

# New Unity Move Seen In Rite For Cardinal

## Religious News Service

The kiss of peace, exchanged repeatedly by Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem, Rome and Istanbul, took on a mournful meaning during the funeral rite last week for Francis Cardinal Spellman.

For the first time in more than 900 years, the Greek Orthodox Trisagion, a "pre-funeral" service was offered by an Orthodox prelate in a Catholic cathedral, St. Patrick's in New York.

As Archbishop Iakovos, Greek Orthodox Primate of North and South America, bent to place a kiss on the cheek of the late Cardinal many in the congregation must have recalled the ceremonial kisses exchanged on three happier occasions by the spiritual leader of Roman Catholicism and the "first among equals" of the Orthodox Patriarchs.

The offering of the Orthodox service for the cardinal symbolized and exemplified the growing closeness between the two Churches. The event would have been impossible three years ago, when barriers of mutual excommunication stood between them.

Although they share a mill-

ennium of common history and development, with many resemblances in doctrine, organization and ritual, it is fair to say that before the Second Vatican Council the Orthodox Churches had less closeness to Rome, less of a working relationship than they had with the Anglican communion or with the predominantly Protestant Councils of Churches on various levels.

This situation is changing rapidly as a result of a series of personal contacts and official gestures. The movement in both Churches, as expressed repeatedly by their leaders, is toward unity, though no one will venture to say when, how or on what terms such unity will be achieved.

In a sense, both Pope Paul and Patriarch Athenagoras have said, a unity exists between the churches already and the further task is one of realizing and developing this unity from its present level of "unity in charity" to full-scale intercommunion and coordination of structures.

The New York ceremony brought the realization of unity a substantial step closer in the liturgical sphere, as well as reinforcing the growing mutual esteem shown by the leaders and communicants of the two



**Archbishop at Funeral Rites**

New York — (RNS) — This striking study of Archbishop Iakovos was caught by the camera as he honored the Greek Orthodox Primate occupied a place of honor in the sanctuary of St. Patrick's Cathedral during funeral Mass for Francis Cardinal Spellman. About 100 Protestant, Orthodox and Jewish representatives attended the service.

While it did not involve the Eucharist and the still unsettled questions related to intercommunion, it was an established and traditional liturgical rite, unlike the various forms of prayer used jointly by Pope Paul and Patriarch Athenagoras at their three meetings in January, 1964, and July and October, 1967.

## Abbot Retires, Plans 'Greater Solitude' Now

Trappist, Ky. — (RNS) — The 71-year-old Trappist abbot of the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani here "has received permission to take up a life of greater solitude, solitude and seclusion on the property of the monastery," his religious community has announced.

The retirement of Abbot M. James Fox comes after 47 years of service to the Cistercian Order. Nineteen of those years were spent as abbot of this famous Trappist monastery in Nelson County, Kentucky.

A small house is being built for Abbot Fox in a wooded area of Gethsemani's 3,000 acres, his secretary, Brother Simeon, said. Abbot Fox will live there alone, beginning Dec. 30, coming to the abbey for one meal a day and for High Mass on Sundays.

The Trappists devote themselves to prayer, religious study and manual labor.

Brother Simeon said a successor to Abbot Fox will be elected early next year.

Abbot Fox was graduated from Harvard University in 1918 and was a Naval ensign during World War I. After several years with the U.S. Treasury Department in Boston, he began his studies for the priesthood, completing them at Gethsemani in 1927.

The Trappist community here was founded in 1848 and now numbers some 125 members. Six other monasteries have been formed from the Kentucky community — in New York (near Piffard in the Rochester diocese), Georgia, Utah, South

Carolina and Chile. Four of these were established during Abbot Fox's term.

Although fraternal relations have long existed between the Anglican and Orthodox Churches, including Orthodox participation in the consecration of some Anglican bishops, Patriarch Athenagoras was the first ecumenical Patriarch ever to visit England. The Orthodox Liturgy was offered at Lambeth Palace for the first time during his visit there in November.

Anglican-Orthodox relations have been growing closer, however, since the beginning of the present century. Archbishop Michael Ramsey and his two predecessors as Archbishop of Canterbury have visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. Patriarch Athenagoras, although he was the first Ecumenical Patriarch to visit Lambeth Palace, was not visiting it for the first time in 1930, when he was the Metropolitan of Corfu, he had attended the Lambeth Conference as a representative of the Greek Church.

Archbishop Ramsey told the press that meetings between Anglican and Orthodox commissions have discussed differences of opinion on the number of sacraments, the relative authority of Holy Scripture and tradition, the role of the Virgin Mary in Christianity, the definition of the Orthodox Church and acceptance of the 39 Articles of the Anglican Church, a statement of belief which all Anglican clergymen endorse as a condition for ordination.

In Geneva, as in London and at the Vatican, Patriarch Athenagoras returned a visit which had been made to him in Istanbul — that of Archbishop Martti Simojoki of Finland, first vice-president of the Lutheran World Federation.

