

# From Corporal To the Collar

In the wartime port of Boston in early 1943, Corporal Robert Howes helped process the servicemen who were about to board the "S.S. Dorchester," bound for Greenland. Among those he processed were four chaplains: two Protestants, a Catholic and a Jew.

Two months later, Howes himself was en route to Greenland when he learned that on board were four more chaplains: replacements for the ones who had given up their life preservers and gone down with the torpedoed "Dorchester" in one of the famous heroic incidents of the Second World War.

Corporal Howes, who could play the piano, was recruited to play the organ during the voyage not only for his own Catholic services but for the non-Catholic ones as well. Ever since, a strong ecumenical motif has marked his life.

In the Diocese of Worcester, Mass., he founded and headed for three years (1960-63) an interfaith Clergy Committee on the Community. Now, as the country's only priest-civilian planner, he proposes "ecumenical civics" as a key solution to the problems facing religion in megalopolis.

Father Howes coined the "ecumenical civics" phrase to describe the process in which, he believes, all churches and synagogues in a community must associate on a continuing rather than sporadic basis to assess civic proposals and to act on them if they involve moral and spiritual matters.

The priest, who is chairman of the City Planning Committee of Catholic University in Washington, D.C., took his cue from Augustin Cardinal Bea's talk at Joston College in 1963, when the head of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity said that the first avenue for ecumenical effort was "co-operation in non-doctrinal matters."

But for Father Howes, ecumenical civics is more than a good-will apostolate. He sees it as a matter of necessity if religion is to be relevant in the city of tomorrow. "The day, I suspect, should have long since passed when any American faith thought it could handle civics as a private function," he says.

In Worcester, the Clergy Committee—on the Community sent representatives to all major civic meetings whether or not a specific "religious" issue was the topic—sponsored political debates in church buildings at election time—after one of these, held in a Congregational Church, a candidate told Father Howes it was the most high-level debate he'd been in all campaign, conducted radio programs on civic issues, set up sub-committees, with lay representation, on such areas as race relations, mental health, urban renewal and problems of the aged.

FATHER HOWES, a 46-year-old native of Southborough, Mass., had originally planned a career in politics or law after graduating from Boston College in 1940. ("I was and continue to be fanatically interested in the political process. I go out of my mind every election.")

In the Worcester Diocese, where he was ordained by Bishop John J. Wright in 1951, Father Howes was diocesan TV director, then did a column for the diocesan paper in which he interviewed town officials. (Once a month he gave the column over to "a walk in the woods," revealing another facet of his personality. He's written two books of poetry in addition to one on religion in the city, called "The Church and the Change.")

Local Bishops  
In Thailand  
Vatican City—(NC)—Pope Paul VI has erected a hierarchy in Thailand.  
He has created two archdioceses, each heading an ecclesiastical province with three suffragan sees.

What got Father Howes deeply interested in city planning was a visit to a town manager, who told him he was the first clergyman to come into his office in 15 years and express an interest in his problems.

"I wanted to get a degree in city planning so that I could go to a lot of these professionals and be able to talk with some wisdom, to be able to go into a planning office and talk their language and know their gods." He picked the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and for his thesis did a study of urban renewal in S.W. Washington, D.C., which, under the title "Crisis Downtown," was distributed in 1959 by the National Conference of Catholic Charities as a "Church-eye view of urban renewal."

Tracing his own vocation to the priesthood to his brief contact with the heroic World War II chaplains, he draws a poetic and historic line to the present:

"I am constantly struck by the possibility that, as they gave away their life preservers in common prayer, so men of religion in America today ought to be linking arms in common efforts which can be important in our perplexed generation." (Catholic Press Features)

## The Man With A Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

course, which includes an elective called "Church in the Changing Community."

"If there is a natural law and it binds all men, singly and collectively, clearly it must affect planning in a major manner," he says. "Whether the Planning profession as such will readily accommodate to our natural law teachings is not the important consideration here. Through the graduates of our Planning schools and their intellectual output later, we would at least be suggesting a more adequate underpinning to the science. We would be setting up a norm, an objectivity about which City Planners could debate. This in itself would be an advance beyond the present confusion. The pace of change is so serious and widespread that the need for moral direction now is immense. As priest and as city planner, I am convinced that the matter in megalopolis today is mostly moral."

But the Church and Church groups can be acting now, he says, largely as "catalytic agents." He suggests that lay groups schedule at least one program a year on a civic topic, inviting community officials and opening the meeting to non-Catholics in the community. The more controversial the issues, the better, Father Howes believes.

"Reasonable men meeting under a church roof should be able to probe more reasonably toward solutions to their common problems than anywhere else I know," Father Howes remarks.

Also, the Church, in conjunction with other civic groups, "could watchdog the development of civic proposals like urban renewal. It can check the goal against the specific project and, if they don't jibe, it can ask, frankly, why."

But the Church must, he says, provide broad guidelines, as it did with labor-management in another generation and with race relations more recently.

"The Church, concerned for morality in society, must think out for itself what type of metropolitan tomorrow might be best from the point of view of family life in America in 1980," Father Howes said, "and then insist that at least this goal be repeated and enunciated and that each specific proposal be judged in relation to it." (Catholic Press Features)

## Layman Gives Fund For Theology

San Francisco—(NC)—The University of San Francisco has announced one of the largest gifts in its history. It will benefit theology studies.

