

## Jewish Critics Quieted On Passion Play

Manchester, Eng. — (RNS) — A new Passion Play which was conceived and produced against a background of religious controversy is being performed here tonight after a premiere which produced more bouquets than bricks.

The play is billed as a "German Passion Play" and its cast includes players from Oberammergau and Thierssee in Austria. When its production was announced last year by its promoters, who included several prominent Jews, it aroused a storm of protest in the Jewish community. Many felt it would be a duplicate of the famed Oberammergau Passion Play which has been accused of fostering anti-Semitism.

Jewish producers withdrew after the Board of Deputies (a Jewish body) announced its disapproval, and a Roman Catholic schoolmaster, John Mulvey, took over the production. The play had its premiere before a near capacity audience of about 3,000, including a "row of nuns," at an amusement park and reaction generally was favorable.

The Jewish Chronicle's critic wrote: "The play has been brought to this country purely as a commercial venture and there is no church or similar organization involved."

"While it is not in the spirit of post-Vatican II and must undo some of the good work, particularly among the young, which has been built up in recent years, I entertain no fears that such a Passion Play performance will undermine Jewish-Christian relationships in this country."

This critic, Rabbi P. Selvin Goldberg of the Manchester Reform Synagogue, also said that from information given to him

## Couple Does More Shouting

Detroit — (RNS) — The father and daughter previously arrested for shouting Latin responses at a Roman Catholic priest celebrating a Mass in English now face more serious charges for repeating their action.

John Tamplin, 58, and his daughter, Margaret, 19, were charged with two counts of conspiracy for loudly injecting their Latin responses at a Mass March 3, in St. Rita's Catholic church here. They had been arrested previously for the same action at the same church on Dec. 30.

Lt. Edward V. Boggs of the Wayne County prosecutor's police detail said he was charging conspiracy because the Tamplins had been disturbing religious services for more than six months.

Lt. Boggs said he was attending the 8:15 a.m. Mass when the Tamplins began shouting. As the Mass ended, the policeman said, the father and daughter knelt at the altar rail, blocking the priest and the altar boys. Two ushers ejected them.

## UNESCO Work Praised

Paris — (NC) — The close and cordial relations between the Catholic Church and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were stressed here by the Holy See's permanent observer at UNESCO.

Msr. Giovanni Benelli spoke of the unity of views and objectives between the Church and the UN body in an interview given the N.C.W.C. News Service.

The prelate, who recalled that Pope John was the Holy See's first UNESCO observer while he was serving as apostolic nuncio here in Paris, declared:

"Of all the activities of the United Nations, those of UNESCO are of the greatest immediate interest to the Church because they concern human betterment."

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## Suffering, Love — the Better Way

By J. C. WYNN

(Special to The Courier)

(Dr. John C. Wynn, director of studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, attended the recent Vatican meeting of religious leaders to discuss the problem of mixed marriage.)

World Council of Churches had come together at Nemi (near Rome) to discuss one of the greatest tests of ecumenism. Vatican II had produced major statements that promised a new day. The Decree on Ecumenism had assured that other Christians are actually Christians; and the Declaration on Religious Liberty had exhibited a new respect for those who disagreed with Catholics about religious faith.

Yet neither of these convictions had yet been brought to bear in regard to the mounting number of mixed religious marriages. One year ago (March 18, 1968) an instruction had been published by the Holy Office, clarifying certain aspects of mixed marriage. However that document seemed further to affirm the long-standing difficulties rather than to fulfill the promise of Vatican II. It did allow for a Non-Catholic pastor

to be present at a mixed wedding and to add his blessing. It did permit the traditional promises to rear children as Roman Catholic to be made orally rather than in writing. It did remove excommunication from a Catholic who had been married before to a Non-Catholic clergyman.

In other respects, however, the instruction had been disappointing. It made no distinction whatever between a Roman Catholic marriage to a Protestant and a marriage to a Non-Christian. It continued the requirement that the children are to be baptized and reared as Catholics. It precluded any ecumenical service of matrimony. It failed to alter the Church's stand that a mixed marriage performed by a Protestant clergyman remains null and void. Each of these four problems has been embarrassing to Catholics; each has been painful and aggravating to Protestants.

When both of our groups cease to make their life harder and their marriages uneasy, we shall be accomplishing something not only for Christian family life but also for Christ's Church.

It may be remembered that hopes had been raised by De Matrimonii Sacramento during the third session of Vatican II. But this liberal document, proposing easing of the above problems, was only discussed, and reportedly because of division among bishops) never brought to vote.

Now the issue is raised anew, and there is cause for hope. Our consultation group reached ready accord about needed reforms as well as about aspects that require further study. The Catholic representatives were willing to discuss repeal of the canon law that enjoins that all such weddings be performed by the Roman Catholic priest. But they were concerned that Protestant communions would recognize the same impediments to marriage held by Rome (concerning in-family marriages, previous unions, etc.). The Catholic group had no zeal for the matter to bring up children from a mixed marriage as Catholics. Yet they needed assurance that Protestants would share their convictions about the indissolubility of Christian marriage.

