

The Missioners' Massive Tasks in Latin America

Mistakes, Price Of Progress

London — (RNS) — Theological mistakes in the form of "partisan statements and ill-balanced remarks" are sometimes inevitable in an age like the present that calls for original theological thought in terms of new insights, according to the Very Rev. Ian Hislop, Provincial of the English Dominicans.

He made this statement in the latest issue of the Dominican journal, *New Blackfriars*, in what some described as tantamount to the defense of Father Herbert McCabe, editor of the journal until his recent removal for writing an editorial in which he said the Church was "quite plainly corrupt."

FATHER HISLOP said Father McCabe's aim in writing the editorial was to show Catholics they did not need to follow Charles Davis out of the Church. "What he tried to show," he said, "was that the Church, although 'holy with the holiness of Christ, is, as a visible institution, in need of purification.'"

Mr. Davis, a noted theologian, renounced his priesthood and the Church last December in protest against much of its teaching. He later married.

Father Hislop also wrote that when such theological mistakes are made they must be reformulated. "We are not attempting to win an argument, only to state more clearly and more relevantly the Gospel in our day," he said. "The bewilderment that all this caused could only be met by patient tolerance and deep charity, he added."

No one, according to Father Hislop, denies the rights of personal judgment and critical analysis. But there remained a "tension" between the view "that an editor is appointed on the understanding that he has freedom to express critical views, and that which maintains his role is a representative one."

Dialog Next With World

Cincinnati — (NC) — Ecumenism should go beyond dialogue and cooperation between Christian churches to include "dialogue with the world," Augustinian Father Gregory Baum told Methodist leaders here.

Father Baum, who is associated with the Center of Ecumenical Studies at St. Michael's College, Toronto, Ont., was the keynote speaker at the opening of the Methodist Church's two-day conference on "Educating for Ecumenism." Some 300 delegates attended the conference in the Netherland-Hilton Hotel here.

"It is through dialogue with the world," he declared, "that the Church is often redeemed from her preoccupations with insignificant details and purely institutional questions."

Charging that "when Christians are among themselves, they may be tempted to deal exclusively with problems of the past," Father Baum said "it is here that the involvement of the churches in the larger issues of the human community acts as a factor of redemption. The problems of the modern world force the churches to face the present."

Bishops Warn Against Force

Lagos — (NC) — Nigeria's Catholic bishops have appealed to the military rulers of this country to avoid the use of force in solving internal problems.

In a statement the bishops maintained that Nigeria's problems can be solved "by patient negotiation, reasonable discussion and suitable economic measures."

The appeal followed talks among Nigerian leaders in the city of Benin that were intended to prevent the threatened secession of the oil-rich region of Eastern Nigeria.

Nigeria, Africa's largest nation with a population of 56 million is comprised of four regions, Northern, Eastern, Western, and Midwestern. The Northern region is the largest with a population of 29.8 million mostly Moslem Hausa and Fulani tribesmen. The Eastern region has a population of 12.4 million, including many Christians.

Workers Drift From Church

Stockholm — (NC) — A French Dominican priest, trained as a sociologist and working on the waterfront for a Norwegian paper company, described his Lutheran co-workers as "estranged" from their church in an article in Sweden's *Katolsk Kyrkotidning*.

Commenting that the longshoremen who worked with him found little relevant to their lives in the activities of the country's Lutheran church, Father Bernard Delphanque, O.P., added that the men felt strongly the loss of the church but did not know what to do about it.

By SALLY THRAN

Viacha, Bolivia — (NC) — The parish boundaries here extend for miles across the 13,000-foot-high Bolivian altiplano. Parishes include families who can be reached only by foot and muleback. Rural crises such as drought, hail and rocky soil are dominant problems.

In Lima, Peru, another parish serves about the same number of people as the Viacha church — 18,000 people. But these persons are crowded into 1.5 square miles. Here, urban problems are well-known: many residents are on strike; the crowded area lacks sewerage and electricity.

The people of these two distant and unrelated parishes have some common identities. They include hunger, disease, inadequate employment, isolation and exploitation.

There is also some hope. In both places, the Church has the Herculean task of breaking through rough everyday hardships with the message of Christ.

And in both places, that mission is being attempted by North American priests.

A few hours with Father Andrew B. Schierhoff of the St. Louis archdiocese, pastor in Viacha, and with Father William Francis of the Boston Society of St. James the Apostle,

pastor in a Lima slum, point up problems and work faced daily by the hundreds of North American workers in Latin America.

