



Dr. Guy Walters, director of Rochester State Hospital, and Dr. Harold O'Connor welcomed Bishop Sheen to the hospital for a pre-Christmas Mass.

Bishop's Busy Christmas

By REV. JAMES CALLAN, Chaplain, Rochester State Hospital

In the auditorium of the Rochester State Hospital, crowded by some 750 patients, staff and guests, Bishop Sheen offered Mass and preached just six days after his installation in his new See.

"This was the first invitation I received and accepted," said the newly installed Bishop of Rochester with evident concern in his voice, "and I shall come again and again."

The occasion was the patients' annual Christmas Mass on the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 21.

And nothing was more predictable than the reaction of all present who came in contact with this dynamic man. They were deeply moved by the tender regard, the understanding, the love of the Shepherd for his sheep, and felt honored and grateful for his presence.

In his sermon the Bishop emphasized the great responsibility all of us share in providing the care and love most needed by those who are the "poor in spirit." If the need is so great that our love seems to find no response and no return, then this is the great gift of the healer to put love where we do not find it, to love even when we get back nothing in return. That's what God does. The Son of God knew loneliness and anxiety and rejection, so that no man could ever say of his own fear and burden, that he suffered alone.

The Bishop was welcomed to the Hospital by Dr. Guy Walters, director, and members of his staff — Dr. Benjamin Polack, assistant director, Dr. Harold O'Connor and Dr. Charles Escriva. A reception following the Mass gave a great number of the staff of physicians, board of visitors and guests the opportunity of meeting the Bishop. A choir of students and nuns from Our Lady of Mercy High School sang the Christmas carols and the music of the Mass.

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Bishop Sheen, in his sermon at midnight Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Christmas Eve, told a packed congregation this was the first time he had "a family of my own" with whom he could celebrate the feast of our Lord's Nativity. The Bishop later in the day celebrated Mass at the city jail and at Holy Family Church.

Jesuits to Go to Yale --- Just Like Vassar?

New York — (RNS) — The Jesuits are giving "serious consideration" to a plan to move their famed seminary, Woodstock College in Maryland, into an urban setting and affiliating it with a large university — either Fordham or the Yale Divinity School.

Such a plan was confirmed by Father Edward J. Sponga, Provincial of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus.

He said the purpose of such a move would be "to put theological training in a wider academic context and to make more efficient use of professors, libraries and other academic resources."

(News reports also indicated Vassar, a famed college for women, is considering moving to the Yale campus. A wag commented the Jesuits may end up "with the best of both worlds" — a parody on a remark of the late President John F. Kennedy.)

Dr. Robert C. Johnson, dean of the Yale Divinity School, also confirmed that negotiations were underway to move Woodstock to New Haven and said: "I'm very hopeful that they will make the move. We'd love to have them."

Dr. Johnson cited the "unintentional" inter-faith conversation that would result from a Woodstock move.

"A Protestant's theology can be much more constructive and creative if he knows that a Roman Catholic theologian is listening to every word," he said.

Meanwhile, L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, published the Latin text of regulations governing the synod which, it said, the Pope approved on Dec. 8.

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(By Religious News Service)

Many of the top religious stories of the year bore witness to the sharp concern among churchmen over the escalation of the war in Vietnam. Other headlines told of new religious mobilizations in the battle against world poverty and racism. A mounting pace of church union efforts, and an ever-widening interreligious dialogue made 1966 a year of vigorous ecumenical progress.

It was a year when Pope Paul VI persisted in his forceful efforts for peace in Vietnam and elsewhere.

And when: Formation of what promised to become the biggest Protestant denomination in the United States seemed assured by agreement of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church to merge into the United Methodist Church with an aggregate membership of over 11 million.

The World Council of Churches' Conference on Church and Society in Geneva saw the traditional East-West conflict replaced by a new pattern of tensions between the established rich nations of Europe and North America and the poor emerging countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

An American — Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. — was elected in February to succeed Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft as general secretary of the WCC, making him Protestantism's top ecumenical figure.

Broad avenues of dialogue were opened between the Anglican, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches, and new foundations of understanding established between Christianity and Judaism.

Ferments of change spread through the Catholic Church as the process of implementing the decrees of the Second Vatican Council was begun.

The American Catholic hierarchy followed the example set in other countries by decreasing the end of the traditional Friday abstinence from meat.

Pope Paul dashed expectations

St. Nicholas On the Move

Volos, Greece — (RNS) — Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Damaskinos of Volos announced that the projected transfer of relics of St. Nicholas now in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Bari, Italy, is planned for May 1967.

