

# Bishop 47 Steps Down By Request

Courier News Summary

Buenos Aires—An Argentine bishop, known as a social reformer and foe of the military government, has resigned under protest, claiming that he was dismissed.

Bishop Jeronimo Jose Podesta of Avellaneda told newspapermen that his resignation had been demanded by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Alberto Mozzani. He said he had resigned when asked, "but with the formal condition of a personal meeting with the Holy Father."

The Vatican announced that the prelate had been transferred from the suburban Buenos Aires diocese to the titular See of Horrea Adriani. Auxiliary Bishop Edward Pirolo of La Plata has been appointed in his place, the Vatican said. Both bishops are 47 years old.

Bishop Podesta preached repeatedly on themes taken from Pope Paul's encyclical "The Development of Peoples," and he had anticipated some of its pronouncements during his five years as head of the diocese. On his appointment he had stated that "the duty of Catholics is to promote a just society through such measures as a fairer distribution of wealth."

One labor leader, Carlos Custer, said: "We are not appearing in person, but the ideas he so lucidly defended. What has happened to him has been the destiny of all the bishops in Latin America with progressive tendencies."

Some of his critics have charged that, in his opposition to the regime of General Juan Carlos Onganía, the bishop became allied with supporters of ex-President Juan Peron. Peronists and Communists have both been at discussion meetings which he attended under labor union auspices, it was charged.

Bishop Podesta has also been subjected to attacks having strong anti-Semitic overtones because of his efforts to promote Christian-Jewish dialogue. In May his cathedral was bombed by terrorists (with only minor physical damage) and leaflets were scattered protesting "Jewish-Christian-Marxist integration."

Bishop Podesta said that on Dec. 1 he had sent a formal protest to the Pope. "I had the papal nuncio personally responsible for the deterioration of the situation."

The bishop's secretary, Father Oscar Varela, said that the resignation "could involve a demerit persecution." He dismissed ill health as a reason for the resignation and attributed the bishop's resignation to his being "an outspoken and valiant spokesman for the directives of the Second Vatican Council."

Bishop Podesta had become increasingly involved with the needs of his poor, mostly working class families, making a living in the extensive complex of light metal industry, frozen meat plants and household supply factories.

Most of them remember vividly the "good times" during the welfare regime of Peron, who also pushed industrial growth. The Peronista movement continues to be particularly strong in Avellaneda.

The prelate was prompt in assuming Church renewal and the progress of the working classes as the main goals of his office.

He went out of his way to become "identified" with the people of his diocese and their needs. He attended many civic and social meetings, and even lent support to some labor unions actively engaged in politics. He was seen at soccer games and academic functions and visiting hospitals, jails and the sick at home.



## Twins and Sister Enter Convent

North Plainfield, N.J. — (RNS) — Three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Conroy of Red Bank, N.J., chat with Bishop George W. Ahr of Trenton after they received the habit of the Sisters of Mercy during a Scriptural Service at the Mount St. Mary Generalate of the order in North Plainfield, N.J. Two of the daughters are twins, Sister Mariana (left), the former Kathleen Teresa Conroy, and Sister Marian (right), the former Maureen Patricia. Standing behind them is their sister, Sister Mary Johnine, the former Sheila Ann.

## Secrecy Clouds Synod's Gains

New York — (NC) — Several weeks after the close of the first Synod of Bishops in Rome, newsmen were still bitter over the secrecy which surrounded the operations of that historic meeting.

Some 100 Catholic newsmen attending the Eastern regional conference of the Catholic Press Association here (Nov. 8-10) spent two days discussing "What Happened in Rome?"

Their consensus: The Church missed the boat when it decided to shroud the synod in secrecy. And out of that agreement came several recommendations:

• The Church must develop a more sophisticated attitude toward the communications media. Continued CPA representation in Rome was suggested as one means to that end.

• Church assemblies—which the newsmen agreed have a right to meet in executive session—must balance this right with the need of the People of God to have as much information as possible to live Christian lives.

But while they criticized the secrecy, and noted an apparent lack of preparation and vague ground-rules, the newsmen agreed that the synod was indeed an historical landmark—that the post-synod Church will be different from that before.