That both religious groups

## Churchmen Ponder Revision Mixed Marriage Rules

By FATHER ROBERT A. GRAHAM  
Special Correspondent

Vatican City — (RNS) — Mixed marriages, a thorn in the side of ecumenists, were aired in a four-day meeting near Rome, March 1 to 4 by an authorized group of Roman Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox with positive and encouraging results.

A communique issued at the close of the discussions held at a Catholic institution in the town of Nemi said simply that "a fertile exchange of views took place" and that "both sides gained considerable understanding from the meeting."

Participants, however, are reported convinced that the beginnings of a solution to this vexing obstacle to the church unity movement had been found.

The closed and unannounced meeting brought together eight representatives of the World Council of Churches and ten Catholic representatives. Co-chairmen were Bishop Jan Willembrands, secretary of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity and Dr. Lukas Visser, director of the Faith and Order Secretariat of the World Council of Churches.

Study of the question was undertaken on the direction of a joint interreligious working group established at a meeting in northern Italy a few months ago. This group in turn arose out of the historic meeting last year between Pope Paul VI and Dr. Arthur Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Anglican Communion.

At the Nemi meeting, discussants had before them a study prepared by the World Council of Churches, entitled "Marriage and the Division Among the Churches," 1967. Four Catholic experts presented papers from the viewpoint of Sacred Scripture, theology, canon law and pastoral practice. Texts of these four documents were not immediately available.

Although the meeting was called to discuss the doctrine of marriage generally as well as mixed marriages, this latter, more practical bar to good interreligious relations reportedly occupied the lion's share of attention.

Opinion among Catholics in Rome, both advisory and those in authority, seems increasingly in favor of general discontinuance of any formal and explicit prior pledge on the part of the non-Catholic party in regard to the Catholic upbringing of children.

The view is gaining ground that the Catholic party should instead be instructed on his or her duty to raise the children as Catholics. At the same time, more concern, it is thought, should be given to the unity and peace of the family and the

claims of the non-Catholic party's conscience.

This line of thought was expressed, almost in so many words, in the papal decree on mixed marriages issued on March 18, 1966. But the Pope left individual decisions to local bishops. Where the bishops, in given cases, did not feel sufficient justification to waive the pledge, they were invited to refer the matter to the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Reportedly, this Vatican Curial organ has accepted the recommendations of the bishops.

What the overall practice of the bishops has been since the decree is not known. The bishops of Germany have issued forms to their pastors which indicate reluctance to dispense from the customary prenuptial pledge or even to refer the matter to the Holy See. The English bishops, rightly or wrongly, are believed to be unsympathetic to any relaxation of current discipline. The bishops of the United States are not believed to have any strong ideas one way or the other and are reportedly ready to comply with a general decision which may be reached in Rome.

It is speculated in Rome that the question of mixed marriages has been since commonly in the daily experience of nearly every bishop in the world, may be included in the agenda of the Synod of Bishops which meets for its first session next September.

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## Vatican Council

(Continued from Page 1)

many are aware that assembling all these items was able to start off and proceed at a brisk pace, at least in terms of its material organization, thanks to this intensive work by machines and individuals, mostly anonymous and often performed under all but favorable conditions of number, time and space.

A year has lapsed, and now that those heavily charged days have become a memory, it is fitting to recognize how much the Council owes to its organizational services, especially the data processing department and its Xerox machines. I cannot even imagine what would have happened if they had not existed or if they had stopped working even for a few days.

The use of Xerox machines in the Second Vatican Council had not stopped short with the end of this great event, however. Indeed, while during the conciliar proceedings Xerox copying was a practical but provisional measure to cope with the needs of the moment, with the closing of the Council and the preparation of the "Conciliar Archives," Xerox machines have stepped into a task of paramount, unrivalled importance in collecting and preserving the enormous mass of documentation.

## Report Began A Year Ago

This story has been a year in the making.

James C. O'Neill, Rome correspondent for the National Catholic News Service wrote an article a year ago February about the massive task of compiling the record of the Vatican Council. In the second-last paragraph of a four page report, he said Vatican officials were using two Xerox machines to speed their task.

The man in charge of the project, O'Neill said, was Monsignor Emilio Governatori, official-keeper of the Council's archives.

We asked Gerard A. Mulligan of the Xerox News Bureau, Rochester if he could get some pictures of the Vatican's Xerox machines for us. He passed the request on to Xerox offices in Italy and this week received this article from Monsignor Governatori and the picture above.

## Golden Rose

Vatican City — (RNS) — Golden Rose before send of Our Lady of Apareci: patron saint. The rose is topped off on Laetare Sunda and is given in token of a loyalty to cities, countries sanctuaries. Last year it is the Our Lady of Guadalupe

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