Vatican Pace in Renewal-Slow But Sure

By GARY MacEOIN

"How different is Rome now?" It is a question I have been asked a score of times since my return home after nearly four months during which that city was my operational base. The comparison implied in the question is between Rome as had known it during the Council and Rome in a business-as-usual atmosphere.

"Very different," is my spontaneous reaction. Even as I express it, however, I recognize not only its inadequacy, but the need to clarify the implication in the question before formulating any answer.

If "business as usual" is understood to mean that problems are formulated and decisions made at the center of the Church in the way that was normal before the Council, then Rome does not have business as usual, and I see no likelihood that it ever will.

I do not mean that many in high office do not still hanker after the good old days before Pius XII sentenced the longestablished authoritarian system to death. He did it, as is seldom remembered by proclaiming that the Church cannot be healthy without a well-informed public opinion. That was the real starting point of the process for which Pope John and the Council usually get exclusive credit.

Ancient Scripts

Puzzle Scholar

Jerusalem — (RNS)—Writ-cription. So far, the excavations

ings in two unknown scripts have uncovered more mysteries which may or may not be relational than certainties.

discoveries made by Dutch It is true, however, that three

archaeologist excavating the inscribed tablets, so far underuins of an ancient city which indigenous writing so far found in the Holy Land. Their script,

(Succoth is mentioned first hitherto unknown, has some in Gen. 33, 17 as a seminomadic characters similar to Phoenician

residence of Jacob — also in inscriptions form Bylos and

Exo. 12, 37; I Kings 7, 46, Psa others which seem related to

60, 6 and repeatedly in the much later Semitic languages

books of Joshua and Judges.) out of which Arabic developed.

Professor H. J. Franken of The tablets were found in a

Leiden (Holland) University, large, ancient sanctuary of the

has been excavating the site in late bronze period which was

termittently since 1960 — hav destroyed twice, once by earthing spent a total of about 15 quake and once by arson at

carefully assembled, the site that the sanctuary may have

(the modern Tell Deir Alla) been a religious center for semi-

was occupied long before the nomadic tribes of the region Israelite conquest of the Holy and he does not rule out the Land and seems to have been possibility that this sanctuary

the home of a non-israelite (which he says may have been

tribe (possibly Philistine or Gilgal rather than Succoth)

found at the site are described. If the inhabitants of the site,

by some reporters as "the most after the destruction of the

important Biblical discovery sanctuary were Israelites, they

since the Dead Sea Scrolls," but did not follow Israelite tradition

scholars have adopted a "walt on such points as the prohibi-

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some time after 1190 B.C.

Professor Franken believes

The people reluctant to bury the corpse are more in evidence today than they were during the Council. While it was in session, Rome was dominated by the great leaders of world Catholicism from Northern Europe, the two Americas, Africa and Asia. Their departure has tempted smaller men to re-assume big roles.

An official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith can again today administratively silence a theologian by pressuring his superiors, as he did when his Congregation was called the Holy Office. An official of the Congregation for Religious can depose the superior of a convent half way round the world and impose another without regard for the due process which is one of the signs of the

One well-placed official can represent as official a partisan interpretation of a papal decision simply because he has the inside track with the Osservatore Romano. Another, by blue-pencilling the galleys of Civilta Cattlocia on their pre-publication passage through the Curia, can prevent a rejoinder. Catholic editors in Rome not only exercise self-censorship, Some have had to undertake in writing never mention any of a scheduled list of "sensitive"

As a newsman in his search for the

facts unearths one after another of such abuses of authority, gradually being forced to see how wide is still the gap between profession and implementation in the conciliar Church, I think he should be forgiven if he sometimes shricks his

When I am asked, as I often am in public and in private, if I am satisfied with the rate of reform, my only honest answer is that I am not. When I am asked if I justify the failure to punish those guilty of denying to fellow-Christians the rights to which as members of the Church they are entitled, I can only reply that I cannot and do not justify or condone.

Having said, so much, I must immediately add a perspective. As compared with the preconciliar situation, the incidence of abuse is far less frequent, the possibility of redress far greater.

Even more important, I believe we are in a process of continuing change, a frustratingly slow but no less definite change for the better. Many may regret, as I do, that Pope Paul's frequently announced reform of the Curia is not prosecuted more vigorously. But I, at least, see evidence that it has not bogged down.

Here I point not only to new curial organs with new ways, the Secretariat for Unity, the Secretariat for Non-Believers,

the Secretariat for the Laity, the Commission for World Development. They have so far succeeded in retaining a significant degree of independence from the older curial units. At least some of them are seeking independent sources of financing, without which they would quickly be trapped. Their modern administrative machinery stands in sharp contrast to the archaic processes of the others. They are open to the press, anxious to dialogue with the public. I believe that the impact will be contagious, that the older unitsunable to lick them-will have to join

I believe that this process has in fact already begun in two ways. One is by Pope Paul's insertion of new men with new attitudes in key positions, men of personal stature and maturity to keep them from being absorbed. The other is by the development of internal chinks in the previously solid armor of the Curia.

