

Faith Progress, Slow but Strong



The Rosary is a favorite devotion in Japan.



Christian faith is a minority religion in the Far East but intensity of devotion makes up for fewness in numbers. These pictures from Society of the Divine Word mission review publication show a Japanese bishop at a Catholic school and Japanese women at a devotional rite.

'Dynamic' Bond Links Churches

London — (RNS) — Means issues such as religious liberty, mixed marriage, and so on.

He did not foresee that the attitudes and habits of centuries would quickly give way to harmony, and he suggested that these might be handled better country-by-country in such matters as mixed marriages, rather than by some canonical law.

But apart from theological differences there was an area for cooperation between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC—the area of service to mankind, he said. In this context he mentioned contributions by the Churches to economic justice, and in the political field such as the avoidance of nuclear war.

Dr. Blake was welcomed to the platform by the Council's president, Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury. He was followed immediately by Jesuit Father John Coventry, first secretary of the recently appointed Roman Catholic Ecumenical Commission for England and Wales, who explained recent ecumenical developments in this country as they concerned Catholics.

Dr. Blake led up to the four major issues now facing the WCC after defining its current role in the ecumenical movement generally. The three other issues, apart from relations with Rome, were:

1. Whether the WCC should move forward faster or slow down.
2. On this, Dr. Blake said there were many ecumenically-minded people in almost all the member Churches of the WCC who believed the Council's only hope was to press forward in leadership of the ecumenical movement.
3. The final issue was the question how the WCC could become a truly important instrument to serve the new worldwide community that was so quickly coming into being. The world is already a neighborhood and must become a community before it was too late, he said.

Both, Dr. Blake said: "The WCC will continue to press forward as far as you will enable us to do. We will not move as rapidly as some desire. We will sometimes seem irresponsible to conservatives among you. But you may be sure that behind our decisions will be the attempt to serve the purpose of Jesus Christ in this ecumenical movement."

2. Dr. Blake said the second major issue arose from the crisis of faith which was being so "widely publicized" today. "The issue before the WCC and before every council and Church is how seriously does one take this new theological challenge to the faith," he said.

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Top Court Rapped On Nudist Stand

New York — (RNS) — Operation Yorkville, an interreligious organization which campaigns against distribution of obscene material to youths and children, has criticized the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling allowing nudist magazines freer circulation.

"The community outside your Court," the open letter continued, "is people—many people or a few people; strangers to each other, perhaps, but united in some way, working toward a common goal, with love emanating from each small unity."

"For any community to thrive, there must be love. Hate destroys community. Obscene material incites to hate. There is no better way to destroy community than by leading it to pieces."

Property transfers

New Delhi — (NC) — India's Catholic Bishops' Conference has recommended a transfer of the properties of foreign missions in the country to their Indian personnel.

The Supreme Court, in two decisions, threw out obscenity convictions which had barred from the country and marked for destruction a number of Danish nudist magazines primarily intended for a male homosexual market.

"For at least a decade," Operation Yorkville's open letter to the court declared, "you have struggled with the word obscenity, while the problem of obscenity has grown to monstrous proportions. You have engaged in theoretical discussion while pornographers grow rich on real dollars. You have written tracts which grow more and more confusing, while pornographers advance knowledge that the child would be born either retarded or seriously deformed. The Jesuit priest countered: "If this is a class of people that the law gives permission to distinguish, then what class will be next?"

The Catholic spokesman reiterated his general tenets on the question that to allow the legal authorization of abortion under any circumstances "seems like a basic compromise that Catholics understandably would be reluctant to make."

He added, however, that "if the only choice is between a law that would permit abortion only in the rare case of rape, incest, or a predictably defective infant and a law that would legalize abortion generally, the Catholic's selection is clear."

He argued that proponents of liberal abortion laws do not prove the need for a general relaxation of those laws. The conditions are rare when abortion might be needed, the "side effects" are unknown, and it might lead to an increasing number of doctors performing abortions, he said.

Father Drinan foresaw relaxation of laws increasing the frequency of abortions about fivefold, from about 8,000 to 40,000 annually.

OK Abortion—Then Who's Next?

Washington — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic legal expert took strong exception to proponents of liberalized abortion laws, saying that states should not be given the power to authorize "taking the life of other people."

Jesuit Father Robert F. Drinan, dean of the Boston College Law School, thus enunciated the position of the Catholic Church on abortion, namely that it is evil in that it takes the life of an unborn child.

Throughout the International Conference on Abortion, the moral question, particularly in light of the Catholic viewpoint, overshadowed the lengthy deliberations.

Father Drinan, who also is chairman of the American Bar Association's Family Law Section, indicated that some laws, notably the revised North Carolina code on abortions, might even have racial significance.

In a broad statement of his position, Father Drinan said, "States should not have the power to place the health and happiness of a mother over the right of a child to life."

He said it "might be preferable" to have no abortion laws at all than to have laws with limited exceptions.

When asked if abortions should be allowed when there

Justice Unit Meets in Rome

Vatican City — (NC) — The Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, at its second plenary meeting, Oct. 23-28, set up permanent committees on what are considered its major fields of operation.

The committees will deal with the Church's doctrine on development, economic aid and trade; the Church's role in nations on the road to fuller development; the Church's role in developing nations; peace and the construction of new structures in the world; and development, family and population.

The pontifical commission also announced that it and the World Council of Churches will hold a joint working conference on world economic cooperation and development.

The date of the joint conference is April 22-28 of next year. The site has not yet been fixed, but Msgr. Joseph Gremlion of the Alexandria, La., diocese, secretary of the commission, said that it will "almost certainly" be held in a developing country.

Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec, president of the justice and peace commission, stressed that the commission's work in the doctrinal field "is not an attempt to replace the magisterium (the church's teaching authority)."

"We hope to help the progress of doctrine," he said.

Msgr. Gremlion, who flanked Cardinal Roy at a press conference on the committee's work, said that the pontifical commission is recommending the formation by national conferences of bishops of national commissions analogous to the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace.

Such a commission was established in the United States at last spring's meeting of the U.S. hierarchy in Chicago. Its chairman is Auxiliary Bishop John J. Dougherty of Newark. Msgr. Marvin Bordelon of the diocese of Alexandria, La., is the director of the committee's secretariat in Washington.

Buddhist Monk Attends Catholic Seminary

Poona, India — (NC) — A Thai Buddhist monk is now well settled here as a student at the local papal seminary.

Dressed in the yellow robes of his order, the 26-year-old Rev. Vajrapanna participates in all the daily schedule of his Catholic class mates—except receiving Communion.

The bespectacled, smiling "seminarian" is here to study Christian philosophy and theology.

The quest first took him, in 1964, to Ceylon's national Catholic seminary at Kandy. His enrollment there, however, led to criticism from local Buddhists.

The seminary rector then suggested Poona as an alternative place of study.

The Rev. Vajrapanna traces his interest in Christianity to a Christian study course he attended in the Buddhist monastery in Thailand.

He said that he then found that Christians believed in a God who is the goal of their life.

"This attracted me much, as Buddhism does not believe in God. According to Buddhism, the end of everything is mere salvation from misery and sufferings," he said.

Refugee Aid

Sydney — (NC) — Cooperation between refugee aid agencies in this country has led to the formation of Australians Care for Refugees (USCARE) as a permanent body to assist refugees everywhere.

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Syria Decrees Control, Church Schools Closed

Beirut — (NC) — Christian leaders in neighboring Syria have closed their schools because of a government decree giving full control of all private schools to the ministry of education, it was learned here.

The report was confirmed here by Archbishop Neophytos Edely, patriarchal counselor for Melkite-rite Patriarch Maximos IV Saigh of Antioch, a cardinal whose residence is in Damascus, Syria.

Archbishop Edely said that the Christians were obliged to close their schools "because we cannot direct them." He said that "it is useless to maintain our schools when they have in effect become government schools."

The government decree, issued Sept. 9, transfers the management of private schools from their owners to the ministry of education and annuls all contracts between owners of private schools and their teachers and administrative personnel.

Archbishop Edely said that under the decree the Church was to be responsible for the schools and the expense of operating them, but that it would have no authority to run them properly. "If the government wishes to nationalize our schools," he said, "then it should also accept financial responsibility for them."

Earlier, 15 Christian leaders in Syria had sent a letter of protest against the decree to the president of Syria and to the leaders of the ruling Baath party. The Christian leaders had warned that their schools will not open this year unless the decree is repealed.

Signers of the letter included the Melkite-rite Patriarch of Antioch, Armenian-rite Archbishop George Layek of Aleppo, Maronite-rite Archbishop Joseph Salameh of Aleppo.

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Diocese

By FATHER RO McNAMARA St. Bernard's S

Father McNamara, the Diocese of Rochester published early centennial year of This is another of articles on historical our diocesan past.

November is as tion Month" in the States as October ween Month" and "Christmas Month" rance of the Nov paigns and electio prompts us to set recollections on a hear of political fig ago who in their members of the Rochester.

U p state Cat nineteenth century ously group, espec more rural areas, they were usually a only a slight educ alluded to two Catholic leaders f County, General V nan and Francis K cis, a native of W quently became a

His father, Willi tined for most o live at Wayne, wa in local politics. was a Democrat, b ben County hi "whether he is a Barnburner I an say." (These w terms applied, re the conservative, gressive Democrat

But figures like both well-to-do a cated, and theref for political lead rare among early settlers.

Where Catholics their first bid fa was on the ward munities where C fairly numerous "colonies". Take, Joseph Schutte Schulte was born Prussia, and came to 1836. Up to 18 ed a mirror and ing business. The furniture store o He was active ir Church and in C can associations i he also engaged i tivities. He was the Fifth Ward terms, and served of Supervisors. 1880 he held the of Overseer of it

Probably the n state Catholics be Democratic Party years. This was a party of the labc of the poor. T later the Repu furthermore assc public mind w Protestant ascend

In fact, Catho acted as if aban Catholic of t Party was equi apostasy from the This view dissip; the passage of t Catholic bishops in one way or a McQuaid of Roch assuming a strl san stance. Arch of St. Paul did s publicly on the forms of the Rej

Nevertheless, C pation in the De still remained ve we find a numb Democrats servi the years as co of their parties. son was Frank Campbell, N.Y. died in 1890 ad been Steuben C of the Democr neral was one of the history of t had been count; time during his Democratic Part strong enough in ty to put many i or keep them t

As immigrant on into the sec generations, thei ter prepared fo ship, were offer public office, el appointive. Th Catholic mayors a real sign of con ition, although the men chosen atures of politic lacking in dynam

Recs Blo Confirm

Vienna — (RNS Frantisek Toma Administrator o cese of Prague, e ficulties with t during a recent archdiocese to a firmation, accor reports here.

The Austrian lic press agen said that he wa confirm some of dren by authori identified Cent town.

According to children were Confirmation bu nist authorities bishop that he only 120 of the Tomasek reporte national office f fats in Prag f that it had not i limiting the nun to be confirmed