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Study Topic
New York — (RNS) — An experience in United States-style pluralism is included in the month-long agenda of cultural and academic events being held throughout the country to honor Julius Cardinal Doepfner, Archbishop of Munich, and a group of 30 West German scholars.

A seminar on "Perspectives of Pluralism" in which leading Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergy and laymen will participate was announced when Cardinal Doepfner arrived here with members of the Catholic Academy of Bavaria to begin a seven-city tour. The ecumenical seminar will be held at the John LaFarge Institute here on Oct. 22.

Other stops on the tour include a three-day conference at the University of Notre Dame on problems of freedom and authority, and seminars on post-Council ecumenical relations at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., and at Georgetown University. Before returning to New York the group will also visit Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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Clergy Endorse UN Peace Plea

New York — (RNS) — On the eve of United Nations Week, Oct. 24-29, six prominent clergymen — Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish — called on the U.S. and its allies in Vietnam to act immediately in implementing peace proposals made recently by Secretary General U Thant.

In a statement the clergy, five of them co-chairmen of the National Inter-Religious Conference on Peace here, strongly endorsed Pope Paul's September encyclical on peace and joined with him in pleading with one voice "in God's name to stop."

Sent to U Thant and to Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, the statement urged America and its allies to "act in conscience" upon the U.N. secretary general's three-part proposal beginning with a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam.

The statement also asked the U.S. to heed U Thant's two other peace proposals—the scaling down of all military operations by all parties in South Vietnam and to start peace discussions with all parties actually engaged in the fighting.

If both sides of the war show immediate willingness to implement the proposals, said the clergymen, "an atmosphere congenial for discussions and negotiations" would result.

Signers of the statement were Rabbi Maurice N. Eisenrath, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, president, Unitarian Universalist Association; Archbishop Iakovos,

Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; Methodist Bishop John W. Lord of Washington, D.C.; Catholic Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh; and Episcopal Bishop William Crittendon of Erie, Pa., the only non-co-chairman, but actively involved in the Conference.

In commending the Pope's recent peace encyclical, the statement noted that the pontiff had "earnestly beseeched those who have charge of the public welfare to strive with every means available to prevent the further spread of the conflagration, and even to extinguish it entirely."

Pre-Cana Series Start Sunday

Two series of Pre-Cana talks for couples planning to be married, will begin this Sunday, Oct. 30.

The series for couples, both of whom are Catholics, will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall, Brighton, this Sunday and the three subsequent Sundays at 3 p.m.

The other series for couples, one of whom is not a Catholic, will be held at Holy Cross parish hall, Charlotte, on the same four Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Father Gerald Dunn, director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau, will speak at both of the sessions this Sunday. Subsequent sessions will include talks by a medical doctor and a married couple.



'The Bee Lady'
Selma, Ala. — (RNS) — Lois Deslonde of New Orleans, La., active in Caritas, Catholic welfare agency, is known in Selma, Ala., as "The Bee Lady" since she spent three months training members of the Freedom Quilting Bee Cooperative. She showed the Selma group how to make better quality quilts and other handcraft items, and how to get the cooperative to function well. Miss Deslonde holds a quilt typical of those made by the cooperative.

More Religious Study on Campus

Milwaukee — (NC) — Religious studies departments are becoming more commonly accepted at secular colleges and universities, according to David R. Hauser, executive director of the Society of Religion in Higher Education, an independent group promoting religious study.

Hauser met here with a student group working toward establishment of a department of religious studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

He noted that during the past two years, 15 major universities, including Michigan State, Penn State, and Indiana universities, have established such departments.

He also pointed out that at the University of Iowa this semester 1,400 freshmen signed up for an elective course on Introduction to Religion.

Hauser explained that in all programs of this type, laymen or clergymen trained specifically in religion can be hired as full-time instructors by a public university.

"Usually these are people who are scholars in their field," he said. "Some are ordained in one or other church but their ordination is completely separate from their scholarly competence. This field of religious study presents one of the real areas of creative scholarship today."

War Support Criticized

Paris — (RNS) — A French priest has strongly criticized Cardinal Spellman of New York, for his support of U.S. policy on the Vietnam War.

In an "open letter" to the cardinal published in the weekly, Croix de Toulouse, Abbe Albert Gau, a former representative in the National Assembly of the People's Republic Movement (Christian Democratic), said that Roman Catholics should, above all, speak the language of peace.

"We cannot but be uneasy," the priest wrote, "that a learning like that of some people would like to substitute for the evangelical attitude of Church preaching... an opposite behavior admitting that is permissible to take part in a nuclear war the moment it is undertaken for a good cause."

"For us, as for you, it is Christ who is dying in the agonies and flames in the rice fields and villages of the poor Vietnamese people. The war cannot be a holy war."

Negroes Like Jews Better

Chicago — (RNS) — Negroes feel more friendly toward Jews than toward other whites, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in reporting the results of its scientific study of Negro attitudes.

The League said that the study refuted a recurring charge that Negroes are strongly anti-Semitic.

A sample taken in New York City indicated that 17 per cent of the Negroes who expressed variations in their general attitudes toward whites thought Jewish landlords were better than other white landlords and that only 9 per cent thought they were worse.

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Priest Presents Protest

Detroit — (RNS) — Mayor James Cavanaugh (seated) of Detroit listens as Father Michael O'Hara of St. Patrick's church presents a protest to urban renewal regulations on behalf of the West Central Organization, a group of some 100 clergymen. Maintaining that the housing shortage makes it necessary to use houses marked for demolition until they are demolished, the clergy dramatized their protest by taking over a vacant house and announcing they would move a family into it.

Religious Orders to Keep Mass, Office in Latin

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has warned superiors of religious orders and congregations against attempts to introduce the vernacular into the Divine Office and to substitute modern settings for Gregorian Chant.

The Divine Office is the service of prayer, psalms, lessons, hymns, etc., which all priests and certain other clerics are obliged to recite daily, and which is said or sung in choir by monks, friars and many nuns.

Gregorian music is the plain chant which is now the liturgical music of the Catholic Church. Its name is derived from Pope Gregory the Great (590-604) who gave impulse to chant in church singing.

The Pope's letter, dated Aug. 15, was made public by Vatican Radio.

It reminded superiors that the use of Latin in the Divine Office and the preservation of Gregorian chant was obligatory, as laid down by Vatican II and reaffirmed in post-Conciliar rulings.

"The noble traditions of the religious orders has given immense glory to God and has brought down many blessings on the Church," the Pope said in stressing that Latin must remain the language of the Divine Office "until there is a ruling to the contrary."

The Pope said "the teaching of Latin should not present an insuperable obstacle to those who, relieved from the distractions of the world, can devote themselves completely to its study."

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