

# Not a Divine Mistake

New York—(RNS)—A need for a profound study of theological relations between Christians and Jews was stressed here in a dialogue on "The Place of the Jew in the Ecumenical Movement."

The dialogue was a feature of the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Panelists were Paulist Father John B. Sheerin, editor of the Catholic World; Dr. Philip A. Johnson, director of public relations for the National Lutheran Council, who will become associate executive secretary of the World Council of Churches in the U.S. on June 1; and Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg of Temple Emanu-El, Englewood, N.J.; a faculty member at Columbia University. Panel moderator was Dr. Samuel P. Candy, dean of the School of Religion, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

The three panelists also agreed that a practical Christian-Jewish ecumenism has developed to meet the problems of secular man in the modern world despite the lack of a formulated religious theory on which to base it.

Both Father Sheerin and Rabbi Hertzberg emphasized that any theological study on the relationship between Christianity and Judaism must be based on the premise that the two faiths are a lasting phenomenon.

Dr. Johnson termed it "the recognition of the Jewish religion as a continuing supernatural reality."

Dr. Johnson said, "It is time that Jews and Christians begin to recognize that God did not make a mistake when he created each."

In his presentation, Father Sheerin noted the several definitions of ecumenism. In the Vatican Council's decree on Ecumenism, he said, the word means promotion of Christian unity; "the end goal is unity for the sake of a more effective preaching of the Gospel. It is also based on baptism, whereby all become members of the church of Christ—Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox."

"Where then," he asked, "does this leave the Jews, since, in a strict sense, the ecumenical movement does not include Jews?"

But the ecumenical movement, he added, "is moving very fast" and has taken on a somewhat different meaning. "We hear a call for a new ecumenism, he said, 'not concentrated on theology, but on secular man.' In this new ecumenism, he continued, often referred to as secular humanism, the emphasis is on the relation of the churches of the world and to secular men, instead of on the relations between Churches. Recalling the Vatican Council's deliberations with this approach, and Pope Paul's defense of it, he said, "So this interest of the Council is fundamentally a religious interest—the use of theology to solve problems of the modern world."

In this area of ecumenism, the Paulist priest said, Jews can participate with Christians. In this connection he mentioned the sub-commission for the Improvement of Catholic-Jewish Relations of the Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs, the expurgation of material objectionable to Jews from textbooks, the growing interest in parishes in improving Christian-Jewish relations and cooperative publishing ventures. More could be done, he said, in Catholic and Jewish seminaries by way of exchange of professors.

Rabbi Hertzberg also urged such a seminary exchange. He observed that there was no Catholic professor at a rabbinical seminary. For the most part, he said, Catholics at the present time are "more open to Jews" than are some Jews to Catholics.

In dealing with what he called "major Jewish concerns," Rabbi Hertzberg made these observations:

(1) While Jews achieved from the Vatican Council a theological statement against anti-Semitism, "although weakly expressed by years of debate," they wanted something more — "an act of contrition for Christian history . . . which could not be forthcoming from a Council." He maintained that Nazism was a pagan, not a Christian, phenomenon, "but it was not stopped by Christians. They bore more responsibility than anyone else."

(2) There must be a greater awareness on the part of Christians of "the historic chasms" between Jews and Christians and of the rejection by Jews of the idea of conversion.

(3) Jews cannot accept the assumption that Christianity is the one true faith and the one true church. "Both faiths are lasting phenomena."

(4) Jews and Christians together are facing a real world and must be willing to "reorder" so that they can better work together. He called this "casting a vote in one's own religion" for those outside "as did the Vatican Council" with the Protestant and Orthodox observers, and as did "serious Protestant and Jewish forces who have changed their minds" on certain church-state issues such as federal aid to parochial schools because they want better schools for all children.

# Anti-Jewish Statement 'Not Catholic'

Newark—(NC)—The recent statement by an Italian bishop that Judaism carries the judgment of condemnation by God "completely contradicts the letter and spirit of the Second Vatican Council," according to a leading American Catholic student of Judaism.

Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher, director of Seton Hall University's Institute of Judaic-Christian Studies here, said that this attitude of Bishop Luigi Carli of Segni "is not Catholic."

Msgr. Oesterreicher noted in a public statement that Bishop Carli in his article in an Italian clerical magazine had declared that the use of the term "deicide" in regard to the Jewish people "is theologically unexceptionable; even the only fitting one." He also cited the bishop's assertion that Judaism survived the disappearance of the Temple and its priesthood "illegally with respect to God."

Msgr. Oesterreicher, a member of the American bishops' committee for contacts with the Jewish community and a consultant to the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, said of Bishop Carli's statements:

"These opinions are not new; the bishop of Segni has pronounced them before and during the last session of the council; indeed, he made every effort to wreck the conciliar statement on the Jews, even the whole Declaration on The Church's Relationship to Non-Christian Religions. His attempt to persuade the council fathers to side with him were soundly rejected.

"It is not surprising that after this utter defeat, he should try to vindicate his stand. Self-defense springs quickly from our hearts. Human though the bishop's reaction may be, it is not Catholic; it is least of all an attitude one expects of a bishop, for it completely contradicts the letter and spirit of the Second Vatican Council."

## In Methodist Church

North Powder, Ore. — (NC) — Catholics in this mission area are attending Sunday Masses in the Community Methodist church while their own church, St. Anthony's, is being torn down to be replaced by a new structure.



# War Comes to Church Yard

South Vietnam—(RNS)—The window of an abandoned church in a South Vietnam battle zone frames a Marine helicopter as the pilot and crew check their craft for damage after a mission against the Vietcong.

# False Philosophy Acme of Egotism

Hollywood — (NC) — There is an alarming rise in a false philosophy that places the individual's opinion and judgment above all law, Cardinal James Francis McIntyre said here.

