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Nine Hundred Years A Symbol of Stability

The eight great bells of London's Westminster Abbey boom out across the Thames these days their year-long birthday peal.

The historic Abbey is celebrating this year its ninth centenary.

But more than the history of a venerable edifice is being celebrated.

John Osborne in Life magazine's book on Britain says, "Britain and its people possess a quality that is more durable than any of their empires, stronger than their Commonwealth, and more arresting to the world than their dwindling status as a great power. This quality is the British character."

It is this quality, the whole essence of England and of all Britons, which Westminster Abbey contains and projects.

This "essence of England" was forged in the momentous year between Christmas week

of 1065 and Christmas Day of 1066, the year when the history of that nation, and thereby the history of most of the rest of the world, was changed — and set for the subsequent 900 years.

That was the year that England was last invaded and its face turned toward Europe, rather than upon its own island isolation.

The Abbey was the final work of the Saxon king, St. Edward the Confessor. He died the week after the Abbey was consecrated December 28, 1065, the feast of the Holy Innocents. He died without an heir and the English crown was too great a prize not to attract envious princes.

Most notable of the competitors were Harold Godwinson and Normandy's William the Conqueror who claimed Edward had promised the crown to him.

William appealed to Rome and the Pope sent him "a banner as a pledge of the support of St. Peter."

The Conqueror landed his 7,000 troops on English shores at the end of September and in the early morning hours of Saturday, October 14, 1066, William rode out from the village of Hastings to battle Harold's army on famous Senlac Hill.

The seven hour battle ended with Harold dead, his army cut to ribbons and the door to the rest of England open to William.

On Christmas Day, 1066, York's Archbishop Aldred crowned William at Westminster Abbey.

All but one of England's subsequent forty sovereigns have similarly been crowned here to reaffirm the ancient alliance of Church and State, though no longer the backbone of either English or American polity still part of the ground on which we both stand.

LEGEND SAYS the Abbey was founded in the year 616 and the first church built on the site was, the legend continues, miraculously consecrated by St. Peter himself. The

Abbey bears his name to the present day.

Whatever the actual date of its origin, the Abbey was the home for Benedictine monks for close to 1000 years, until King Henry VIII replaced the monks with a dean and chapter who accepted his new arrangement for religious allegiance.

Earlier this year when Queen Elizabeth inaugurated the 900th anniversary celebration, Pope Paul's delegate to Great Britain, Archbishop Igino Cardinal attended the rite, the first papal delegate to attend a ceremony there in 400 years.

Later in the year, in March, Roman Catholic and Anglican Benedictine monks joined in worship on the feast of St. Benedict at the Abbey — a rite which illustrated how far we've come within the past few years in overcoming the bitterness of the past few centuries and which also illustrated the theme of the ninth centenary — "One People."

The Archdeacon of Westminster in a commemorative book for the Abbey's anniversary commented on this theme: "Those who belong to the congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the world are becoming aware of each other as belonging to one family — the great new fact of our time, as the late Archbishop Temple described it. The older religions of the East are offering, from within their own treasure house of spirituality, new riches for the West. The United Nations, with its agencies for relief and rehabilitation, is slowly, despite bitter frustration and disappointment, building up patterns of justice between nations and respect for law. God's spirit is equally at work within the intellectual ferment of our day, and in our modern science and technology."

"The concern of Westminster Abbey, in this year, when it thankfully remembers its own history of involvement," the Archdeacon continues, "is therefore to 'come behind, to help to quicken and to commend all the activities of men directed towards making one people, activities which the Spirit is calling forth."

"History, alas, is not always a cordial-for-drooping-spirits," the Westminster prelate concludes, "and there is certainly much around us which could lead to the pessimism that invites disaster — the clash of race and colour, competing ideologies, affluence existing alongside poverty, iron curtains and apartheid. Dr. Gilbert Murray, who is buried in the Abbey, says of Greek society that it finally succumbed to a 'failure of nerve.' It is, however, from within the conviction that God is working his purpose at year succeeds year, that the Abbey has realistically and soberly selected as its theme for 1966 'One People.'"

Catholics in England understandably look with nostalgia at Westminster Abbey, now the cornerstone of the Anglican Church — still unborn when the Abbey was founded — but it is a sign of the happier state of Christendom today that both Roman Catholics and men of other faiths and even of none can see in the Abbey a symbol of that stability and strength which characterized a free and hardy and "happy breed of men." It is also an indication that there is still foundation to the hope that a present generation can also be stirred and challenged to a high endeavor.

—Father Henry A. Atwell

Two for Chile

The departure ceremony for two Chile-bound missionaries of the Sisters of Mercy will be held Saturday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel.

During the ceremony, which begs God's blessings on their apostolic endeavors, Sister Mary Janet Caulfield and Sister James Mary Kenrick will receive their mission crosses from Rt. Rev. Msgr. George A. Cozzani, chancellor of the Rochester Diocese who will preside at the rite. Rev. Gerald J. Appleby will be the master of ceremonies.

Sister Mary Janet is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John C. Caulfield of St. Monica's parish. Sister James Mary is the daughter of Mrs. James Kenrick and the late Mr. Kenrick of Immaculate Conception parish, Ithaca.

An informal reception in McAuley College convocation room will follow the chapel rite.

The two Sisters, former diocesan elementary school-teachers, will leave Monday, August 22, for Cuernavaca, Mexico, where they will begin a 17-week period of language and culture study at the Center of Intercultural Formation.

