

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

77th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1966

Price 15 Cents

An Invitation to Say 'Au Revoir'



—Varden Photo

This new portrait of Bishop Casey shows him robed in his new mozetta, the cape which indicates he heads a diocese of his own. He will be installed as Bishop of Paterson on May 12th.

Bishop Casey will bid farewell to his friends at an au revoir reception to be held at Nazareth Academy auditorium Tuesday, May 3, at 8 p.m.

Pupils of Sacred Heart Cathedral school will present a skit "This is Your Life."

Bishop Casey will preach his final sermon at the Cathedral Sunday, May 8, prior to his departure to be installed as Bishop of Paterson Thursday, May 12.

At the Nazareth Academy reception he will personally greet all who wish to speak to him individually.

The public is invited.

Heresy Strengthens Orthodoxy!

Freedom Asked for New Theologies

New York — (RNS) — "We must not weep for a dead God; a God who can die deserves no tears," said Professor Harvey Cox to an audience of 1,200 Catholics and Protestants including clergy, laymen, and members of religious orders in Fordham's Ballroom Campus Center.

He also forecast the appearance of a form of Death of God theology in American Catholicism.

Prof. Cox said that the Death of God syndrome is an outgrowth of American Pietism. In saying this he disagreed with Death of God theologians themselves, who consider their origin to be the 19th Century philosophers Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, and the 20th Century German theologian Bonhoeffer.

He went on to say that, in his opinion, Pietism has greatly influenced American Roman Catholicism, and that although Roman Catholic theologians here would probably not speak of the death of God, it can be expected that some will cease to speak of God at all.

Prof. Cox, author of the best-seller, "The Secular City," and professor of church and society at Harvard Divinity School, spoke as the final lecturer in a series on the sacred and the secular sponsored by Fordham's Teilhard Research Institute.

Protestantism's very serious theological problem today, said Prof. Cox, is to speak of God who is "somehow present in human history and yet not exhausted" by this presence.

In reaffirming his view that Protestantism's central religious situation is exposed by the Death of God symptom, Prof. Cox said, "We have ignored or passed over hard issues" in the area of religious experience, "and this has produced the Death of God movement."

In speaking of his own path out of the "Death of God miasma" Prof. Cox cited the works of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Ernst Bloch. "Both were interesting vagabonds," he said. "Neither belongs to the theological club."

Teilhard, a French Jesuit paleontologist and theologian, whose works could not be published until after his death in 1955 because of ecclesiastical censorship, is generally considered to have been far ahead of his time. His best known writings are "The Phenomenon of Man" and "The Divine Milieu."

Bloch, a Jew who has been a Marxist, is now professor of philosophy at the University of Tubingen in Germany. Dr. Cox spoke of his as yet untranslated "Prinzip Hoffnung" (The Principle of Hope) as a most serious work.

Bloch, he said, has "an infatuation with the possible without which life would be impossible."

Dr. Cox urged contemporary philosophers and theologians to look upon Teilhard's paleontology as a framework on which he hung his "Christian cosmology," rather than as an exposition of science.

"Teilhard and Bloch are philosophers of hope," he said.

Professor Cox spoke of the importance of not censoring the Death of God theologians. "Heresy has the interesting function of strengthening whatever the opposite of heresy is," he said. He felt that by facing the challenge raised by death of God theology it will be possible eventually to speak of God in ways that will not be invalidated by human experience.

He urged as he has in the past that Death of God theology must be seen as a symptom of current theological problems rather than as the theological school of the future.

"Jesus Christ must not be seen as a visitor to earth from heaven," but as one "in whom this two-world dualism (between earth and heaven) is abolished for good" so that man is confronted by God always in God's action in his life in the present and the future, he also said.

"The action of God is the Being of God," said Professor Cox. "God IS, in his action. He is he who cometh."

The church must see itself as a "demonstration colony of God's intention for all of humanity," he said. He urged again that the church therefore involve itself in social problems like poverty, peace and racial equality.

Prof. Cox was very outspoken in regard to the political implications of Holy Communion, where everyone regardless of race, social standing, intellect or morality kneels at the same place and receives the same bread and wine. "The political implications of this are enormous," he said.

During a question period, Dr. Cox, in speaking of American Pietism and its effect on Christians and other believers today, said, he had told a Death of God theologian that he ought to say, "My heart was strangely cooled." This was a reference to John Wesley, founder of world Methodism (a form of Pietism), who after his initial conversion experience had remarked, "My heart was strangely warmed."

