



Dialogue With Baptists

Dewitt, Mich. — (RNS) — American Baptist and Roman Catholic clergy and laymen took part in two days of ecumenical talks in Dewitt, Mich., and found a much wider degree of agreement in certain theological areas than anticipated. Participants included from left: Dr. James R. Oliver of Lafayette, La. (Catholic); Father Robert F. Trisco, Washington, D.C.; Msgr. John S. Cummins, Oakland, Calif.; Dr. Robert G. Middleton, Chicago (Baptist); Father Bruce W. Vawter, C.M., St. Louis; Dr. Robert T. Handy, New York (Baptist); Bishop-designate M. Joseph Green of Reno, Nev.; Father John A. Hardon, S.J., North Aurora, Ill.; Emmet Blaes, Wichita, Kan., (Catholic); Dr. Lloyd M. Short, St. Paul, Minn. (Baptist); Father John F. Hotchkin, Washington; Dr. L. Doward McBain, Phoenix, Ariz. (Baptist); and Dr. Robert G. Torbet, Valley Forge, Pa. (Baptist).

Chauffeur to a Cardinal

Negro Baptist Cleric

St. Louis — (RNS) — There was a Baptist minister at the wheel whenever the late Cardinal Joseph Ritter traveled in his black sedan.

Unknown to many was the fact that the cardinal's chauffeur for the past six years was Rev. Nathaniel Robinson recalled his association with the spiritual leader of the archdiocese's 450,000 Roman Catholics.

In an interview with the St. Louis Review, following Cardinal Ritter's death June 10, the

He said that if Cardinal Ritter had lived and retired he would have wanted to pattern his retirement after that of Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman, pastor-emeritus of Temple Israel here and a long-time friend.

Mr. Robinson said he had enjoyed asking the cardinal for his interpretations of various passages of Scripture and the cardinal sometimes asked for his opinions.

He remembered the cardinal's favorite hobbies as gardening and cooking. "He could cook out of a cookbook with no trouble at all," Mr. Robinson said. The garden was his source of relaxation, the chauffeur said, and the cardinal was particularly proud of his rose garden and his ability to grow nearly all the vegetables needed at his home.

"I remember him as polite and good humored," Mr. Robinson said. "If he didn't feel good Friday (the last day he saw the cardinal alive) he didn't show it."

"He seemed as jolly as ever. And when I let him out of the car, he said he wouldn't be needing me over the weekend and then he said what he always said: 'Thank you, Nathan.' He never failed to say that."

Mr. Robinson said the cardinal liked to drive.

"After he was made a cardinal he wasn't supposed to drive, but he did. He'd usually drive himself on Saturdays when he'd come down to the chancery to open his mail. He liked driving and he didn't like slow driving."

The clergyman-chauffeur said the cardinal always tried "to give me Saturday and Sunday off so that I could be with my family, even though I told him that was my job, to drive him no matter what day it was."

While driving, the cardinal liked to talk, Mr. Robinson recalled. During the last six years, Cardinal Ritter probably spent more time alone with his driver than almost anyone else and one of the subjects they discussed was religion.



The Rev. Nathaniel Robinson

Chapel Honors Congo Martyrs

Gentines, Belgium — (RNS) — An ecumenical precedent was set here during the solemn inauguration of a memorial chapel erected in memory of the Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries martyred in the Congo in recent years.

Protestant missionaries from Sweden, Great Britain and the United States were special guests at an open-air Mass celebrated by Leo Joseph Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines, Brussels, to mark the dedication of the Kongo Missionary Memorial Chapel.

Initially it had been planned to erect a memorial chapel to the 20 Belgian priests of the Holy Ghost Fathers killed at Kongo on Jan. 1, 1962, as well as 159 other Catholics, Negro and white, who were slain.

However, when 30 other missionary martyrs fell in 1964—among them the well-known Paul Carlson — it was decided to include Protestant names as well.

Hundreds of relatives of the Catholic martyrs were present at the ceremony, together with Protestant missionary guests who were later greeted by King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola.

Belgian Protestantism was represented by Pastor E. J.

Pichal, president of the Synod of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Belgium, and Judge P. Mahillon, chairman of the board of the Protestant Theological Seminary here.

After Cardinal Suenens had delivered a brief talk in which he stressed the ecumenical significance of the memorial, a Congolese priest called the roll of ten of his compatriots who were among the slain martyrs.

He was followed by Pastor J. Harts, a Belgian minister representing the Joint Missions Bureau for Central Affairs, who called the names of the Protestant martyrs, who had come from Australia, Canada, Britain, New Zealand and the U.S. It was in the absence of relatives of these dead that the King and Queen had expressed their wish to meet the Protestant missionaries gathered here.

In front of the chapel was an impressively sober aluminum sculpture showing a missionary priest on his knees, the arms hanging to the ground and the hands open in total surrender.

Wood for the pews and red granite for the altar came from the Congo. Major credit for promoting the fund-drive for the memorial was given to Father Paul Mailleux of Gentines.

Urban League Head

Urges Crusade Against Racism

Geneva — (RNS) — A major civil rights leader in the U.S. has appealed to the World Council of Churches to launch a "preaching crusade" against racism as a "sin in the sight of God."

Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, made his plea in meeting with Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the WCC, and with other American staff members.

Earlier, the Negro spokesman had called on Pope Paul IV at the Vatican and had solicited his leadership in the fight against discrimination.

Young said he had urged both the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC to issue a pronouncement, "jointly if possible," making it clear to all

Christians that "racism is a sin."

After their talks, Young and Dr. Blake held a joint news conference. Dr. Blake, in reply to Young's plea, stressed that "anything we can do on the world level to make a coordinated response with the Roman Catholic Church we will do."

But, he said, merely adopting resolutions or pronouncements is not enough. Coupled with any statement must be an effort to stimulate American churches to get at the prejudices of individual church members.

Young said that if the church does not accept this challenge its credibility with young people will be shattered. Young people are always aware that many adults don't practice what they preach. That's why youth are increasingly contemptuous of all authority.

Catholic, Episcopal Parishes Share Center

Atlanta — (RNS) — Members of St. Dunstan's Episcopal church soon will begin sharing the parish center of the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit.

The two congregations will share the same church building while carrying out separate services and programs, Father John McDonough, pastor, announced.

He and the Rev. Donald Harrison, rector of St. Dunstan's, hope that the arrangement will be more than temporary.

Father McDonough said he is optimistic about the arrangement and has hopes for a joint community ministry as well as a combined program for the teenagers of both churches.

The Episcopal parish, formed two years ago by six families, has grown to about 60 families or 250 members. The group which had been meeting at an elementary school outgrew the facilities.

Until recently, Catholic parishioners had also met at schools. "We have been in and out of private and public schools ever since our congregation was formed," said Father McDonough. "It's not the most ideal situation. I would have been more than delighted if someone had offered to share their facilities with us temporarily."

The arrangement, approved by Episcopal Bishop Randolph Clairborne and Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan, is on a temporary basis. "We will simply share their facilities and stagger our services and activities so that both denominations will have access to the sanctuary, classrooms and recreational facilities," Mr. Harrison said.

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