In December they will go to Santiago, Chile, where they will join the order's four pioneer missionaries: Sister M. Terrence DeVoldre, Sister M. Canisius Spallacy, Sister M. Joan Korn, and Sister M. dePorres-Nelson. The latter do home visiting and social work for the more than 40,000 persons in the San Luis parish, ministered by the Columbian Fathers.

Sister Janet and Sister James Mary will also work with the Columbian Fathers but in San Andres parish. The pastor of the parish they will serve is Father Hugh McGonagle, superior of the Columbian Fathers in Chile.

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Sister Mary Janet is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School, and Sister James Mary of Ithaca High School. During the ceremony the

choir will sing a hymn written by Sister Mary Benedict, music supervisor of the community and also Sister Mary Janet's sister.

'Black Power' Said Result Of White Oppression

Atlanta — (RNS)—"Black power" is simply the other side of a dirty coin. This appraisal by Roman Catholic Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta summarized the attitude of some religious leaders here to the controversial slogan.

The emergence of this slogan is largely a reaction to many years of white supremacy and oppression of the Negro, these churchmen believe, but they also condemned the slogan as being no better than white racism and supremacy.

Archbishop Hallinan blamed the churches for lack of support of the Negro. Religious institutions have permitted white power to run wild in suppression of the Negro, he said.

"Since his legal freedom in 1865, the black man was kept from decent housing, good education, a paying job, and the vote," the archbishop said. "White power, within and without the law, was the only force in racial relations."

However, the Catholic prelate stated that "black power" is "wrong, contagious, misleading and a betrayal of 20 million people."

He said the non-violence of such civil rights leaders as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has moved the Negro forward and upward.

Folk Mass at St. Ambrose For Inner-City Center

A Mass will be offered at St. Ambrose Church, Culver Road at Empire Blvd., Rochester, Monday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m., for the work of the St. Martin de Porres Center in the heart of the city.

The Center on Clinton Avenue North provides educational and recreational facilities for the St. Bridget-St. Michael's parish areas.

Monday's Mass will include congregational singing led by an Aquinas Institute folk singing group. The collection will be turned over to the de Porres Center.



St. Peter's Abbey at Westminster, London, England, is currently marking its 900th birthday. The historic church contains tomb of its founder, St. Edward the Confessor, pious English monarch.

A Celebration of Solidarity

Canon Cyril Roberts of Rochester's Episcopal Christ Church Cathedral visited London this summer and brought back for Courier editor Father Henry Atwell a commemorative book published in London to mark the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey's consecration.

The forty page book includes several full-color pictures of the famed structure — one of which is reproduced above.

The anniversary observance has linked Roman Catholics and Anglicans on several occasions — Jesuit Father Thomas Corbishley preached at the Abbey during January's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and eight Benedictine abbots joined Anglican monks for the feast of St. Benedict, March 21.

Archbishop Igino Cardinaline, Pope Paul's apostolic delegate to Britain and Monsignor George Tomlinson, representing Cardinal John Heenan, England's top Catholic prelate, attended the anniversary inaugural on January 5.

Half the world away, in Tokyo, Catholics and Anglicans also joined to mark the Abbey's ninth centenary. Cardinal Tatsuo Doi lent his new and strikingly modern style St. Mary's Cathedral to Tokyo's Anglican bishop for a commemorative concert during which the two prelates sat side by side.

At the end of July, Anglican and English Protestant clergy attended a Mass at a castle chapel near the site of the

PERRY FLOWERS for all occasions. Ethel M. Perry, assisted by Tom Zavaglia, Mgr. Bon Weingartner, Asst. Mgr. 411 Chili Ave. FA 6-7125.—Adv.

Battle of Hastings, the battle which paved the way for Normandy's William the Conqueror to be crowned England's king at Westminster Abbey in 1066.

Bishop Jacquemin of Bayeux, successor to the eleventh century Bishop Odo of Bayeux — half brother of the invading

William — was celebrant of the Mass.

The speaker at the Mass, Catholic Bishop David Cashman said, "The celebration gives thanks for the Christian faith of England, for the spirit of unity which exists between the Churches today."

Papal Recommendations Added to Council Norms

Vatican City — (RNS) — Another major step toward implementing the decisions of Vatican II was taken by Pope Paul VI by issuing a motu proprio setting forth executive norms of standards to be observed in regard to four important conciliar decrees.

Entitled—Ecclesiae Sanctae (Of the Holy Church), from its opening Latin words, the motu proprio — a document issued by the pontiff on his own authority — was dated Aug. 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration, but intended to become effective Oct. 11, fourth anniversary of the opening of the Council.

The decrees involved in the papal document were those on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church, the Ministry and Life of Priests, the Appropriate Renewal of the Religious Life, and the Church's Missionary Activity. The norms were issued on a tentative basis, their final codification to come after they have been adequately tested.

Among the norms set forth in the motu proprio were pro-

visions that "for the good of souls," bishops and pastors be encouraged, but not required, to resign no later than the age of 75, and that bishops who retire be provided with a home in the diocese and a pension.

It also provided that bishops reorganize the structure of their top diocesan offices, including those of auxiliary bishops and vicars general, for better unity and coordination of activity, and that they concede more authority to their auxiliaries to carry out diocesan work in their names.

Other recommendations were: that bishops work out practical arrangements for better distribution of priests within their dioceses; that they make priests available to other nations where priests are scarce; and that religious orders of priests and nuns work in unity with local bishops.

Issuance of the motu proprio was announced at a press conference by Archbishop Pericle Felici, secretary-general of the Central Commission for Coordinating the Work of the Vatican Council.