

**Interfaith Colloquium**

Cambridge — (NC) — Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Jewish scholars will participate in a four-day international colloquium on Judaism and Christianity to be held in October at Harvard University.

The conference, co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Harvard Divinity School, will parallel a historic Catholic-Protestant colloquium held at the university in 1963, according to Dean Samuel H. Miller of the divinity school.

"In this ecumenical era dialogue conferences are being organized throughout the western world, especially in the United States," he said.

**Methodist Advice to Catholic Laity**

**Don't Muzzle Clergy**

Atlanta — (RNS) — A noted Methodist theologian warned Catholic laymen against using the Vatican Council's Decree on the Clergy to exercise "power" over bishops and priests.

Speaking on "The Laity in the Protestant and Catholic Traditions," Dr. Albert C. Outler of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, said that in both Christian bodies, laymen and clergy have their "proper distinctive and interdependent roles."

He told a meeting of priests and laymen of the Atlanta Catholic archdiocese that in the past Protestants believed that Catholic laity were the servile agents of the clergy.

Catholics, in turn, he said, reacted by defining Protestantism as being incurably divisive and anti-clerical. However, he added, these views have been changed as a result of the recent re-examination of the role of Protestant and Catholic laity.

Dr. Outler said Catholic lay-

men must understand and even be able to explain to their Protestant neighbors that the original doctrine of the "priesthood of all believers" meant that "every Christian is a priest for others."

It means, he said, that a Christian "is authorized and commissioned by his baptism and confirmation to pray for others, to open the Scriptures and proclaim the Gospel, to teach and to serve in Christ's name and for His Kingdom."

The theologian, an observer at Vatican II, went on to caution that if the Ecumenical Council's new role for the laity is ever used by "over zealous" priests in their "prophetic criticism of the standing order," or if laymen get the notion they have "some rightful power" over priests and bishops because they control the "purse strings," then they will have "tattered the whole splendid vision of the people of God" and failed the church.

"If we are to look ahead," he said, "toward some convergence in our growth toward Christian unity — toward what Pope Paul calls the 'recomposition of Christian unity' — there must be the development of an effective and authentic laymen's movement that really takes its ministry in the world and its mission to the world in all seriousness."

This lay movement, he added, must "wipe away the Protestant bogey of Catholics as gullible men stumbling under a mindless yoke of witchcraft and yet also avoid the Protestant travesty of ministers at the mercy of their rich and powerful lay leaders."

**Embattled Prelate Gives Advice to New Priests**

Warsaw — (RNS) — Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, preaching at the ordination of 22 new priests in the Warsaw Cathedral, said that although they had a "sublime mission" in the world they must expect to encounter misunderstanding.

He told the priests' parents that in giving their sons to the Church they could expect something for them like Christ's own lot, but assured them they would one day "rise again in glory."

To the new priests themselves the cardinal gave this admonition:

"You are the apostles of divine love. Your work will be hard and thankless, but it will at the same time help to make God's voice heard by poor men taken up with earthly cares.

"There is no limit to the pity and understanding you should show in their regard, not to mention the forgiveness you must be ever ready to offer. Do not let yourselves be overcome by evil, for the world cannot be won by vengeance and hate or returning evil for evil, but only by love."

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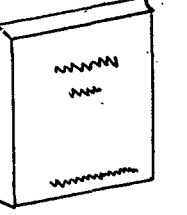
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**Catholic Honor for Methodist Prelate**

The Catholic University of America at Washington, which awarded an honorary degree to Bishop Kearney two years ago, gave Methodist Bishop Fred P. Corson a similar honor, first Protestant prelate to receive a degree from the nation's "most official" Catholic university. University rector Bishop William J. McDonald and Washington Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle congratulate Bishop Corson following the awarding ceremony.

**Old World Ban on Masons Questioned**

French Lick, Ind. — (NC) — A priest-professor at the University of Notre Dame speculated that the day is approaching "when officials of the Catholic Church will re-examine the causes and circumstances of its ban against Catholics joining a Masonic lodge."

Father John A. O'Brien, research professor of theology, told the Indiana state convention of Scottish Rite Masons here that Pope John XXIII's pontificate and Vatican Council II opened "new eras" in Catholic-Protestant relations.

"In some countries, especially in France and Italy, Masonic lodges had become centers of atheism and irreligion, and deeply involved in politics," he said.

On the other hand, Father O'Brien said, Freemasonry in North America and Britain "requires belief in God as a condition of membership." The Masonic organization in the United States, he said, "far from being the enemy of religion, is a mighty and powerfully ally of religion."

"It would seem that the Church's attitude toward Freemasonry here should be correspondingly different than in some of the countries of the Old World," he said.

**Dutch Prelate**

S-Hertogenbosch — (NC) — Bishop Willem M. Bekkers, 68, died in St. Elizabeth's hospital at Tilburg.

