

Theologians Probe Mystery of Jesus

New York—(RNS)—The subject of Jesus Christ is "quite simply and literally inexhaustible," Father Frederick E. Crowe, S.J., of Regis College, Wilton, Ontario, said in the Nov. 24 issue of Commonweal, lay-edited Roman Catholic weekly magazine.

The statement, in an article on "Christology and Contemporary Philosophy," was exemplified throughout the entire issue, the second in the magazine's new "Commonweal Papers" series. The first of the Commonweal papers, in February, was devoted to "The Problem of God." The second is headed simply, "Jesus."

Sixty-four pages in length and specially priced in non-subscription copies, the issue is the largest in the magazine's history except for the 40th anniversary issue of Nov. 20, 1964.

Father Crowe's article, surveying the "multiplicity of concepts about Jesus," said that this multiplicity "simply testifies to the inexhaustible nature of his person and his nature and his role in history."

Father Avery Dulles, S.J., of Woodstock, (Md.) College, surveying the scholarly discussion of the "historical Christ," said that a solution to the distinction between the Christ in history and the Christ of faith may lie in a view of history "as an interpersonal event which may call for nothing short of a real conversion in the opening of self to what previously lay beyond the range of expectation."

"If the 'historical' Jesus is taken to mean the real Jesus as grasped by those who were best situated to grasp the inner intention of his career," Father Dulles said, "it becomes increasingly difficult to draw a line between the Jesus of history and the Christ of Faith."

A particular aspect of Jesus in history was discussed by Father Raymond E. Brown, S.S., of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, in "The Resurrection and Biblical Criticism." Rather than focus on the concrete details of the physical question of the Resurrection, he suggested that Christians might well view it in terms of "continuity and transformation," i.e., the identity of the risen Christ with the One who died on the cross and the Gospel stress "in one way or another that the risen Jesus was different."

Ethics of Jesus
In an article on "The Ethical Teaching of Jesus," Father Charles E. Curran of Catholicis



Jesus
... an "inexhaustible subject"

A modern painting of Christ by William E. Luberoff. (Religious News Service Photo)

University said that Christ's inability to live according to love ethic "seems totally unreal" when viewed in everyday contexts and that Catholic moral theology has "generally ignored" the problems created by this ethic.

The Catholic solution has been to impose simple commandments and routine religious duties on the mass of its followers while a small group attempted to live a life of total dedication, he said.

"The radical ethic of Jesus could very easily bring one to despair because of the impossibility that it entails," he said. "However, the ethic of Jesus is both gift and demand. Man's

gion at the University of Hawaii in February.

Western Christianity has recently been characterized by an "incarnational heresy," Mr. Douglass said. "The truth of Jesus, while remaining dogmatically protected, has not become flesh in a living, suffering belief. Modern Christianity has been incarnate instead only in the wrong flesh, that of self and of the extended culture-self."

Christian logic, like that of Gandhi, should root its "non-violent faith in voluntary suffering without limit," he suggested.

Presence of Jesus
Father Bernard J. Cooke discussed "The Presence of Jesus" which gives Christianity its "claim to uniqueness among the religions of mankind."

This presence is not necessarily one of "spatial location" but rather of awareness and "conscious communion," he said. "The critical element in presence is to be for another person."

Father Thomas E. Clarke, S.J., of Woodstock (Md.) College, in "The Humanity of Jesus," discussed the difficulty of knowing the humanity of Jesus without recasting him to some extent into a "heroic" image based on the values of one's culture.

"We know of Christ rather what he is not than what he is," he said, emphasizing the difficulty of grasping the meaning of Incarnation, based on man's inability to understand fully the meaning of God and His relation to man.

One imperfect but useful way of gaining some grasp of the union of God and man in Christ, he said, is through the analogy of the body and soul united in man, "inescapably part of our mystery as human beings."

Another analogy, he suggested, is the I-thou relationship between two persons "in which oneness is achieved without destruction of the uniqueness of the other." This analogy can include "the relationship of the individual Christian with the Christian community."

Abortion Bill Back in Hopper

Albany—(NC)—A bill to relax New York state's abortion law—which failed to reach the state Assembly floor early this year—will probably come up for a vote when the legislature convenes in 1968, an abortion law reform group was told here.

