

Father Dowd with statues, handbags made at his mission school on Taiwan. He is in Rochester for summer. Photo shows him against Pagoda background of Cenacle Convent garden.

Prelates Agree Greater Unity Europe's Need

Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands — (NC) — "We discovered that we all have the same problems, so together we must find the solutions."

So said a German prelate speaking for 74 cardinals, archbishops and bishops from 19 countries at the windup of the first all-European meeting of the Church's top-level country leaders. It was announced that the group will convene again, at two-year intervals.

One of the shared problems, it was apparent at the conference, is the existence of differing views by the Vatican and some European cardinals and bishops on the nature of authority in the Church.

The Vatican's view was brought here by Bishop Carlo Colombo, president The Theological Faculty of Milan. He declared that all authority in the Church comes from Christ, therefore it is the Pope who in union with the bishops, holds all authority in the Church and the bishops hold all authority in their dioceses.

Bishop Colombo identified the hierarchy completely with the Church. For him the Pope and the bishops are autocratic governors. He defended his opinion with theological arguments and said that the new councils of priests and pastoral councils are not of divine origin. It was apparent that most

members of his audience regarded this view as outdated and not in accord with the results of the Second Vatican Council. For example, a German theologian, Prof. L. M. Weber, put forward quite another conclusion. He told the conference that councils of priests are made necessary by the principle of solidarity in the Church.

Using theological arguments to defend this thesis, Prof. Weber said that all religious offices are forms of participating in the office of Christ, and for that reason they have a connection with the office of the pope.

At the closing press conference it was said that the group had officially reached the conclusion that the old diocesan frameworks must be replaced by new forms, by the councils of priests and pastoral councils.

Bishops today need the full fraternal support of priests and laity, it was asserted. If they do not have it, it is impossible for them to give their own leadership the right dimensions at this time.

It was Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Reuss of Mainz, Germany, who told the press of the "discovery" of shared problems by the European prelates. He also said "politically Europe is too small now for separate and independent states. Now we know it is also too small for totally independent provinces of the Church."

Blue Army to Report 1929 Vision of Lucy

Plainfield, N.J. — (RNS) — An undisclosed "vision" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reportedly experienced in 1929 by the sole surviving member of the three children who witnessed the apparitions at Fatima, will be described here on Aug. 7, according to Msgr. Harold V. Coagan.

Founder and international director of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Msgr. Coagan said that details of the vision will be presented at a special public session during a national seminar of the Blue Army in St. Mary's school.

He said the vision is unknown to American theologians and scholars, and has been called "one of the most important of all the revelations of Fatima" by Father Messias D. Coelho, Portuguese authority on Fatima.

Father Coelho, who was originally scheduled to attend the seminar, will tell of the vision in a tape-recorded description, Msgr. Coagan said. He will be in Fatima as the Blue Army representative at the worldwide Marian Congress, Aug. 8-13, and cannot be present at the seminar here.

"It will reveal," he said, "for the first time in the United States, details of a vision to Lucia (now Sister Maria Delores) at Tuy, Spain, in 1929, which later was confided in a private letter to the Pope in Rome."

Talks Planned With Disciples

Kansas City — (RNS) — Bilateral conversations on theology and the ecumenical movement between representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) will be conducted here Sept. 25-27.

Sessions, involving 15 to 20 leaders of the two communions, will be held at the Catholic Ecumenical Library and Research Center. The conversations were approved last March by the Disciples' Council on Christian Unity and by the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Dr. George G. Beazley Jr., president of the Disciples' Council, said the talks would be "looking toward better understanding, not union."

Papers for discussion will be presented by Father Robert Hunt, associate professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

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Shop Early For Christmas

A Rochester Jesuit missionary, ordained 23 years ago in a prisoner of war camp in China, and who studied at a seminary where the famed Jesuit priest-scientist Teilhard de Chardin lived, has begun a new project in his present mission on Taiwan.

He is visiting family and friends in Rochester this summer and showing them the handcrafted items he's taught young lads to make to aid them finance their education.

THE ITEMS include ladies handbags, religious and decorative wood carvings.

Father Louis J. Dowd, 56, veteran missionary in the Far East, described his latest project to the Courier this week.

Youngsters pour into congested city areas from farms and villages, he said, and soon fall prey to hardly scrupulous entrepreneurs who exploit them and their skills.

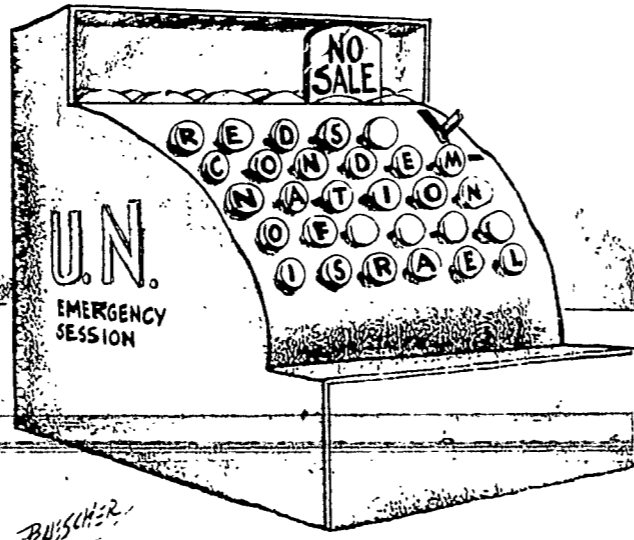
Father Dowd has built what can best be described as a young folk's hotel where he provides them a bit of reasonable supervision, good food, instruction in English which is a needed key to higher education and a possible future in the United States.

He also gives them strong spiritual encouragement to transform their daily world of work into a more humane way of life.

He was expelled from his China mission post by Communists in 1952. Most of his near quarter of a century in the priesthood has been spent in educational work with young people.

Father Dowd, a graduate of Aquinas Institute, was baptized by the late Monsignor Thomas F. Connors at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester.

MIDEAST REGISTER



Martyrs Canonization No Deterrent to Unity

London — (RNS) — Suggestions that the long-championed cause for the canonization of 40 English and Welsh Roman Catholic martyrs were detrimental to the cause of Christian unity were refuted here by Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Casey of Westminster.

He told a congregation of about 1,500 people: "It might just as well be argued that peace with our German brothers calls for the removal of the Cenotaph at Whitehall and all other memorials to those who died in the wars."

"Such a policy would clearly be unacceptable to the British people. No injustice is done to others when we honor those who died for a cause in which they believed."

The Mass was celebrated to mark this year's Martyrs' Sunday, an annual event to press the cause of a selected 40 of the many English and Welsh Catholics who perished in prison, at the stake on the gallows or by the executioner's axe during the Reformation.

Bishop Casey said it would be "a gracious gesture" on the part of Pope Paul if the fourth centenary of the founding of the English Seminary at Douai, France, next year were to be "crowned by the canonization of the martyrs."

One of the 40 is the Blessed Edmund Campion, who was found in hiding at Lyford Grange, near Wantage, west of London, and brought to the

capital for execution at Tyburn Gallows.

To mark this year's commemoration of the Martyrs, a tiny portion of bone from Blessed Edmund's body was carried by Knights of St. Columba on a 21-day journey from Lyford Grange to Tyburn. Each evening the relic was placed in one of the 21 churches along the route.

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