Bishop Bekkers, called "the Pope John of the Netherlands" because of his pastoral concern for his priests and faithful, never recovered from an operation on March 29 from the removal of a brain tumor.



**Radio Priest's Jubilee**

Royal Oak, Mich. — (RNS) — An archbishop assists at the golden jubilee Mass of Father Charles E. Coughlin, onetime "radio priest" who is now entering retirement. Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit is at left. Father Coughlin, 74, focal point of great controversy during the early Roosevelt years, will continue to reside at the rectory of the Shrine of the Little Flower at Royal Oak, Mich.

**Lutherans Told Return to Rome**

Brooklyn — (RNS) — A Lutheran theologian has written an article in the June issue of *Una Sancta*, a Lutheran quarterly, urging Church union on the basis of a Protestant "return to Rome."

Prof. Carl E. Braaten of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago called upon his fellow Protestants to look upon the Reformation as an event in history which, having accomplished the reforms it set out to bring about, must now become part of history. The "exit" of that period, he maintained, should now return to their "ecclesiastical homeland" — the Roman Catholic Church.

Martin Luther never intended to begin a new Church, Prof. Braaten said, particularly if he could have foreseen that his efforts would "in the long run, turn out so many illegitimate offspring."

*Una Sancta* is a quarterly edited by Lutherans of all backgrounds, established in 1939. It was inspired by and had in its beginning some informal ties with the predominantly Catholic *Una Sancta* movement in Germany, but there are no formal connections at the present time. It deals largely with ecumenical themes, liturgy and social renewal. The Rev. Richard J. Neuhaus is editor.

In his article, Prof. Braaten, a Lutheran Church in America theologian, compared Luther and the other reformers to the Free French of World War II who went into exile until such time as they could rise up and wrest their homeland from the invader. "The Reformers made their protest against Rome on behalf of the Church, out of love and loyalty to the truly catholic church."

"The farthest thing from Luther's mind was to make his

**Index Out, Conscience Now In**

Vatican City — (NC) — The Doctrinal Congregation has ruled, with Pope Paul VI's concurrence, that the Index of Forbidden Books "no longer has the force of ecclesiastical law."

But, it said, the Index "preserves its moral force insofar as it teaches the conscience of the Christian faithful to avoid, as the natural law itself demands those writings which can put faith and good morals in danger."

The Doctrinal Congregation, "notification" or notice was signed by its pro-prefect, Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani and its secretary, Archbishop Pietro Pappalardo. It was issued in reply to many bishops who had asked what status the Index held.

In a decree issued on his own initiative the motu proprio *Integre Servandae* of Dec. 7, 1965, Pope Paul reformed the former Holy Office and gave it the new title of Doctrinal Congregation. The Pope also said the Doctrinal Congregation would examine and if necessary condemn books after consultation with the author. But he made no mention of the Index itself, a list of books condemned for the most part without giving the author a chance to defend his work or withdraw it.

The Doctrinal Congregation's notice said the Church "trusts in the mature conscience of the faithful, especially in the conscience of Catholic authors and editors and of those who conduct schools for the young."

**Shared Rites Proposed**

St. Louis — (NC) — Adoption of common sacramental rites acceptable to all major Christian groups was proposed by a priest-ecumenist at a National Workshop for Christian Unity here.

Msgr. Henry G. J. Beck of Lyndhurst, N.J., said that with rites which would neither offend nor be regarded as heretical by any Christians, the sacramental order could be a basis for Christian unity. Msgr. Beck heads the section on work and worship in the periodic meetings at the national level between Presbyterians and representatives of the U.S. Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs.

DISCUSSING events in the early Church, he said it would be possible for Catholics to adopt such a form for all sacramental rites.

For Baptism, he said, the rite of St. Hippolytus used in the early Church could be adapted by various churches. The Eucharist, he continued, could "be used in a parallel manner" even though not celebrated in common.

The advantage of such "parallel rites," Msgr. Beck said, would be that members of different Christian communities would find themselves "at home in the same order" and would not see each others' rites as strange or curious.

Msgr. Beck, long active in ecumenical movements, also pointed out that study of the early Church could provide valuable insight into the ecumenical aspects of Baptism and the Eucharist.

Instances recorded in the first few centuries of the Church, show that Baptism was

**10 Per Cent Face People**

London — (RNS) — Although 18 months have passed since the Vatican approved priests' celebrating Mass by facing the people, fewer than one in ten British parishes have made the change, according to a survey conducted by the Catholic Herald.

The survey disclosed that in one diocese not a single parish was celebrating Mass in the new way. In another, 50 per cent of the parishes do so regularly.

In those parishes which have made the change it has proved "tremendously popular with the people," the journal said.

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