

CELAM Leadership For Bishop McGrath

By GARY MacEOIN

Bishop Mark McGrath makes an indelible impression on first encounter. Tall, dark and handsome, he stands out in any assembly. Panama-born and U.S.-educated, he is absolutely bilingual in Spanish and English, at his polished ease in several other languages.

Made a bishop (as auxiliary to the ailing Archbishop of Panama) at 37 in 1961, he rapidly emerged as a prelate of world dimensions when the Vatican Council met the following year.

A brilliant theologian fervently committed to Pope John's aggiornamento, he made major contributions in committee to the principal Council documents. His diplomatic moderation helped reconcile opposing views and conflicting personalities. His multicultural background made him a bridge between the two Americas and between the Latin and Anglo-Saxon mentalities. Always busy, he never lacked time for whoever asked his help, and that included the press, as I can testify from repeated personal experience.

The recent naming of Bishop McGrath to head up on a fulltime basis the secretariat of the Council of Bishops of Latin America (CELAM) must be seen as an event of incalculable importance for the

Church. I cannot imagine anyone more likely to exert the charismatic and catalytic functions which the signs of the times demand in Latin America.

CELAM has already played a prophetic role in the Church. From its foundation in 1955, it refigured and tried to exercise in a rudimentary way the collegiality which nobody then suspected would soon be proclaimed by an ecumenical council. It faced and survived external and internal challenges.

Externally, it was threatened and for a time largely paralyzed by forces in Rome which opposed the idea of local autonomy. Internally, it was hurt by the inertia of bishops concerned only with their local problems, either unaware of the continent-wide roots of those problems or unpermeated of the value of common action.

The annual encounters of the Latin American bishops in Rome for the four sessions of the Council created a situation in which both internal and external problems could be, and were in fact, solved. The credit for this progress goes to many, both bishops and others, but to none more than to Bishop McGrath. He starts his new work with an intimate knowledge of people and issues, as well as with an impressive record of success in the development of CELAM.

One thing on which there is now broad agreement is on the gravity of the crisis, both of the Church and of the society, and of the intimate relationship between the two. Everywhere the Church is committed to deep reform of its own institutions and those of the society, reform that must be implemented at revolutionary speed.

It is also more widely agreed that the new forms must come from within and must be principally the work of Latin Americans. External help must be subordinate, yet it must be massive if the revolutionary speed is to avoid revolutionary violence.

History and geography agree that the logical major source of external help should be the United States. It is, nevertheless, daily more evident that the Latin Americans believe that the United States is giving and will give aid far short of massive, and that it imposes and wants to continue to impose terms at variance with the principle that its aid should be subordinate.

The conflict, as the exchange early this year between Cardinal Cushing and Msgr. Ivan Illich shows, has spilled over from the politico-economic into the religious area. Msgr. Illich spoke for many when he said that much missionary aid brought with it the image of a foreign Christianity, a

foreign pastoral technique, a foreign political message, that it carried the marks of U. S. capitalism of the 1950's.

As far as mission aid is concerned, nobody suspects improper motives, and the advance in mission methodology and training of candidates is steadily reducing the proportion of naive do-goodism. But there is still an enormous gap in understanding, one that is not automatically bridged by the missionary who learns to speak Spanish or Portuguese, and one that can become unbridgeable at the policy-making level back home.

If there is one man around since President Kennedy died in whom both sides have absolute faith, it is Bishop McGrath. With his naming to Celam, a candle of hope for renewed inter-American understanding has been lighted.

COURIER-JOURNAL
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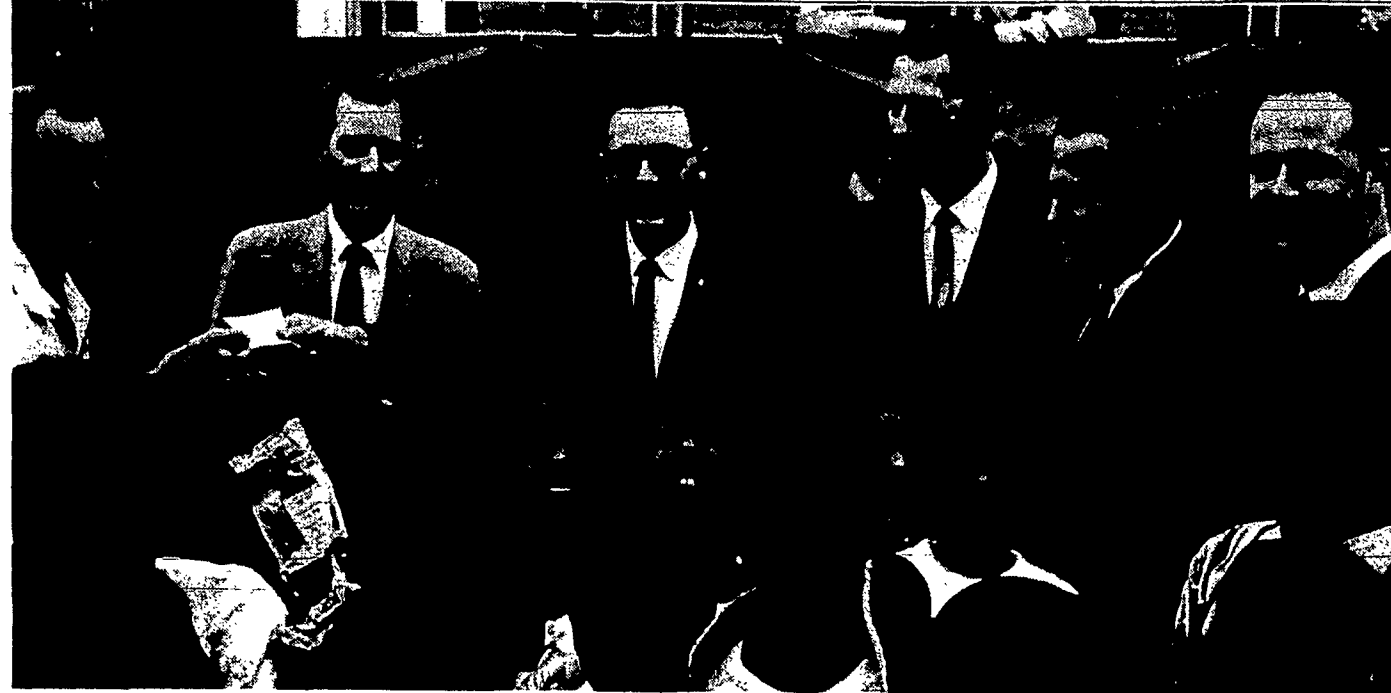
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HAVE FUN, KIDS! Sertoma Club president, Murray Wicker, third from left in back, presents check to CYO Head Counselor Tom Honold, far left, to cover the grocery money for a 3-day campout at Camp Stella Maris this week. Campers, some of whom are shown in the picture, are 50 youngsters