Since the change of name and concurrent downgrading of the Holy Office, a struggle for power has begun between it and the Secretariat of State. Apart from the rights or wrongs, the fact is signifi-Authoritarian structures require total internal cohesion. Formation of conflicting poles of power presages dissolution. It is a sign I welcome in the present

New Cathedral

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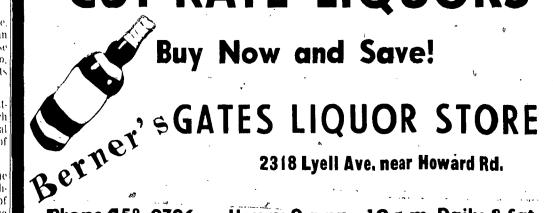




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	Mali to:	: Catholic	: Courier J	oumal,	

Catholic and Orthodox tians are brothers at the mit but are still divided lower rungs of the ecclesi

Pope Paul told a thro people at the summer V at Castel Gandolfo that h Patriarch Athenagoras like brothers" at this me in Istanbul,

Their two days togeth cluded prayers for the ul unity of the churches they

The prayers for unity, o in the Roman Catholic ral of the Holy Spirit and Greek Orthodox Cathedra George, climaxed a t papal visit that include ferences with many pe and religious leaders, ride on the Bosporus, a the Topkapi museum brief, silent prayer i museum of Hagia Sophia, was formerly a mosque a fore that, one of the g churches of the ancient

tian world.

On the second day of h the Pope presided at a M a largely Italian congregat the small Church of thony in Istanbul, before to Ephesus where he visi ancient Shrine to the Mary, venerated by both tians and Moslems.

(According to tradition esus was the place where perhaps in the compa Mary Magdaleine and St the Evangelist, spent he years on earth. In pre tian times, the city was t of a shrine of the pagan goddess Artemis (the R Diana) which was ren throughout the ancient



Eph VI spent the last few l his historic visit to p

sus and praying before and other Christian shri The pontiff came to l by car from Izmir, 60 north of the old village ing a 55-minute flight f tanbul Airport, His bri in Ephesus was made t burning sun and tempe

well up in the 100s.

nantly Moslem Turkey i

ing the ancient ruins of

He exchanged farewe menical Patriarch Athe and President Cevdet S ferred a day before. W spiritual leader of East thodoxy, the Pope pra gether in Orthodox and Catholic churches in and discussed problems tian unity.

With President Sun Pope's major concern wa peace—particularly in t dle East—and the safeg of holy places in Old Jei

In a farewell message thodox and other nonchurch leaders, Pope peated his appeals for (unity and said he he "further the dialogue in charity."

Before leaving Istai also gave the Turkish ment a \$40,000 check for of victims of the country quakes - which occurre days before the Pope Another check - for \$1 was given by the Pope City of Istanbul for ne

As the papal m reached Ephesus, it was by crowds and a bann ing, "Benvenuto" and Geldinez," the Italian at ish for "Welcome."

Rope Paul first went ruins of the Church of gin Mary in Ephesus and

0

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Dr. Ramsey will laddress ai p m service cosponsored by e Church Federation, the

the Church Federation of Great

or Chicago, and leaders of

Christian denominations in the

s going in a sharply pointed

Unity Rite

Canterbury

Archbishop Ramsey will atnd a dinner with local church aders, hosted by Kpiscopal] shop Gerald P Burrill of

ular religious pamphlets, who "The two attributes are best

In its editorial, the journal he wanted, not intelligent editorial in the latest issue of said "The first duty of the priests, but obedient ones. bishop is to preach the Gospel One of the needs most deeply "If clergy and laity are rest felt by the Catholic Church in taken together. . . ess, it is not because they are this country today is the need disobedient," it said "It is be ito hear our bishops speak to us

cause they are waiting impalas prophets and apostles. tiently for their appointed lead "We need to bead what the Second Vatican Council means for us in our lecal situation how we should think of ourselves and become servants of the Gospel in the present mis-

August Series on Dialogue

The Catholic Hour-TV begins a new four-part series "Christians and The

World" Sunday, August 6, over the NBC-TV network, 1:30-2:00 p.m. Philip

Scharper, left, host of the series, interviews Dr. Eugene Carson Blake,

Secretary General of the World Council of Churches, right, on the nature

of the WCC and its relationship to the Catholic Church in the first of two

programs on the Protestant Catholic dialogue televised in color in Geneva, Switzerland. Conferring with them is Richard J. Walsh, Executive Producer

for the National Council of Catholic Men which produces the Catholic Hour-

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sionary, ecumenical and social To Welcome "In fact, as well as in theory the Church is now ready and able to move forward in all these fields. We are the one Christian communion with whom everyone is speaking and to whom all men of goodwill look for encouragement and

Chicago -(RNS) - When the hope. Archbishop of Canterbury comes! "There was no need to war here in September. Chicago's for the Ecumenical Directory Anglicans, Roman Catholics (Creently published in Rome) Protestants, and Eastern Ortho before explaining to us how we lox will worship together in a a re to be the growing-point for historic service of Christian among separated Chris trans While we were waiting Archbishop Arthur Michael for the practical details of what Ramsey will join prominent we could do in communion with world, for Christian unity, we es Sept, 14 in a city wide gathercould at least have been given

ing at the International Amphi a vision of our potentialities in Among the participants wil "The Holy Father does no oe John Cardinal Cody, Roman! expect the bishoops to act a 'atholic Archbishop of Chicago. Archbishop Iakovos of New Is office boys. The first piece York, Primate of the Greek Or Of equipment a bishop needs is thodox Archdiocese of North not a Rank-Xerox copying ma

and South America, officials of chine, but a good library "There was a bishop not so long ago in England, famed for

