

# Worldwide Bible Project Launched

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul has commissioned the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christianity Unity to prepare a formal study on the widest possible distribution of Bibles, and to coordinate efforts toward common Catholic-Protestant Bibles in all languages.

The well-known Jesuit author Father Walter Abbott of Boston has been named a personal assistant to the unity secretariat's president, Augustin Cardinal Bea, also a Jesuit, to direct the study.

A former religion editor of the Jesuit magazine America, through which he was a long-time advocate of a common Bible, Father Abbott last April was assigned to head the North American desk of Vatican Radio. This assignment has now been postponed on request of Cardinal Bea until his work on the Bible survey is complete.

In announcing the new project, a spokesman for the unity secretariat said that it will include collecting "information about the translation, production and distribution of the Bible throughout the Catholic Church."

Father Abbott represented the unity secretariat at the meeting of the United Bible Societies Council held May 16-21 at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., and will represent it again at the meeting Nov. 14-17 of the American Bible Society's advisory council, "which will discuss the role of the world's largest and most influential Bible Society in a possible cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church," the spokesman said.

Though American based, this society has projects in 151 countries on all the continents, including the United States.

During the May meeting, the heads of the United Bible Societies "voted to welcome the Vatican Council's emphasis on easy access to the Bible for all, the possibility of cooperation in translation and in Bible distribution," the secretariat announcement noted. "They asked that their societies be kept informed about progress between their organizations and the Catholic Church in these efforts. The Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christianity Unity, therefore, is also studying possible cooperation with the United Bible Societies."

Commenting on the survey of available Bible translations, Father Abbott cited statistics to indicate how much still has to be done in making the Bible known throughout the world. "Of the 2,200 languages used on earth," he said, "only 1,200 have a translation of the Bible available." He said he hoped the new project would help coordinate efforts to make translations available in many more languages, and also to put low-cost Bibles into the hands of as many as possible in the languages already available.

Father Abbott's experience in Catholic-Protestant cooperation in biblical matters dates from 1955, when, with Jesuit Father John J. Collins, of Weston College in Massachusetts, he devoted "New Testament Abstracts," a publication devoted to New Testament studies carrying articles by both Catholic and Protestant scholars. He was also general editor of the publication "Documents of Vatican Two," of which almost one million copies have been sold in paperback to date.

In his new post he will also be advisor to the unity secretariat on relations with the United Bible Societies, a world-wide network of national Protestant Bible societies with headquarters in London.

## Bishop Sheen's Convert

### Father of Seven Now a Priest

Rottenburg, Germany — (RNS) — A former minister of the Episcopal Church in the United States who is married and the father of seven children was ordained here to the Roman Catholic priesthood.

His wife and five of his children saw Father Harold R. Bronk, 38, receive Holy Orders at the hands of Bishop Carl Joseph Leiprecht of Rottenburg.

A convert to Catholicism — along with his wife and family — Father Bronk was received into the Church in 1959 by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, then Auxiliary Bishop of New York and now Bishop-designate of Rochester.

His ordination to the Catholic priesthood was made possible under a special dispensation from Pope Paul VI.

Father Bronk, following the ordination rite, was presented to parishioners of Dusslingen, near here, by Bishop Leiprecht. It had already been announced that the American priest had agreed to remain in Germany after his ordination.

Father Bronk, a native of New Jersey, was formerly an Episcopal clergyman in Philadelphia, Provincetown, Mass., and Cambrie Heights, Queens, New York City.

He was said to be the second married former Protestant minister to be ordained under special papal permission.

In 1964, Father Ernest Adam Beck, now 41 and a former pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran church in North Bergen, N.J., became a Catholic priest — also in Germany.

Father Bronk will continue to live with his wife and children, whose ages range from 6 to 19.



FATHER BRONK wife at ordination

# Feedback from Underground

By FATHER PETER SHEEHAN, C.S.B.

This is the first in a series of articles on church music. Basilian Father Sheehan is chairman of the theology department at St. John Fisher College and a member of the diocesan music and liturgical commissions. He is also an editor of the "New St. Basil Hymnal." Other articles in the series will discuss the present situation, the problems and the hopes for music in churches of the Rochester Diocese.

The angry, young playwright, John Osborne, recently decided to silence his critics. In the course of accomplishing his purpose, he noted that his theatrical success and reputation were due, in part, to "the blessed alchemy of word of mouth." Commenting on this phrase, The New Yorker magazine likened this alchemical process to an underground: "When we think of it, a fair proportion of our enthusiasms — of what we are aware of and keep in our head — have come to us by word of mouth."

A similar process, alchemical and underground, can be noted in the liturgical and musical life of many Rochester parishes during this time of reform and innovation.

"They play the guitar at the 11:30 there." "Why bother singing, the organist kills everything by dragging it?" "Why can't we just read our missals the way we used to?" "The assistant is always trying to force such teen-age things as 'Kumbaya' on us!" The underground achieves some guerrilla success and creates opposing camps of emphatic opinion.

In the hope of providing an above-ground discussion of differing views as well as offering positive guidance, the Diocesan Music Commission is undertaking this series of six articles on music in the liturgy. It will investigate the existential situation in terms of the general problems resulting from the Church's universal adoption of the vernacular for liturgical usage, the particular problems of the elementary school, the high school and college students as representing special homogeneous groups, the complex needs of parishes and finally the future of liturgical music as viewed by music educators.

The scope of this article is the description of the situation which exists in Rochester as a typical community. It takes no sides. It offers no immediate solutions. It only attempts to bring some of what is underground out in the open. All quotations are taken directly from replies to questions asked by the author of this article.

# Thanksgiving Clothing Drive Next Week for Needy

Final preparations are being made in individual parishes to process and pack the thousands of pounds of used clothing expected from next week's Thanksgiving Clothing Collection.