from the St. Martin de Porres CYO day camp. Other Sertoma Club officers in the picture are from left, Sam DeMarco, treasurer; Charles Lewis, director; Lawrence Burrows and Lawrence Oberlies, both vice presidents.

Day Campers Take Over Stella Maris For 3 Days

Fifty children from the St. Martin de Porres CYO Day Camp spent three days of full-time camping this week at Conesus Lake. The youngsters took over Camp Stella Maris, which concluded its regular season recently.

The Sertoma Club of Rochester donated money to cover the food expenses for the three-day campout, which ended Wednesday.

Sertoma (Service to Mankind) is an organization of business, professional and institutional

men united in the aim of service to the community. In Rochester the club has concentrated its activities since 1960 in helping the Rochester Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Financial help is only part of Sertoma's assistance to this group. Person to person interest is evidenced in accompanying children to sports events and picnics.

The 50 children who made the Stella Maris campout were chosen for their exceptional record of participation, attendance and behavior at CYO day camp activities.

Unity Retreat At Notre Dame

Two successful Ecumenical Retreats, one for clergymen and one for the laity, held at Notre Dame Retreat House last May, have lead retreat house directors to schedule two more Ecumenical Retreats.

The first one, the Clergy Retreat-Colloquy is slated for Oct. 9 through 12. The second, for laymen and women, will be conducted from Oct. 13 through 15.

Registration is \$35 for the 12 meals and 3 nights' lodging for the clergy and \$20 for 6 meals and 2 nights' lodging for the laity. All registrations may be sent directly to the office at Notre Dame, Box 74, Canandaigua, 14424.

Fair Listed For Monastery

The 14th Annual Dedication Day Fair and Ceremonies for Mount Saviour Monastery, Elmira will be held on Sunday, September 17.

The event is held each year to commemorate the founding of the Benedictine Monastery on Madigan Road. The day will start, Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by conducted tours of the Chapel. There will be a refreshment tent, games for children, pony rides, a bazaar booth, homemade articles and home baked goods for sale. There will also be an Arts and Crafts exhibition featuring the work of local talent as well as that of the Monks.

Highlights of the event includes a concert by the Pine City Marching Band at 3:00 p.m., followed by Vespers and Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

Date Book

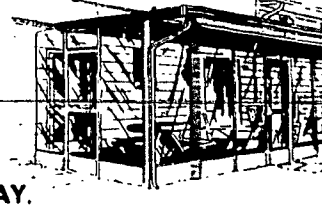
Knights of St. John Ladies Auxiliary Rochester District Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Sunday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m. Breakfast to follow at Knights Club Rooms. Speaker, Sister Charity of Holy Angels Home. Reservations with unit officers or Mrs. Olive Eckert, 467-2741.

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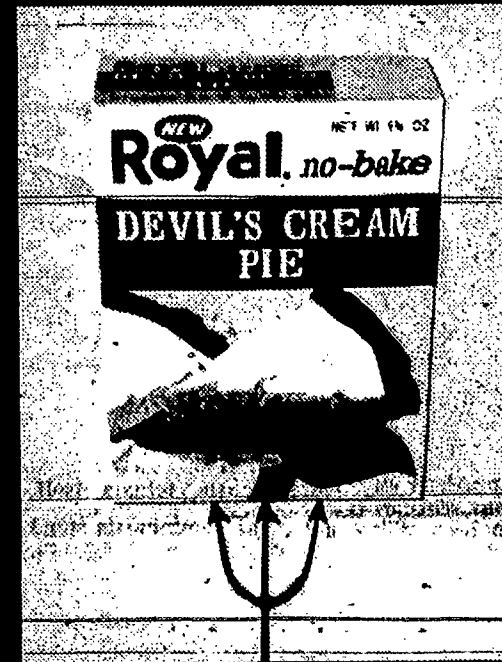
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