John V. P. Lassoe, secretary of the Episcopal diocese of New York City, told a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Abortion Law Reform which met here that Democratic Assembly Speaker Anthony Travia told him the bill would come to a vote.

Travia strongly opposed the bill during the last session of the legislature, and was instrumental in keeping it bottled up in committee.

The bill, sponsored by reform Democrats, would permit abortions to preserve a woman's physical or mental health, in cases of rape or incest, or to prevent the birth of a defective child.

Paulist Dies, Area Native

San Francisco—(NC)—Requiem Mass for Father Francis Guy Quinan, C.S.P., 84, said to be the oldest Paulist priest, was offered (Nov. 25) in the Paulists' Old St. Mary's church here, followed by burial in Holy Cross cemetery.

Father Quinan, a native of Penn Yan, N.Y., who was a priest for 58 years, died Nov. 20, 1967 in St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica, Calif. During his years in the priesthood, Father Quinan served as a missionary, a Newman Club chaplain at the University of California, Berkeley, and in administrative and civic work.

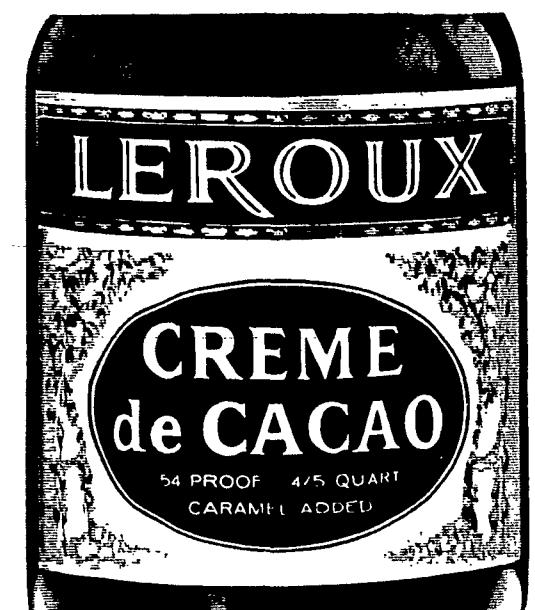
Melkite Rite Has New Patriarch

Beirut—(RNS)—Archbishop George Hakim of Akka, elected Melkite (Arabic Byzantine Catholic) Patriarch of Antioch in a synod at the Ain Trak Monastery near here, took the name of Maximos V Hakim in honor of his predecessor, Maximos IV Cardinal Saigh, who died here Nov. 5.

He will be the spiritual leader of approximately half a million Catholics throughout the world, most of whom live in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel.



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More Research Needed On Catholic Education

Washington—(RNS)—A national conference on Roman Catholic education here was presented with a proposal for greater emphasis on a "research point of view" rather than a theological one in the analyzing of contemporary church-related education.

The paper on "Focus on Catholic Educational Research" was prepared by Father Paul F. McHugh and Dr. George F. Madaus, both of Boston College, a Jesuit university.

It was distributed to some 100 participants of the Washington Symposium on Catholic Education, which had for its theme: "Blueprint for the Future." The symposium was sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association to discuss contemporary problems in education.

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The Boston College educators contended that the problems of Catholic education have not been adequately identified, reasonable alternatives have not been presented and the uniqueness of church-related education has not been firmly established because of the lack of relevant research.

The authors indicated that theology and philosophy, which are the core of Catholic education, create by-products which are hostile to the research point of view.

The first theological by-product was described as the "expert approach."

"Theology begins with revealed, unalterable divine truths," the authors noted. "These truths are then applied through a system of rational credibility to the human situation. The systems have variation but the truth is immutable. The expert is God. There is a danger that in addressing oneself to problems in other areas, we look for the expert and that we seek immutable truth. He will know our current educational problems and He will dispel our current dilemmas."

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

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31. Cerium: sym.
32. Mohammedan priest
33. Buddha
34. Threads once more
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18. Card
21. Left
22. Article
22'. About
23. Viper
25. Meadows
26. Over
27. Weak
29. Four forth
30. Specked
32. Sacred pictures
35. Thin partners

Answer
36. Dry
37. Comfort
39. Spigot
41. Q's

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