Father Francis, who in addition to being a member of Cardinal Cushing's pioneering Society of St. James is also a nephew of the cardinal, is located in the "elite" section of the Pompa de Comas, a huge slum on the outskirts of Lima. His parish extends up a mountain-side, and almost every day, Father Francis can watch newcomers erect homes. Most often, the houses are made of straw and cardboard.

"I've been here six years and they are still moving in," he said. Many of the newcomers are from rural Peru, but some also move from central Lima.

The activity center at St. James the Apostle's parish is geared to both children and adults. A public school is almost in the backyard of Father Francis' rectory, close enough so that another school is not needed, and also close enough for him to note that attendance is poor.

"It's not just the children," he said. "Many times some of the teachers don't come. The facilities are terribly inadequate. It's a tough place in which to learn or to teach."

Unemployment in the parish is normally at 10% to 20%. This spring, however, it shot up to

80% because of a construction strike throughout Peru. Most men in the area are bricklayers and, Father Francis was proud of the fact that "many of them are using their time to work on their own homes."

Although straw is used for construction by most new families who have yet to find a job, those who do become employed are quick to build homes of adobe, put on roofs and sometimes place glass in their windows. "It depends on what they can afford," Father Francis said.

The "padre's house" is well-known on the alto and Father Francis is greeted warmly by the people as he trudges up the bumpy paths near their homes. Down below, Pompa de Comas is showing signs of a beginning integration with Lima itself. Bus transportation is available; there is some electricity; several roads are paved.

Children still trudge steep grades to get water from tanks in the alto area, but transportation is only beginning; electricity and sewerage are as yet unknown. "We must be conscious of these needs," Father Francis said, "and work with them."

Father Francis' parish is less than a mile from the parish of Canadian Oblate Father Andrew Schierhoff. Father Francis has gained recognition for a technical

school he introduced four years ago in Pompa de Comas. The school now operates under a contract with the Peruvian government, which pays for salaries of teachers and maintenance of equipment.

Even some critics of heavy financial investment by the Church in material services praise Father Godin's project as meeting a crucial need in Lima, a need that is witnessed throughout Latin America. Every country cries for skilled technicians and in almost every country, more students enter law and business fields than engineering or technology.

The technical institute was initially geared to high school students who attended it rather than high school and then found jobs related to mechanics, lathe and milling machines, electrically and wood working.

"The Church must not only preach the Gospel," Father Godin believes. "She must show the Gospel by her actions."

The social concerns of the priests in Pompa de Comas are felt by the priests on the altiplano of Bolivia, just as both areas demonstrate the need for a re-visited sacramental programs.

Father Schierhoff explained that he and the other St. Louis

priests in Viacha decided to close the parish school because "there was such a tremendous need for education of adults. And so much of our work must be done in the campos (farm lands) as well as in home visits in town."

The Viacha parish must be relevant to many different groups of people. The town of 7,000 is a railroad center and also a training site for a large segment of the Bolivian army. The priests and Sisters are forming lay catechists from each group. For the thousands of Indians on the campos, some 80 catechists have already been trained. These Indian men are sent by the parish to a nearby Maryknoll catechetics school and return regularly to Viacha for refresher courses. But most of their time is spent in their own community where in their native Aymara dialect, they convey salvation history and Christ's way of life to their neighbors.

Father Schierhoff is especially concerned that he and other North American workers overcome "the two big barriers we have: language and culture." At the same time, he emphasized the need to "get rid of the paternalism that still exists."

One of the most noticeable changes made is the embrace that priest and people exchange after celebration of Mass. Father Schierhoff explained that the people used to kneel at the priest's feet. "We wanted to stop that," he said. "The em-

brace is natural to them, so it became our normal greeting." Every priest in Latin America, foreign or native, faces the task of phasing out the superstitious forms of belief that have grown up over the years. Combined with the material misery of the people, their work can often bring more frustrations than success.

No one could blame the North American priest too much, perhaps, if he did not take time out from his busy day-to-day activities to evaluate and listen to recent criticisms of his "missionary" efforts.

Yet, the priests themselves indicate that they have questioned their role and sought new answers long before criticisms were made public. Father Schierhoff, for example, has been in Bolivia 11 years. Last year, he called a special meeting of all St. Louis archdiocese priests in Bolivia and Chile to examine and criticize their work.

"We're not specialists," he said. "We're the people working in the grass roots. It would be good if we could take time to have sabbaticals and become specialists. But we can't, and meetings like this will be the answer, at least for a while."

"We have to keep asking questions," Father Schierhoff said. "We shouldn't be too hard on ourselves—we've done some good things. But we have to keep asking questions."