St. Nicholas is the 4th Century saint associated with the "Santa Claus" of today. Last November, Archbishop Enrico Nicodemus of Bari said relics of the saint preserved in the cathedral since 1089 would be sent to the Orthodox church in Volos as a token of the growing ecumenical rapprochement between Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

Bishops' Synod to Meet in '67

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Synod of Bishops — a parliament-like agency established by Pope Paul VI last year to assist him in governing the Church — will hold its first session in the Fall of 1967.

Addressing Curia cardinals and bishops assembled to extend traditional Christmas greetings, the Pope disclosed that the synod's first session will open on Sept. 29 and probably continue until Oct. 24, or later if necessary.

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In many quarters by deferring a long-awaited pronouncement on proposals aimed at modifying Catholicism's ban against artificial contraception.

Pope Paul's concern over Vietnam and other areas of war was evident when he made his fourth encyclical (Christi Mater Rosarii, dated Sept. 15) the occasion for proclaiming October a month of prayer for peace. He sent an envoy (Archbishop Sergio Pignedoli, Apostolic Delegate in

Canada to Saigon, where, in addition to presiding at a meeting of the South Vietnamese bishops, the archbishop held discussions with top-level government leaders, clearly designed to help the cause of peace.

The Pope made many appeals (two of them addressed to Soviet and North Vietnamese leaders) for a negotiated peace, and stressed his readiness to serve as a mediator. He had meetings with top U.S. diplomats and also with Soviet For-

eign Minister Andrei Gromyko. World and National Councils of Churches leaders added their voices to the Vietnam peace effort, reiterating pleas against intensification of bombing and for negotiations under the supervision of the United Nations. Pope Paul's call for an extension of the Christmas ceasefire was seconded by the NCC.

In the U.S. and abroad (especially in Australia and New Zealand) (Continued on Page 2)



Waiting for the 'Miracle' of Peace

Pope Paul, in an appeal to the combatants in the Vietnam war, said he was praying for "a miracle of goodwill" to bring peace with "freedom and justice." His pre-Christmas plea was answered by both sides promptly resuming the war after the holiday ceasefire.

De-Fished Fridays 'Top Story' of 1966

New York — (RNS) — Changes in abstinence regulations for Roman Catholics was ranked as the top religious story of 1966 by editors and reporters in the Religious Newswriters Association.

Made annually, the survey this year produced responses from 44 members of the association. The RNA is made up of men and women who report, write and edit news of religion for U.S. and Canadian press associations and daily papers.

Among other major religious developments of the year, the RNA members gave second ranking to the visit of Archbishop Arthur Michael Ramsey of Canterbury with Pope Paul VI.

Election of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, former chief administrator of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., as general secretary of the World Council of Churches was

considered the third major story.

Also on the "top ten" list were:

Fourth — the Consultation on Church Union, which reached agreement on "principles of union" and during the year grew from six to nine participating denominations.

Fifth — the decision by Pope Paul VI to defer a long-awaited pronouncement on birth control.

Sixth — the resignation of Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike from the Diocese of California.

Seventh — Dr. Martin Luther King's civil rights leadership and the open-house demonstration in Chicago.

Eighth — Pope Paul's repeated efforts in behalf of peace in Vietnam.

Ninth — Approval of a mer-

ger plan of the General Conference of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches.

Tenth — Approval of the proposed "Confession of 1967" by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the top ten stories, RNA members cited several other leading religious developments of the year. Among these was the discussion of Bishop Pike by the Episcopal House of Bishops, where he was reprimanded for "irresponsible" statements and answered by calling for a formal investigation of the charges of his critics.

Other stories listed included the Vatican statement on mixed marriages, efforts by Father William DuBay to form a union of Catholic priests, the World Congress on Evangelism and the World Conference on Church and Society.

Holy Hour On Radio

A New Year's Eve Holy Hour will be broadcast from St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester, on a diocesan radio network Saturday, Dec. 31, beginning at 11:15 p.m.

The program will be broadcast by the same stations which air the Family Rosary for Peace — WSAY in Rochester, WMBO-FM in Auburn, and by television cable companies Channel 8 in Elmira, Channel 5 in Moravia and at 88.75 mc in Corning.

High School Entry Tests

Entrance examinations for Catholic high schools of the Rochester Diocese will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m. at the diocesan schools office, announced.

Application cards, available from pastors, and school principals may be sent to the high schools' choice no later than Jan. 9.

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