



A Last Look at the Pieta

New York — (RNS) — Thousands of visitors waited in lines on the final day of the New York World's Fair to obtain a last look at Michelangelo's "Pieta" and other treasures housed in the Vatican Pavilion. Officials estimated that more than 27 million persons toured the Pavilion during the two seasons of the Fair. During the week of Pope Paul's visit, attendance at the pavilion went as high as 94 per cent of all Fair visitors.

Extremist Groups Rapped

Mexico City — (NC) — The Mexico City archdiocese in a pastoral letter has denounced two extremist organizations—one on the right and one on the left—as creations of "divisive elements aimed at creating schism within Catholicism."

It said that neither the "Mexican Catholic Traditionalist Movement" nor the "Pax Cultural Association" has the authorization of the archdiocesan hierarchy.

The letter, read at Sunday Masses in the 400 churches of this capital, was signed by Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Orozco Lomelin in behalf of Archbishop Miguel Dario Miranda, Primate of Mexico, who is in Rome attending the Vatican Council.

The letter warned Mexican Catholics that the so-called Pax association, which had its origins in Poland following World War II, is known to have had communist financial backing. It noted that the movement was disavowed by Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, and by the Polish bishops as a whole.

The warning also recalled that the so-called "traditionalist" movement originated in the United States under the leadership of Father Gomar De Pauw, and that Father De Pauw was reprimanded by his archbishop, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore.

The letter said that no Mexican who considers himself a Catholic "may join, take part in, or encourage" the Catholic Traditionalist Movement or the Pax Cultural Association.

While formation of the traditionalist movement here was announced only last August, the organization has been very active. It has carried on an intense membership campaign, and has circulated leaflets and published large newspaper advertisements aimed at discrediting the reform movement within the Church.

Favorite targets of the so-called traditionalists have included Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo of Cuernavaca, whose cathedral has been referred to in ads as "the wine cellar," and Msgr. Ivan Illich, priest of the New York archdiocese who directs the missionary training center in Cuernavaca known as the Center of Intercultural Formation.

A quarter-page advertisement in the Mexico City daily Excelsior (Aug. 31) labeled the Cuernavaca center a place "where a Russian monsignor, Ivan Illich, and other foreigners prepare the new Catholic missionaries who are to spread throughout Latin America, where they will become agents of ideas so foreign to traditional Catholicism such as the abandonment of devotion to Mary and the saints and the substitution of Biblical psalms for the Our Father and the Hail Mary, in order to carry on a dialogue with God in the Protestant fashion."

Irish Prelate To Visit U.S.

St. Augustine — (NC) — William Cardinal Conway, archbishop of Armagh and primate of All Ireland, has accepted an invitation to officiate at the dedication of the renovated Cathedral of St. Augustine here.

The Faces of Pride

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

Are you a humble person?

You probably will duck that question, sensing a trap. "If I say that I am humble," you reason, "I will appear to be proud." Pressed for an answer, you will give an evasive reply, such as, "Well, I'm not as humble as I'd like to be."

That is not a bad answer under any circumstances. However, if you really do think that you are reasonably humble, saying so will not mark you as being a proud person.

This is a misconception which many people have concerning the virtue of humility. It is thought that humility demands that we belittle ourselves, that we pretend to be less than we really are.

However, such an attitude is a travesty of humility. Genuine humility is built upon truth. It is insincerity, not humility, to profess that we do not possess a particular virtue or talent which in fact we do possess.

The essence of humility is found, not in downgrading ourselves, but in recognizing that whatever we are, by grace or by nature, we are through the bounty of God. Whatever claim we may have to distinction, we know that we can take no credit for it. All credit must go to God.

CONSEQUENTLY we dare not look down upon anyone else, be he sinner, pauper or fool. If God has seen fit to bestow on us, for His own reasons, more graces or advantages than He has accorded another, this gives us no right to congratulate ourselves. We have not lifted ourselves by our own bootstraps.

In theory we do admit, of course, that God is the source of all our spiritual and human assets. In practice, however, we too often surrender to feelings of superiority. Unless we are vigilant, we may find ourselves harboring feelings of disdain toward another because of his poverty or because of his lack of education or of social grace.



THE WORD, "PRIDE," often is used inexactly. We speak of proud parents, for example, when we really mean pleased and happy parents. We speak of taking pride in our work, when we really mean that we are conscientious in our work. It is when we feel that we are essentially better than someone else, that we become guilty of pride.

There are many forms of pride: pride of nationality, or race, of religion (we Catholics have sinned here!) of social position or of wealth. The form of pride which is spiritually most damaging, however, is intellectual pride. This is a state of mind in which a person considers his own judgments to be infallible. It is the kind of pride which is exhibited by the self-righteous person who weighs other individuals on his own scale of values — and usually finds the others wanting.

Intellectual pride also is the outstanding weakness of extremists, whether they be extremists of the right or of the left. To the extremist of the right, all who disagree with him are Communists, fools or heretics. To the extremist of the left, all other men are Fascists, tools of Wall St. or reactionaries.

Vatican Advises

Keep Communion Within Mass Rite

Vatican City — (NC) — The practice of distributing Communion apart from Mass, although permissible in some cases, is not in line with the Vatican Council's liturgy directives.

This unofficial but authoritative interpretation appeared in the current issue of Notitiae, Latin magazine of the commission for implementing the Council's liturgical constitution which was released Oct. 18.

To the question of whether the practice of distributing Communion before Mass was fitting, the answer was no, since "Communion is and must appear as the culmination of participation in the Mass." It is therefore "fitting," the magazine said, that Communion be distributed during Mass, as is evident from the latest liturgical books.

However, Notitiae said, "if there is some necessity for before-Mass distribution, the priest should wear an alb and stole rather than Mass vestments."

Notitiae said it is "fitting" that in each Mass hosts be consecrated for the Communion of the faithful even though their number be small, so that they participate more perfectly in the Mass.

Answering other questions, Notitiae made the following points on varied subjects.

Special permission from the bishop is not required for priests to concelebrate the evening Mass of Holy Thursday unless the bishop has ruled otherwise.

The local Ordinary is competent to approve special versions of the new "Prayer of the Faithful," recited after the Creed, without having to refer it to the liturgical bodies of na-

Encyclical Text Changed

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI changed an apparently stringent section of his encyclical, "The Mystery of Faith," after it was drafted.

In the encyclical, the Pope declares that it would be intolerable if "any individual should on his own authority modify the formulas which were used by the Council of Trent to express belief in the Eucharistic Mystery." The English text released by the Vatican went on to say:

"... the most sacred task of theology is, not the invention of new dogmatic formulas to replace old ones, but rather such a defense and explanation of the formulas adopted by the Council as may demonstrate that divine Revelation is the source of the truths communicated through these expressions."

This sentence, however, does not appear in either the Latin or the Italian text of the encyclical published in the Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano. It was deleted from the original text, but apparently the English translators were not informed of the deletion.

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