The need for strengthening ecumenical relations was also a dominant theme in the Patriarch's address at the Geneva headquarters of the World Council of Churches. The Ecumenical Patriarchate has been a member of the WCC since it was founded in 1948.

In an interview during his Geneva stay, Patriarch Athenagoras said that he wished to sponsor a "grand symposium" of all the Orthodox Churches which would play a role in Orthodox unity similar to that of the Second Vatican Council in the Roman Catholic Church.

Msgr. Joseph C. Whalen of Grand Rapids, Mich., public relations director for the council, said 20 Sees were represented at the meeting in Oklahoma City last year. He explained that the conference was formed to exchange ideas on fund-raising techniques for diocesan-wide purposes.

Speakers will include Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of Kansas City-St. Joseph; Father Roderick Hindery, O.S.B., of Kansas City; Dr. Gilbert C. Stout, national director of stewardship and finance, general board of lay activities of the Methodist Church, Evanston, Ill.; Father Gerard R. Breitenbeck, C.S.S.R., Liguori, Mo.; Father Donald F. X. Connolly, National Catholic Office for Radio and Television, New York; William E. Turner, Columbus, Ohio, communications authority, and Patrick J. Reagan, Wichita, Kan., tax attorney.

Msgr. Edward T. O'Meara, national director, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, New York, will be the banquet speaker.

## John XXIII Parish: A Profile

San Antonio — (RNS) — The extra-territorial parish may not be suited for work among the "very, very poor," Father William Merin, administrator of the experimental John XXIII community in Oklahoma City said here.

The Oklahoma priest explained that "poor" does not necessarily mean poor from an economic viewpoint, but rather involves one of cultural values. Interviewed while on a visit here, Father Merin said, when asked to categorize the 90 or so adult members who presently comprise the experimental parish, that such labels as "sophisticated," "upper middle class" and "college educated" do not quite fit.

"The term that seems to fit more accurately is upper middle class culturally," Father Merin said. "These people belong to the upper class not because of

their economic situation, but culturally—they are in the middle class cultural mainstream of American life. If they aren't upper middle class economically, at least they live in this cultural milieu.

"Secondly, I would say they are a thoughtful people, and while they may not have a college education, they are capable of thinking and capable of reading and they are interested in a wide variety of human pursuits.

Father Merin said the members of the John XXIII community concentrate on concern for human problems instead of what he called "the props of stained glass windows and arched roofs." He added: "The main thrust of John XXIII as a parish is to be concerned. People who aren't so oriented won't be attracted."

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## Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS  
MANEUVERINGS OF GOP SHOW MANY OPTIMISTS  
HIGHEST POLITICAL JOB KEEPS HOPEFUL MOVING

By HENRY CATHCART  
Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon believes he must sweep the first four Republican state primaries next spring in order to win the place as front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination. Gov. George Romney, of Michigan, is being forced to consider declaring his own GOP presidential candidacy earlier than originally planned because of his faltering undeclared efforts to capture the prize.

California Gov. Ronald Reagan and Illinois Senator Charles Percy are doing their utmost to confuse the issue and attain an exposed position from where they can be struck by lightning. N.Y. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller has almost ruled himself out of the race, whether he intended to be that negative or not.

In addition to all this jockeying, a gaggle of lesser Republican hopefuls and a couple of right-wing Democrats are doing their best to attract voters who oppose President Johnson's policies and might otherwise cast their votes for a moderate Republican candidate.

It all makes quite a crazy quilt pattern, which is another way of saying that the United States is much less than a year away from the GOP convention which will select the person to challenge Lyndon Johnson for the White House.

Just three years ago, in the aftermath of Barry Goldwater's resounding defeat, many observers pronounced the Republican party dead and ready for interment. It is obvious from the maneuvering that the GOP presidential nomination is something more than of token worth. The honor of the thing is enhanced by the opportunity to win the highest political position this country has to offer. If all these leaders and many others did not smell victory in the air, the activity would be less frenetic and fewer personalities would be involved in the political headlines.

Events may narrow this large field of hopefuls in the months ahead, but even next spring's primaries will not be able to provide all the GOP answers.

● REHEARSED SPONTANEITY—Heckling government officials has become a fixed part of the routine of campus life. Then when Dean Rusk, secretary of State, appeared to address a student group at Indiana University recently, he expected some demonstrations from the youthful assemblage.

What he did not expect, and what he got, was an unusually organized going-over inspired by detailed instructions from something bearing the name of The Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

This group passed out written instructions to students which said that Rusk "should be allowed to make his speech," but with suitable interruptions in "the great American tradition." The instructions continued that "at appropriate moments when Rusk says something objectionable to you, shouts of 'he' or 'boo' will effectively show your discontent."

"At the conclusion of Rusk's speech, rise and join in the chant 'Hell no, we won't go.'"

Students opposed to the intervention in Vietnam followed the cue sheets faithfully. Later, 14,000 Indiana students sent Rusk an apology.

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