Eastern Rite Commissions

Beirut — (RNS) — Eastern Rite Catholic bishops, following a series of meetings, formed a number of commissions for the implementation of reforms and renewals decreed by Second Vatican Council directives.

The meetings were held over a period of time at the residence here of Paul Peter Cardinal Mouchi, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, and All the East.



U Thant Confers with Pope

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul receives United Nations Secretary General U Thant at the Vatican for a 45-minute talk on world peace. U Thant, who was en route to Asia, met the Pope twice before — at the Vatican and again during the pontiff's 1965 peace mission to the United Nations.

Disciples, Catholics Agree to Dialogue

Indianapolis — (RNS) — Roman Catholic and Disciples of Christ representatives agreed at an informal meeting here to hold a joint major conference on Christian unity and on the theology of the two religious groups.

An announcement said the conference, to be held probably in the Fall at a place to be designated later, would "explore the nature of the ecumenical movement in relation to the fullness of the unity which Christ desires."

Details of the conference, to include clergy, theologians and laity, will be worked out by Msgr. William W. Baum, executive director of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; and Dr. George G. Beasley Jr., president of the Disciples' Council on Christian Unity, who headed their respective delegations at the talks here.

During the two-day sessions, the Disciples' representatives gave a resume of their denomination's history and tradition, and the Catholics explained

Church reforms and renewal since Vatican II.

An American denomination founded in the 19th Century, the Disciples communion has been promoting Christian unity and fellowship since it was started.

Frescoes Found Under Plaster

Novara, Italy — (RNS) — A group of frescoes dating from the 11th century have been discovered in the baptistry of an early Christian church here.

The paintings, found under many layers of plaster and whitewash, depict scenes from the Bible and are described as being in "very good condition."

The church, which can now be seen in its original octagonal form, is considered an excellent example of early Christian architecture and was probably built in honor of St. Gaudenlius, a 5th century bishop who is now the patron of Novara.

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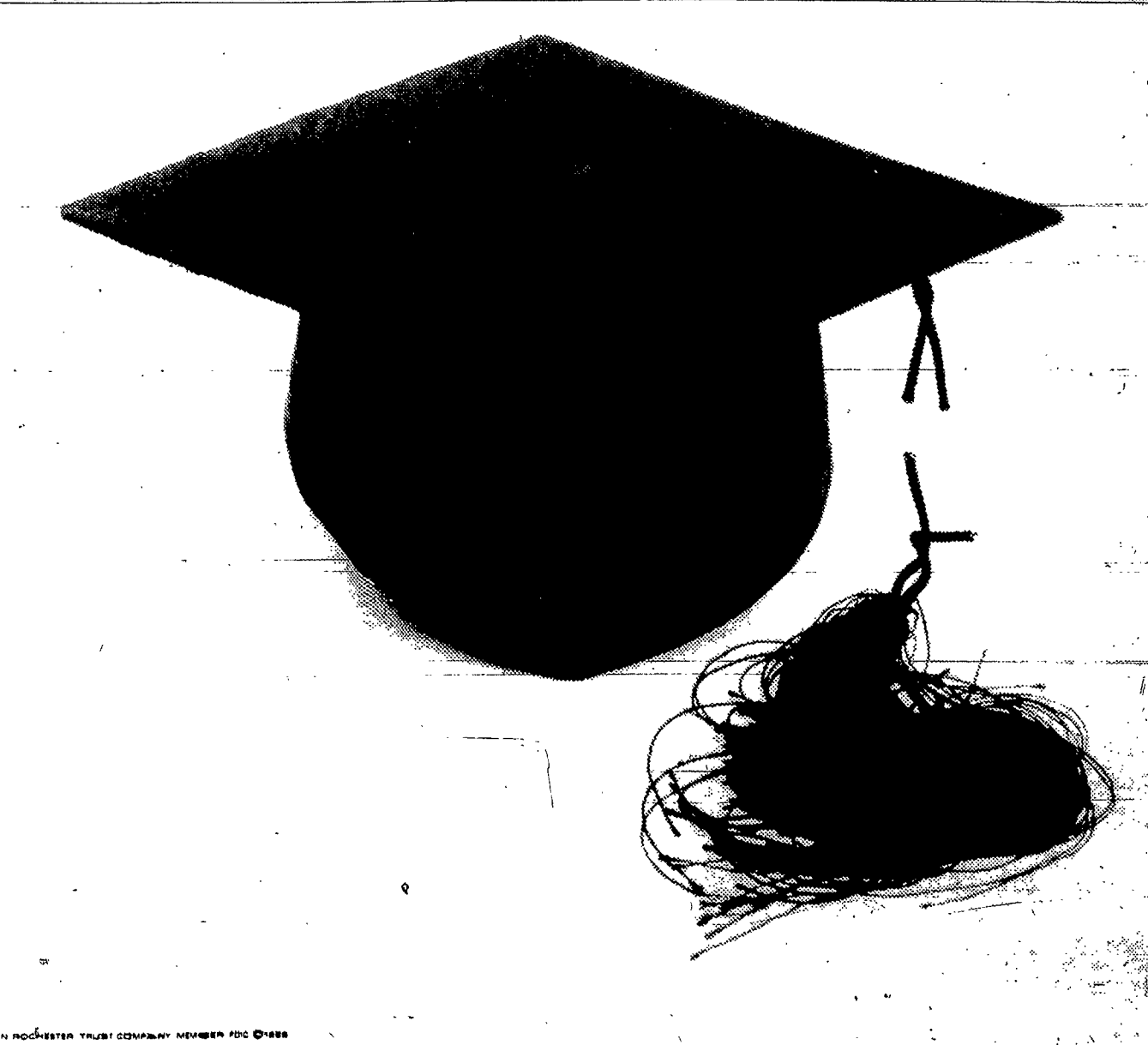
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New Ta