May Devotions To Honor Mary

—May is the month dedicated by popular devotion to honor the Blessed-Virgin Mary.

An older generation remembers its parochial school days when May meant shrines decorated with white and pale blue crepe paper and banked with spring flowers.

There were also the "old hymns" which we don't much hear any more — "On this day, O beautiful Mother," "O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today," and our Lady's Litany and, of course, her Rosary.

A more sophisticated age views such rites as a trifle naive — but the Catholic Church doesn't absolve it of its debt of devotion to the Mother of God.

Jesuit Father Hugo Rahner in his book "Our Lady and the Church" (available in a paperback edition) provides new insights for those who want an "aggiornamento" in May as well as in their theology and liturgy.

"The most important formative element in Catholic piety today is probably the newly-found understanding of the life-giving power of our holy mother the Church in her sacraments and her liturgy," says Father Rahner.

"But at the same time there have been during the last hundred-years such remarkable dogmatic developments, bringing out ever more clearly the place of our Lady in the system of Catholic thought. . . .

"The two mysteries are most intimately connected, and a deeper understanding of both together will bring us to realize better the meaning of grace in our souls and progress in the spiritual life. We must learn to see the Church in our Lady, and our Lady in the Church. . . .

"The early Christians' devotion to Mother Church always



—Courier Photo by Father Henry Atwell

Michelangelo's famed Pieta symbolizes devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary.

went hand-in-hand with their devotion to the Mother of God, and this was because they still realized that the whole mystery as presented in the Scriptures shows Mary, the Virgin Mother, to be essentially the symbol of the Church, our mother. The whole life of our Lady, from her immaculate conception to her glorious assumption, thus appears as a symbol of the whole life of the Church, and of our own spiritual lives," Father Rahner explains.

His book is a detailed analysis of the parallel between the life of our Lady and of each individual Christian, as well as parallel to the life of the whole Church.

Pope Paul, with his usual deft hand, linked both the simple and the sophisticated concepts when, at the end of the third session of the Vatican Council in 1964, he designated our Lady as "Mother of the Church."

He told the world's Catholic bishops that "this is a title new to Christian piety."

He said that actually it expresses "part of the genuine substance of devotion to Mary."

The Pope said, "She, who has given us in Jesus the fountain-

head of grace, will not fail to aid the Church, now flourishing through the abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit," and that just as the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Christ who is now head of His mystical body the Church, so our Lady is now "mother of all the faithful and of all the pastors."

Pope Paul concluded his talk to the bishops with a prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church, and his prayer also serves as papal counsel both to those Catholics who prefer the pieties learned in childhood as well as to Catholics who prefer the subtleties of the new theology.

"Intercede with your only Son," the Pontiff prayed to Mary, "that He may have mercy on our shortcomings and may dispel any differences between us, giving us the joy of loving."

Whether our parish church arranges the "new" or the "old" devotions honoring our Lady during May, the well-informed Catholic will remember that the "substance" in either case is the same and it will be an indication of maturity to penetrate through the packaging to the contents.

—Father Henry A. Atwell

'Service' Role To Characterize Curia Officials

Rome — (NC) — Pope Paul has summoned all members of the Roman curia—the Church's central administrative body — to an inner Christian reform as a complement of the outward curial reforms he is carrying out.

He emphasized Catholic asceticism, examination of conscience, frequent reception of the sacraments, especially of the sacrament of Penance, and a change in "many cherished ways of thinking and of acting."

He declared that "for the primacy of authority there must be a corresponding primacy of charity, that is of service, of example, of dedication, of holiness."

"Whatever our opinions were about the recent Vatican Council's various teachings before its conclusions were promulgated, today our adhesion to the conciliar deliberations must be plain and unreserved, willing and ready to support them by thought, action and conduct," he said.

He recalled that under many aspects the Council was meant to be "a return to the sources, a restoration of original forms of worship, of thought, of practice, an attempt to prefer — as the Lord said — the "mandatum Dei" to customs established in the course of time."

"Mandatum Dei," or God's commandment, is a consecrated expression referring to Christ's command to love God above all things and one's neighbor as oneself.)

U.S. Polish Priests Protest Visa Refusals

Detroit—(RNS)—Poland's refusal to admit foreign visitors for the millennium of Christianity in that country "gives the lie" to Communist claims that there is no religious persecution in Poland, a group of Polish-American priests declared here.

In a statement, the Priests' Conference for Polish Affairs of the Detroit archdiocese sharply attacked the Communist government's denial of visas to many foreign ecclesiastical and lay pilgrims for the millennium of Christianity in Poland.

