'Ecumenical' Astronauts

Cape Kennedy, Fla. — (RNS) — The four asrtonauts participating in the Gemini 12 space flight make up quite an "ecumenical" group. In front is the prime crew: Air Force Major Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., Presbyterian, pilot (left); and Navy Capt. James A. Lovell, Jr., Episcopalian, command pilot. In rear is the backup crew: Navy Lt. Comdr. Eugene A. Cernan, Catholic, pilot (left); and Air Force Lt. Col. L. Gordon Cooper, Jr., Methodist, command pilot.

Dispensation On Nov. 25th

Bishop Kearney has dispensed Catholics in the Rochester Diocese from the law of abstinence for Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

(The U.S. Catholic bishops were expected to revise the Friday abstinence law but their decision was not known at Courier press time.)

Christmas Funds for Poor

How can you make Christmas really happy for the poor? By donating to the Catholic Charities Christmas fund. Food baskets, toys and clothing will be distributed to over 2,000 children and adults.

Send your donation to Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Priest's Talks 'Mandatory' In St. Louis

Following is a news item reprinted from the Nov. 4 St. Louis Review:

Father Charles E. Curran, a moral theologian who studied under Father Bernard Haring and now teaches at the Catholic University of America, will be the main speaker at the fall clergy conference, Nov. 15, 16 and 17.

His topic will be "Sin, Liberty and Law."

Attendance at the conference will be mandatory for all priests. Meetings will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The fall conference is one of two in which attendance by meeting has been traditionally held in September, but the elective programs being sponsored by the Clergy Conference Commission resulted in a later date for the regular conference.

The Archdiocesan Clergy Conference was expanded last spring by Cardinal Ritter to plan for both voluntary and required sessions.

Father Curran received his doctorate in theology from Gregorian University in Rome, and a doctorate in moral theology from the Academia Alfonsia, also in Rome.

(The Review article failed to mention the fact that Father Curran, a Rochesterian, was formerly a member of the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary prior to his going to Washington.)

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Fatima Visionary In Quiet Convent

By SUSAN LOWNDES MARQUES

Coimbra, Portugal — (NC)— The only survivor of the trio of little girls who witnessed the apparitions of Our Lady nearly a half century ago lives obscurely in the quiet and shadows of a Carmelite cloister.

She is Lucia dos Santos, now Mother Mary of the Immaculate Heart.

With the approach of the 50th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima next year, Archbishop Ernesto Sena de Oliveira of Coimbra, where Mother Mary now lives, gave a press interview in which he sought to clarify speculations centering on the nun.

Concerning reports that Mother Mary will visit the Fatima shrine next year, even incognito, and that she will be transferred to a Carmelite convent abroad, the archbishop said it would be against her wishes and against "the wishes of the Church that Lucia should be the center of attention at a pilgrimage whose principal motive is sacrifice and prayer, particularly for peace."

He stressed that the transfer of nuns is always possible, but said he had no reason to believe a shift for Mother Mary was contemplated.

With references to queries as to why she entered the Coimbra Carmel rather than one at Fatima, the archbishop said he supposed it was because the Coimbra convent had room. Carmelite rules allow only 21 nuns to each community.

The Archbishop said his first contact with Mother Mary was in 1949 when he presided at her solemn profession as a Carmelite. Since then, he said, "I have only given this Religious the moral and spiritual assistance which I have been asked for and which her special circumstances call for."

With regard to her life as a Carmelite, the archbishop said that she has always followed the ordinary rule. He said he has been informed that she is exceptionally proficient at domestic work and in directing workmen about the convent. She also is a good embroideress and photographer and takes pictures of the other nuns for their families.

Credit Union Honors Prelate

Cleveland — (RNS) — Cleveland's chapter of the Ohio Credit Union League presented its annual award to Roman Catholic Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann of Cleveland.

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The New Reformation

Focus on Secular City

Dayton — (NC) — The focus of religious life is on the secular city and a new reformation is underway, affecting all branches of Christianity, a Protestant theologian said here.

The churches must be concerned with "terrestriality, worldly holiness, innovation, change and aggiornamento," the Rev. Dr. Harvey G. Cox of Harvard Divinity School told an interreligious meeting.

Author of the book "The Secular City," Dr. Cox said before this "reformation" is finished, "it will have consequences for the church and for society immensely more far reaching than any previous reformation.