By MONSIGNOR WILLIAM SHANNON Nazareth College

"The world awoke one day and found itself Arian," wrote St. Jerome, in the fourth century, about the sudden emergence of Arianism as a popular and fashionable religion in day.

In no less dramatic terms, twentieth-century Roman Catholicism might describe the sudden explosion of the ecumenical movement within his Church. "The Church awoke one day and found itself ecumenical," that day was November 21, 1962, the date of the promulgation of the decree on Ecumenism of the Vatican Council II.

Once drawn, however, parallel between Jerome's words and the hypothetical statement of a contemporary Roman Catholic breaks down very quickly. For Jerome had penned his words with fervor and anxiety, seeing surely he must have, the widespread acceptance of Arianism as a repudiation of the God of Today's Roman Catholic, on the contrary, if he is alive to signs of the time, will see involvement of his Church in the ecumenical movement as a powerful sign of a renewed commitment to the God about which he can only speak with joy and with hope for the future.

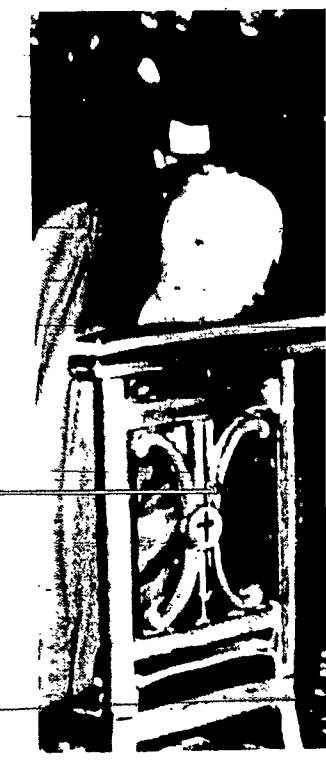
Vatican II and the Unit Movement

How ever the individual Roman Catholic views the trace of his Church into ecumenical picture — whether with joy or with apprehension — he must face the fact, the decree on Ecumenism, officially and irrevocably commits his Church and himself to its members to involvement in the ecumenical movement. And equally he must face the fact that this is an entirely new position for the Roman Catholic Church — so new, indeed that for some it may, initially at least, an uncomfortable position.

It is true that in the there have been official Church documents that spoke about ecumenical movement. P. XI's encyclical *Mortalium Animos* (1928) and the *Instrucio* of the Holy Office (1949), first repudiating the ecumenical movement as it then existed, second giving guarded approval to participation in it. But it must be said that the document on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council is the Roman Catholic document is not only about the ecumenical movement but is itself ecumenical in spirit. And this is not true for two years old.

Theology in Ecumenical Perspective

The very suddenness with which the ecumenical movement has come upon us



Canterbury

Paris — (RNS) — In Christian unity movement Arthur Michael Ramon in prayer in the faith in Paris. Kneeling unity service is Rome. Veullot of Paris, Dr. of the "great danger happy divisions," and forth be of one part

Statewide To Auriesv

Rochester Branch America and National participating in a statewide thousand persons to the tyrs' Shrine at Auriesville Sunday, May 21.

Groups from all parts of state are to arrive at the Shrine at noon.