Father Charles W. Dullea, S.J., president, disclosed that under the terms of a trust and will made by the late Albert Jose Zabala, the university's Department of Theology will receive immediate annual income of \$45,000 and eventually the entire income from 2,100 acres of Zabala's Rancho Arroyo Seco near Soledad in Monterey County. The land is valued at more than \$2 million.

Zabala, who died July 22, 1965, was a descendant of one of Spanish California's first families. Under his will the Zabala Family Foundation has been established for the support of theological studies at USF.

Father Dullea said Zabala had expressed hope that through the foundation the university would become the West's leading theology center, with resources available to scholars of all major faiths.

## Layman Heads Info Center

Detroit—(RNS)—William J. Coughlin, veteran editor and publicist, was named first full-time director of the Detroit Catholic archdiocese's Office of Information.

Effective Jan. 1, he will succeed Father Edmund Battersby, who helped establish the office and headed it on a part-time basis. Mr. Coughlin is believed to be the first full-time director of a diocesan information office in the U.S. Other laymen have held such posts part-time.

In announcing the appointment, Archbishop John F. Dearden said it "marks a concrete and practical step in carrying out in the Archdiocese of Detroit the objectives of the Second Vatican Council. In particular it is an effort to implement the decree on communications media."

## Pope Fulfills Girl's 'Dream'

Vatican City—(NC)—A young girl who won a European TV contest by writing that her dream was to see the Pope had the dream fulfilled at an audience with Pope Paul VI. The girl was little Marie France Salvadelli, whose "dream" was judged best by Tele-Luxembourg among letters submitted by children of France, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Pope Paul also received other celebrities from the European entertainment field. He greeted two champion bicycle riders, Felice Gimondi, winner of the Tour de France, and Vittorio Adorni, winner of the Giro d'Italia race. The staff of the Rome sports paper, Il Corriere dello Sport, accompanied the cyclists to the papal audience.

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## Fifth Anniversary in Vietnam

Qui Nhon, S. Vietnam—(RNS)—Holy Family Hospital, operated by the Medical Mission Sisters of Philadelphia, Pa., in Qui Nhon, is marking its fifth anniversary. Shown here is its superior and administrator, Sister M. Karen Gossman. Staffed by 11 nuns, with aid from Vietnamese personnel, the hospital has cared for about 100,000 natives in the past five years—many of them refugees. Expansion of the war has greatly added to the hospital's work load. Among the Sisters serving the mission institution are two physicians, a medical technologist, several nurse-midwives, and two nuns in non-medical work. Vietnamese girls are trained as nurses' aides. Founded in 1925, the Medical Mission nuns maintain 33 hospitals and training centers in Asia, Africa and South America.

## Jesuit Order Redesigns World Mission Program

Syracuse—(RNS)—A proposed basic restructuring of the Jesuit mission organization was approved in principle by the Roman Catholic religious order's mission superiors and administrators from around the world at a four-day meeting here.

Sponsored by Jesuit Missions, Inc., of New York and the Jesuit Mission Procurators of the U.S. and Canada, the sessions marked the first worldwide meeting of Jesuit mission superiors. Officially known as the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit order has some 8,000 missionaries among its 38,000 membership. It is the largest religious order in the Catholic Church.

The approved new mission structure will include an expanded Curial Secretariat—a planning and coordinating staff of mission experts who would assist the order's General, his staff and the various provincial offices.

General of the Jesuits is Spanish-born Father Pedro Arrupe who has ten assistants at the order's Rome headquarters. One of them is Father Vincent T. O'Keefe, former president of Fordham University, New York.

Among other structural changes are creation of provincial mission directors and a strengthened staff at the New York office of Jesuit Missions. This office serves as an information center and publishes various Jesuit mission periodicals, including Jesuit Missions.

Steps toward an expanded Curial Secretariat already have been taken by Father Arrupe with his appointment of Father Jose Onate, S.J., as secretary of the missions. Father Onate attended the meeting as a representative of the Jesuit General.

The new provincial directors would provide closer contact with mission superiors and personnel and coordinate specific mission projects and needs.

Major aim of the meeting was to reappraise Jesuit mission policies and programs in the light of the Vatican Council's schema on the missions, which stressed the Church's essential missionary character and a more effective coordination of the Catholic missionary involvement throughout the world.

## Clergy Back U.S. Action In Vietnam

Washington—(RNS)—Clergymen, retired admirals and educators are among members of a new "Foundation for Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order" formed here which supports American policy in Vietnam.

Among initial sponsors of the group is Dr. George W. Davis, minister of the National City Christian (Disciples of Christ) church which is attended by President Johnson.

In a statement issued by the organization, other units formed recently to press for Vietnam negotiations and an end to escalation of the conflict were labeled "peace-at-any-price" groups.

The statement also said: "The truth is, incontestably, that had we not escalated by sending in U.S. combat troops in force, it would have been all over before now—except for the Communist shouting and the general Asian alarm."

Among others signing the statement were retired Episcopal Bishop Noble C. Powell of Baltimore, Md., former dean of Washington Cathedral (Episcopal); Episcopal Bishop Alfred L. Banyard of New Jersey; U.S. Senate Chaplain Frederick Brown Harris; Father Charles S. Casassa, S.J., president of Loyola University of Los Angeles, Cal.; Msgr. Patrick J. Ryan, former Army Chief of Chaplains, and Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

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