"Radical social change is one of the major components of our late 20th century," he said.

He called the changes in the life of society today a "renewal of faith, and not a betrayal of it.

"The changes do not amount to a surrender or a mere cheap accommodation to the spirit of the world," he said, but rather, a result of "insights into elements of the faith that have been forgotten or suppressed in recent history."

The discovery that Christianity "is not essence, but living history," is, according to Dr Cox, "the major breakthrough in both Catholic and Protestant theology today."

Dr. Cox said the reason for most "religious dropouts" today is not that Christianity is found intellectually unacceptable, but rather that it is considered "spineless and boring."

"People complain," he said, "that they find religious services soporific and theological disputes tedious. The main criticisms of the church today are, it is not living up to its own definition of itself."

Dr Cox said the so-called "death-of-God" theologians have "widely missed the point." He said "They believe that simply by the process of reduction, pruning and discarding, Christianity can be made more intellectually acceptable."

"They try to accommodate the faith to the world, just as we have decided to change the world into something else," he added.

Mission List Corrections

Two names were inadvertently omitted from the list of names of missionaries from the Rochester Diocese published in the Mission Sunday tabloid of the Courier.

Benedictine Father Damian Milliken and his sister, Miss Rose Milliken, a nurse, are both in Tanzania, East Africa, serving mission outposts about 100 miles from each other. The two are the children of Mrs. Jean M. Milliken and the late Cornelius J. Milliken of Elmira of St. Patrick's parish there.

Sister Gilmary Cardinal, S.S.J., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cardinal, was erroneously listed as from St. Charles Borromeo parish, Greece. She is from St. John the Evangelist parish, Greece.

No Boundaries, No Buildings

Oklahoma City — (NC) — The experimental parish without boundary or membership limits established by Bishop Victor J. Reed of Oklahoma City and Tulsa held its first meeting here.

The Community of John XXIII parish was formed at the request of a group of Oklahoma City Catholics. Father William F. Nerin, a former pastor, is spiritual administrator of the new parish.

Paul Sprehe, temporay chairman of the parish, said although tentative plans called for a maximum membership of 75 families to insure a close friendship among members, that figure may be revised upwards.

"If more families than that wish to join," he said, "they will certainly be welcome. We place no restrictions on membership."

Sprehe added that part of the experiment might be in learning how large a parish can become without falling into "member anonymity."

Religion at College

Up to Student to Decide

Washington — (RNS) — A nun, active in Newman Club work, urged parents, educators and other counselors to give Catholic high school students a true picture of the secular university.

Many Catholic students enter non-Catholic colleges "prepared to do battle with a myth" of hostility to religion, said Sister M. Judine Schaetzl, S.D.S., Newman coordinator at the University of Wisconsin.

Sister Judine expressed her views in an article — "Catholic High School Graduates' Deficiencies and Needs" — which appeared in the current issue of the Catholic High School Quarterly Bulletin published by the Secondary School Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The entire issue is devoted to Newman Club work.

The nun said that too often non-Catholic colleges are presented to Catholic high school students "in a totally unrealistic manner, somewhat like a hostile camp . . .

"They have been warned by sincere but poorly informed parents and educators to be careful of the professors, the atheists and agnostics, their fellow students who are not Catholic and hence are out to make them lose their faith. this is often coupled with the advice to 'join the Newman Club,' as though this would solve all their problems."

But, she stated, the real problem on the secular campus is not hostility to religion but indifference.

"Their professors," Sister Judine wrote, "do not challenge the things they were supposed to challenge, that is, the existence of God, the spirituality and immortality of the soul; these issues are simply passed over as unimportant."

The result, she added, is that the students' confusion is increased and "the breach between religion and their life situation" is widened.

Sister Judine urged Catholics to be "prepared to take it (the secular university) seriously, not with fear, to see it as neither wholly good nor entirely bad, to believe in it as an academic community dedicated to an honest, uncompromising search for truth."

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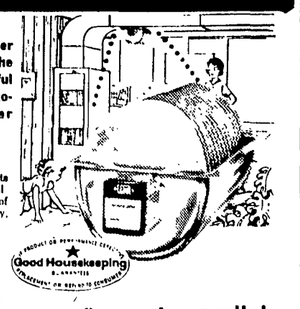

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