The Warsaw government's action, said the priests, is a "public admission before the entire civilized world" that the Communist regime is "ashamed to show the results of its 20-year rule in Poland" to Pope Paul VI, who was barred from any possible visit, and to all other visitors denied visas.

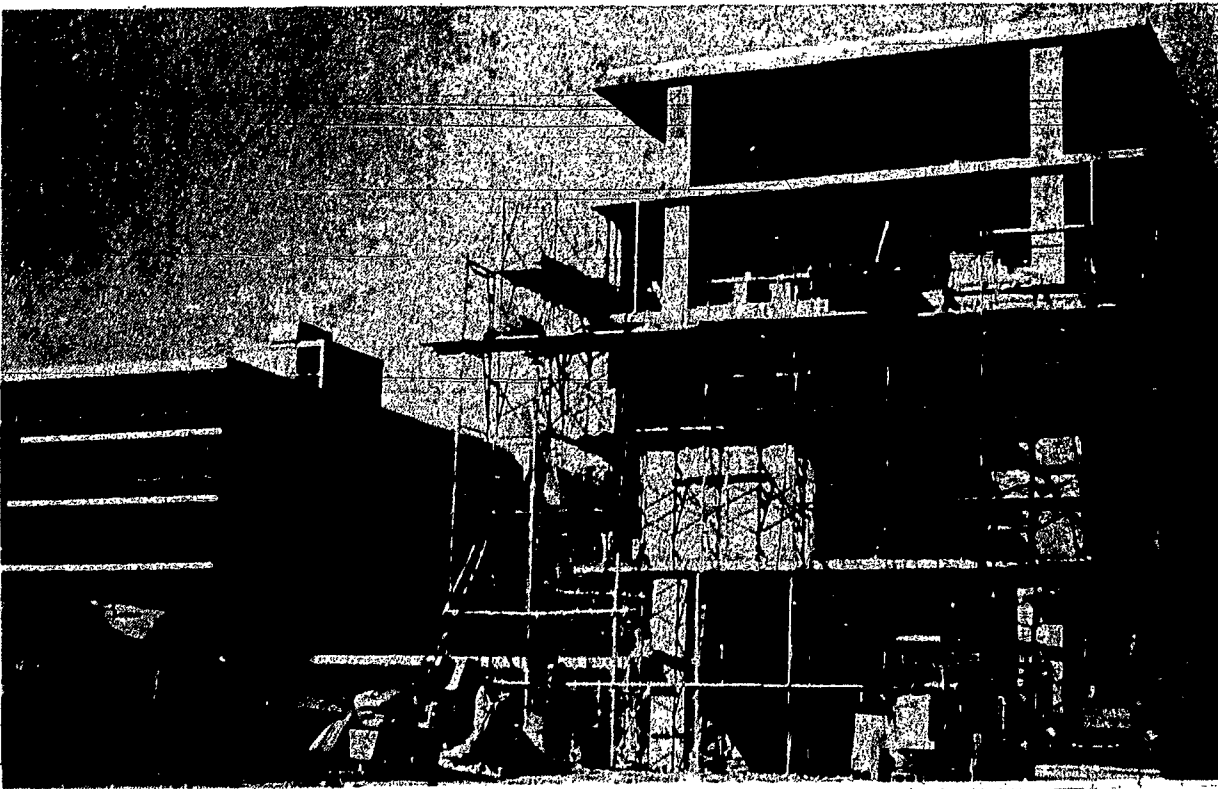
Poland has shown, the statement said, that it is unable to match the "diplomatic courtesy of Jewish Israel, Moslem Jordan, Hindu India, the non-sectarian United Nations with its Buddhist secretary general, and the United States where separation of church and state obtains."

New Buildings Rise On College Campuses



—Manelli Photo

Pledges made to the college and seminary expansion fund drive last autumn are being converted into bricks and mortar. Workmen have started construction at the Becket Hall



site for seminarians attending St. John Fisher College and new buildings are underway at Nazareth College or nearly completed at Fisher, as these photos show. A tabulation of pledges and payments by parishes is listed on page two of this week's Courier

Hamilton and Omega Watch on Budget Terms. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 Main St. E. — Adv.

PERRY FLOWERS for all occasions. Ethel M. Perry assisted by Tom Zavaglia, Mgr., Rom. Weingartner, Asst. Mgr. 441 Oak Ave. FA8-7722.—Adv.

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