"This false philosophy contends that a man is justified in acting according to his own conscience and according to his own way of thinking, even if that way of thinking is contrary to the law of nature, the law of God and the law of the country," the Los Angeles Archbishop said. "The cardinal said the Gospel of Christ, which he recognizes as the true philosophy, is the acme of egotism. It is the exaggeration of individual opinion, regardless of law and order. It ascribes to the individual a complete freedom to ignore and defy law and tradition if for any reason the individual and his opinion are not in agreement with these prescribed standards of conduct." The cardinal said the Gospel of Christ, which he recognizes as the true philosophy, is the acme of egotism. It is the exaggeration of individual opinion, regardless of law and order. It ascribes to the individual a complete freedom to ignore and defy law and tradition if for any reason the individual and his opinion are not in agreement with these prescribed standards of conduct. The cardinal said the Gospel of Christ, which he recognizes as the true philosophy, is the acme of egotism. It is the exaggeration of individual opinion, regardless of law and order. It ascribes to the individual a complete freedom to ignore and defy law and tradition if for any reason the individual and his opinion are not in agreement with these prescribed standards of conduct.

# Vocations Needed Says Pope

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul made an urgent plea for priestly vocations before giving his blessing to the Sunday throng of Romans and tourists gathered in St. Peter's Square to join him in reciting the noonday Angelus.

The occasion was the April 24 World Day of Prayer for Vocations observed on the second Sunday after Easter which is traditionally dedicated to Christ, the Good Shepherd. Previously, Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Seminaries and Universities, has stressed the importance of fostering religious vocations in a letter sent to bishops everywhere.

"Today," the Pope said, "the Church invites us to pray for badly needed vocations, that God may inspire them in strong and generous souls and that these souls may heed the divine call."

"They who love the Church, who understand the world's needs must understand the importance of this very serious problem and must at least pray for its solution. That is what we do now, invoking the help of the Most Holy Virgin."

Later, Vatican Radio reminded listeners that Vocations Day was established by Pope Paul three years ago to draw attention to the vital importance of priestly and religious vocations.

The station said the observance "has not as its primary aim the collection of funds or the recruiting of candidates to the religious life, but the promotion of a spiritual movement which is both pastoral and educative and aimed to offer young people a choice for the future, to help them to make their decision as well as encourage them with prayer and sacrifice."

Vatican Radio said that according to the latest statistics in countries not dependent on the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith — that is, the European and American nations, as well as Tunisia, Algeria and the Philippines — there was an increase of 36 million in the Catholic population between 1961 and 1964 and at the same time 91 dioceses and 2,784 parishes were created.

But, it noted, during the same period an increase of only 1,243 priests was recorded, "one that was manifestly inadequate."

# Bees Attack Procession At Tanzania Mission

Maryknoll — (RNS) — A strange story of a deadly assault by a swarm of bees on a Palm Sunday procession was reported by Sister Rose Leon, a nurse and one of the Maryknoll Sisters stationed in Shinyanga, Tanzania, a small town not far from Lake Victoria.

"The procession of Christians was advancing across the fields toward the church," the sister related, "when a swarm of bees attacked us. African bees, they say, are the fiercest in the world; many deaths occur here from bee stings."

"The hundreds of people screamed and ran."

"One little crippled boy on crutches fell and the bees descended upon him. He screamed and screamed. At least six men tried to carry him but were bitten so badly, they dropped him and ran themselves."

"Finally, Father Paul E. Fagan of Bloomington, Wis., Maryknoll pastor, took off his cope and ran to the boy. He threw it around him and brought him to our convent, the nearest shelter."

"Our front room was just a swarm of bees, while I treated the boy, the other Sisters sprayed the place with DDT and killed them. Everyone in the parish, it seemed, was crowded in, but we were all safe. They were all bitten many times, especially Father Fagan, but the little boy was almost dead."

"I gave him adrenalin and then antihistamine and pain reliever. He had at least 100 stingers in him; not one part of his body was not attacked. Thank God, he lived."

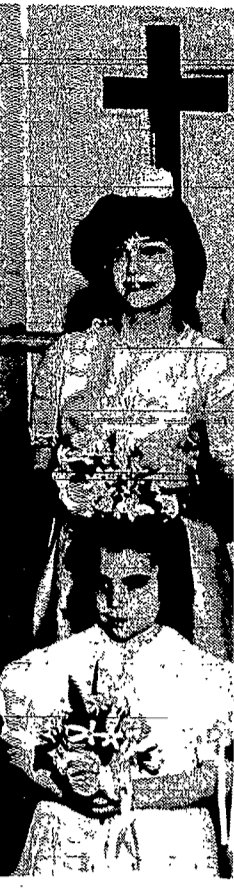
"Then I spent the rest of the day treating everyone else. At least 150 people had from one to 20 bites. I will certainly have more respect for bees from now on."

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Poland's Catholics 1000 years of Christianity in their homeland

But the celebration led over by the proudest dominion country.

Government officials to the anniversary rites of the Blessed Virgin

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# U.S. S Exten

Washington - National Catholic it strongly support to strengthen and Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, tend the duration under that act until 1967.

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# Old Testa In New Ec

New York—(RNS) — Catholic edition of the New Testament in the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible listed in the U.S. on July 1, Thomas Sons, publishers, here.

Originally published Nelson firm in 1951 was the result of work by a special Protestant scholars. This version, which is the result of the National Council of Churches which mission for the Catholic

The Catholic ad the New Testament published in the U.S. in 1965. With the Old Testament, the Bible of the RSV was available to Catholics.

In the Catholic edition of the RSV, changes in the Septuagint for spelling Apocrypha has been Apocrypha is the books which Protestants from their Bible.

