near future.

Hints of the revised Curia have been gleaned from the Pope's own statements during the past two years and from other "usually informed sources."

According to these sources, the reforms are not expected to include the "Senate of Bishops" which Pope Paul had originally suggested. Its establishment is expected to be postponed on grounds that it might hamper rather than facilitate the functioning of the Church's central government.

There was some talk here that Pope Paul might set up a new Vatican secretariat for promoting peace, as was suggested some time ago by Nova et Vetera, a Swiss Catholic review.

Founded by Father Charles Journet, a celebrated theologian, the journal suggested that "there should be set up a permanent body of the Church to include theologians and experts... who would be charged with studying the field of programs relating to the establishment of peace."

The proposed secretariat, according to one Vatican source, might act as a voluntary adviser and mediator in current international disputes. However, other Vatican sources said that, even if the Pope were interested, he would not take action on the matter until after the close of the Second Vatican Council.

Easter Duty Ends Sunday

Catholics are reminded that the deadline for the "Easter Duty" expires this Sunday, June 13, feast of the Holy Trinity.

The Easter Duty requires Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once between the first Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday and to go to Confession at least once a year.

Eastern Churches' Role 'Reversed' at Council

London — (RNS) — Anglicans, Protestants, Orthodox and Eastern and Latin Rite Catholics participated in the second annual Christian unity conference here under auspices of the Eastern Churches Study Group.

Major speaker was Melkite Archbishop Neofito Edalby of Damascus, who contrasted the role of Eastern Rite bishops at Vatican II with that at the First Vatican Council in 1869-70.

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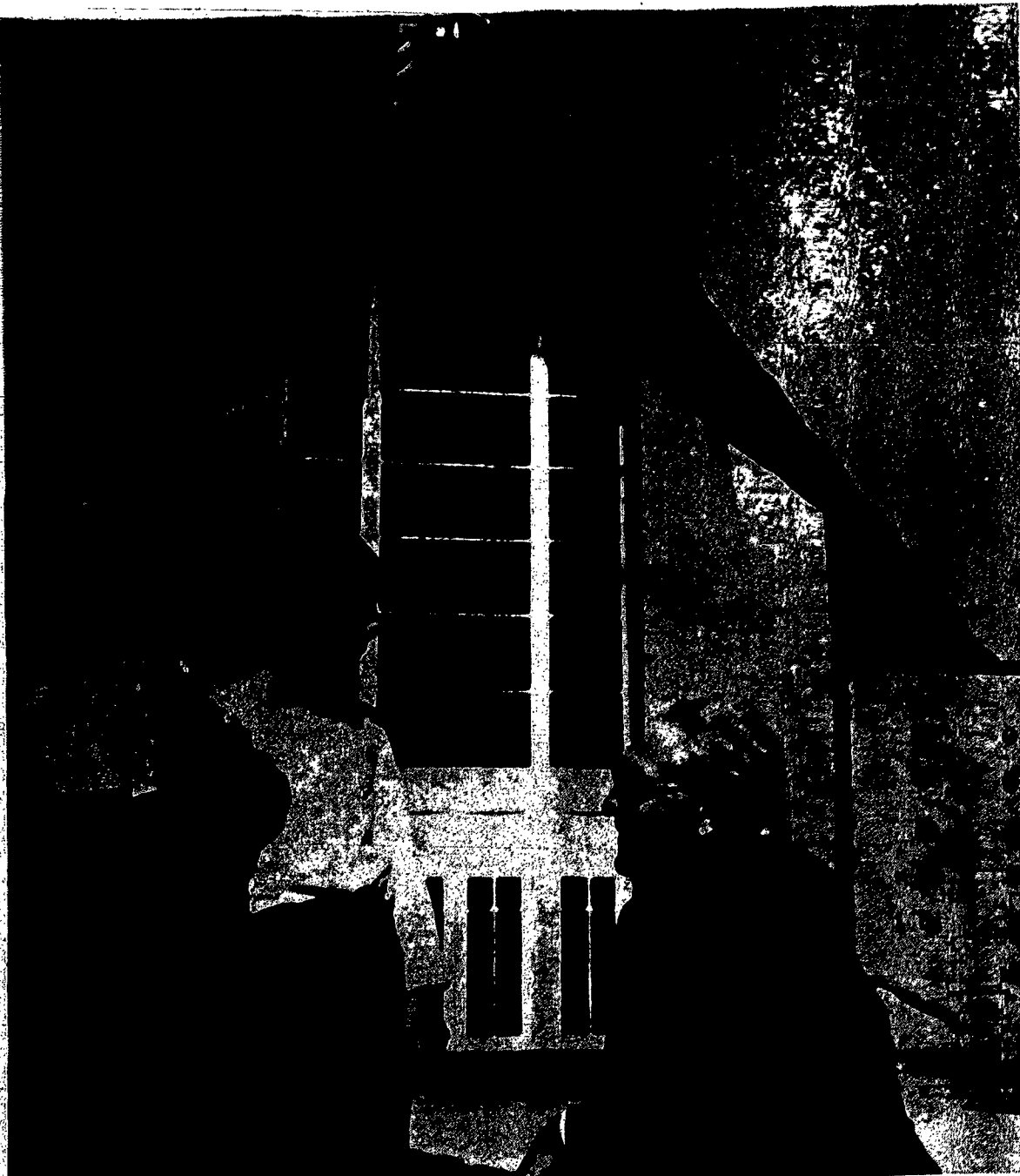
He declared that the Eastern bishops at that Council "hardly spoke a word, and the few who did dare to raise their voices were rebuked with great harshness... They obtained nothing for their Eastern Churches, nor for the cause of unity."

"The situation has been completely reversed at Vatican II," he continued. "There were nearly 100 Eastern bishops, few in comparison with 2,500 Latin Fathers, but much if one takes into account the small numbers of Eastern Catholics."

"This time the Eastern bishops arrived with no inferiority complex, convinced they had something original to contribute. On the rare occasions when they intervened on problems of a general character their line of thought represented an original and interesting contribution, for instance on the question of the role of the Holy Spirit, on birth control, on the relations between Scripture and Tradition."

"The mere presence of the Eastern Catholics in the midst of a massively Latin Catholic Church and in the heart of the Second Vatican Council poses the problem of ecumenism in a concrete and tangible way... By our mere existence we prove that it is possible to be at the same time both Catholic and Eastern."

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Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn, pastor of St. Helen's Church in Gates, talks third grade pupils Susan Bittlingmeyer and Stephen Prichard about parish jubilee celebration. Bishop Casey will celebrate the 25th anniversary Mass Sunday at 4:30 p.m. (Story on page 2)