

Ecumenical Rites for Unity



Ecumenical services brought Catholics and Protestants together in scores of churches throughout the Rochester Diocese this past week to pray for religious unity. Photo above shows clergy of different denominations entering St. Mary's Church, Auburn.



Two historic churches at Livonia Center, neighbors but apart at worship for more than a century, forged bonds of brotherhood at an ecumenical rite Sunday afternoon. Members of St. Michael's parish attended the rite in the Livonia Center Presbyterian Church and then walked to St. Michael's for refreshments. Photo shows Father Paul Wohlrab, Rev. Robert Mahaffy and Divine Word Father Hubert Posjena at the ceremony.



A first in Geneva — clergy of several area churches led members of their congregations in first unity service in that city Sunday at St. Stephen's Church. Monsignor John E. McCafferty, head of the diocesan ecumenical commission, was speaker.

Soviet Chief To Meet Pope Paul

Vatican City—(RNS)—Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny is scheduled to have an historic private audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican Jan. 29 during an official visit to Italy.

The meeting will be the first since the Communist Revolution of a Soviet head of state with a Pope.

Commenting on the forthcoming audience, Italian Radio observed that Pope Paul and Mr. Podgorny would undoubtedly discuss world peace with particular reference to the Vietnam war.

While there was no confirmation whether the visit would be "official" or "private," observers said it most likely would be informal in nature.

Although Mr. Podgorny's audience will be the first granted to a Russian President, Pope Paul received Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in April, 1966. Their 45-minute meeting was then devoted to world peace.

In 1963 the late Pope John XXIII received Alexei Adzhubei, son-in-law of the then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Masons Hear Chicago Prelate

Chicago—(RNS)—Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago told a group of 500 Masons and their wives here that the Second Vatican Council left a "deep imprint" on the world for "complete and universal ecumenism" among all nations and men.

The Council, said the Catholic prelate, "left a basis on which relations among nations can be improved."

If so many bishops of different nationalities from around the world could convene and talk as they did at the Council, he said, it behooves national leaders of all races to meet in dialogue for world brotherhood and peace.

Archbishop Cody also observed that it was the same ecumenical spirit engendered by the Council which "brings me here tonight to share this joyous occasion with you." He was addressing the Masons at their sixth annual merit award dinner.



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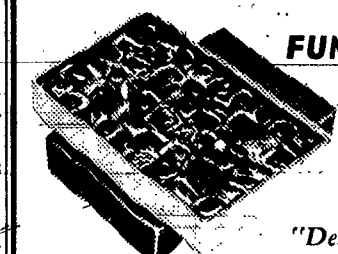
College students, firmly rooted in religious convictions and moral attitudes, will be open to "an acceptance of all knowledge" and "to a freedom which is never isolated."

This double benefit of religion on a college campus was cited by Bishop Sheen as he spoke at the opening of the centennial celebration at the State University College at Brockport.

"Your college is dedicated to a search for truth," he told an audience of approximately 500, "and the age we are about to enter can be beautiful, challenging... if truth wins."

"What if it should lose?" he asked. "Truth—can't lose!" he concluded. He was introduced by Dr. Albert W. Brown, college president.

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VP Says Unity Week 'More than Lip Service'

Washington — (NC) — Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey officially launched Unity Week at a special ceremony here Jan. 12.

On the occasion he was presented with a copy of "Living Room Dialogues" from Msgr. William W. Baum, executive director, the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs, and the Rev. William A. Norgren, executive director, Department of Faith and Order, National Council of Churches.

The Vice President in accepting the book stated:

"My belief in the spirit of Christian unity is strengthened and fortified by the realization that 150,000 copies of a book such as 'Living Room Dialogues' are now in print and that well over a thousand groups are participating in discussions which bring together Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox laymen and women."

"To me this is the strongest demonstration that Christian unity for the layman is more than lip service to a concept. The 'Living Room Dialogues' program, jointly published by the Paulist Press and the National Council of Churches,

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