Between Nov. 13 and 19 in the Rochester Diocese, each parish will receive and sort usable clothing, yard goods, shoes and blankets for the needy all over the world.

Pastors will announce the hours and location of their own centers; parish volunteers will ready the goods for shipment to the Catholic Relief Services warehouse in Brooklyn.

Last year's effort in the Diocese netted well over a half a million pounds of usable goods. Total amount contributed since the project began in 1949 is 5,650,791 pounds of items.

Bishop Kearney has stated "Only God knows how many thousands have been enabled themselves to give thanks again because you were grateful at Thanksgiving time."

This year's campaign is directed by Father Chester M. Kloczek, assisted by nine area directors.

## Ontario Church Dedicated

Pictures and report of the dedication of new St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario, will be published in next week's Courier.

Bishop Kearney dedicated the new structure Sunday.

## More Time For Sermons

Mexico City — (RNS) — Mexican priests were told here to spend more time on the preparation and delivery of their Sunday sermons.

This advice was formulated at a meeting of the Roman Catholic bishops of this country presided over by Archbishop Miguel Dario Miranda.

Too often, it came out in the discussion, the time allotted for the sermon is taken up with announcements or with comments on some purely local need. The priests were told that the sermon must return to the "very grain and gist of Christianity" and serve the aim of teaching a more complete and profound dedication to the Christian life.

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'Unconventional Apostolates' See Page 4



A 'guitar' Mass gets underway at St. John Fisher College.

Just as March that comes in like a lion goes out like a lamb, so too congregational singing was introduced into the liturgy with the full force of conciliar legislation. Viewing the attempts to implement it in our parishes, however, many are reminded of the words of Isaiah: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." "If success with congregational singing is meager," said one assistant pastor, "it is owing to a lack of appreciation of the purpose of singing in communal worship on the part of the pastors and assistants."

### Feedback from Pews

One man, speaking for what he called the "upper middle generation," observed that the singing was a failure in his parish "because most of the efforts to sell the idea are not wholehearted." He added significantly "and selling is needed." When asked for her opinion, a high school junior said that radical changes of this type take time so that people can overcome "their lack of interest or reluctance to change." "It's a bit confusing and more than a little distracting," noted one lady who admitted to being at least 34½ years old.

In general it seems that the full meaning of the Council's

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message has not yet been grasped in many parishes. At the center of that message is the newly heightened theological emphasis on the sacramentality of Christ as the saving Word of God: "The Word is present in the Mass in the total, saving experience of his death-resurrection-glory. This moment embracing all of salvation is rendered present sacramentally through the liturgical reading of God's revealing word and the sharing of the eucharistic meal. These are the liturgical signs whereby the Word himself is received now as he once was by the apostles in the discourse and the offering of the

Bread and the cup at the first eucharistic table. It is significant that a common song was associated with this from the beginning in the hymn which our Lord and his apostles sang at the end of that meal.

The Council stated another bold theological concept which is at the heart of its message. In every liturgical assembly we have an extension of Christ's saving worship as priest. His priesthood becomes living and operative among his people at Mass in such a way that all present share as priests in the one priesthood of Christ. "Though they differ from one another in essence and not only

in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial priesthood are nonetheless related: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ (the Vatican Council's Constitution on the Liturgy, n. 10)."

### A New Theology

The theology of congregational participation is one of sacramental, priestly union and activity with Christ on the part of each member of the congregation. The Council's Constitution on the Liturgy expresses the hope that such a message will be spread by "the blessed alchemy of word of mouth." "It would be futile to entertain any hopes of realizing this unless the pastors themselves, in the first place become thoroughly imbued with the spirit and power of the liturgy, and undertake to give instruction about it (n. 14)."

Just as there is evidence of a failure to understand the theology of congregational worship, so too there seems to be no clear understanding of the spirituality implied in the changes, especially the use of congregational singing. When asked whether singing helped him to pray better, an eight year old boy shot back the question: "No, how could it?" Most of us do seem to have

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## Tell Them The Truth

By FRED W. FRIESE

Indianapolis — (NC) — Archdiocesan educators heard the views of five Second Vatican Council experts at an Institute here attended by 1,500 elementary, secondary and college teachers and administrators.

The Council experts, including Jesuit Father John Courtney Murray and Passionist Father Barnabas Ahern fielded questions for nearly two hours.

Others on the panel were Msgr. Mark J. Hurley, assistant chancellor of the San Francisco archdiocese; Msgr. John S. Quinn, officials of the Chicago archdiocese; and Father Raymond T. Bosler, editor of the Criterion, Indianapolis archdiocesan weekly.

One of the more practical questions put to the panel by a priest-principal was what to tell high school students about the doubts and uncertainties which are assailing the post-conciliar Church.

Father Ahern's reply: "Tell them the truth."

A wide range of questions assailed the group, for example: "Isn't it true that the Vatican Council has stirred up a lot of trouble and unrest?" Answer: "Yes, but this 'trouble' reflects the 'stirrings of the spirit' in a Church that had grown stagnant and complacent."

Question: Haven't the violent and drastic changes provoked by the council resulted in a large number of defections from the Church?

Fathers Ahern and Murray replied that there have been, indeed, losses in the Church, but the "qualitative gains" have more than offset the "quantitative losses" incurred.

Similar losses occurred after the Council of Trent (1545-63). Father Ahern pointed out only to be followed some years later by a remarkable intensification of the faith.

"The reform after Trent came from the top down," Father Murray added. "In the case of Vatican II, the reform will come from the ranks from the 'people of God' themselves."

Question: Has there been any rethinking on the religious vow of obedience in the wake of the council?

The consensus of the panel was that a careful study of the "exercise of authority" is now going on among religious orders as well as in the ranks of the secular clergy.