Panelists for the two-day briefing on "What Happened in Rome" were Father Paul McKeever and Richard Guilderson of the Long Island Catholic, Father John Reedy, C.S.C., editor of Ave Maria magazine, and Auxiliary Bishop James P. Shannon of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Although much of the discussion centered on the synod, part of the briefing was concerned with the third World Congress of the Lay Apostolate, which met in Rome at the same time.

Guilderson, the CPA representative to the congress, brought home with him a suggestion that the Catholic Press Association explore the possibility of helping to train professional journalists for the developing countries.

Msgr. Terrence P. McMahon, editor of the Hartford Transcript and president of the CPA, closed the session with some suggestions of his own for the Catholic press, which "has its own responsibility as the Church makes the 'philosophic jump' into the actual, tumultuous, abrasive world of the 20th century."

• "To develop, refine and conscientiously apply a correct concept of the freedom of the Catholic press."

• "To be painstaking in presentation and interpretation of what the Pope is saying and what the Church authority is saying. Exact appraisal is required and the temptation to be hastily and flippantly critical is to be resisted."

• "To manifest and concretely apply a sensitive concern for due freedom in the Church—No more covering up or apologizing for grave misuse and abuse of authority."

• "To acquire and to show an equal concern for freedom in the world—in our domestic society, in the international community—to be a conscience for our contemporaries, a conscience which is acute, poised, bold."

## Interfaith Relations A Healthy Thing

New York—(RNS)—The retiring head of the Board of World Missions of the Lutheran Church in America said here that the new climate of ecumenical relations between Protestants and Roman Catholics has created difficulties for Latin American Pentecostal groups.

Dr. Earl S. Erb, who will retire from his post Dec. 31, expressed pleasure with the improvement of inter-church relations.

He stated that the difficulties for Latin American Pentecostals resulted from the fact that the main appeal of such groups has been to the anti-Catholic sentiments of the people.

"It is hard for me to predict what will happen, but I think we should not simply ignore these people but try to find the kind of fellowship which will bring them out of such a negative position to a clearer understanding of the centrality of the gospel," he said.

Dr. Erb termed the progress in Lutheran-Roman Catholic relations in Latin America "utterly unbelievable."

He recalled a "feud" between Lutherans and Catholics in Tandil, Argentina, which had been resolved after several years.

"When we dedicated the new Lutheran church there some three years ago," he added, "the same Catholic priest who had led the campaign against the Lutherans stood at the door to convey his personal greetings."

Red Poe Dies  
Katowice, Poland — (RNS) — Bishop Stanislaw Adamski of Katowice died here at the age of 92.

He had been a priest since 1899 and Bishop of Katowice since 1930, but was removed from his diocese and imprisoned by the Communists from 1952 to 1956.

## St. Benildus

### Earned His Sainthood Teaching Grammar School

Rome—The newest canonized saint is a French school teacher who belonged to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

Brother Benildus, the first brother of the institute to be so honored, was born June 14, 1805, in the Diocese of Clermont, France, and christened Pierre Romancon. His entire adult life was given to teaching and he developed a great reputation for sanctity. Initial steps toward his canonization were taken 69 years ago.

In a sermon prepared for the canonization ceremony, Pope Paul VI attributed to Benildus a sanctity that "shines forth as an art of living, as an enviable harmony, as an admirable equilibrium, which transforms an existence, humble though it be, into a moral phenomenon of human beauty."

"He was a teacher," the Holy Father went on, "a teacher in an elementary school, a teacher of an institute known for its excellence and merit in the instruction of youth. A humble teacher, poor and sickly, in a hill village."

"Let the Church's decision, declaring him to be a saint, suffice to give joy to our spirit, as we see this highest title of all

united with that of elementary school teacher, and as we now say to Benildus, together with the whole Church: O saint and teacher!"



ST. BENILDUS — newly canonized

## Racist Church Said Thriving

Johannesburg, South Africa—(NC)—South Africa's Dutch Reformed Church, whose doctrine and leaders support the segregationist teachings of this country's government, apparently is doing well by giving the government its backing.

In a recent count of members, it was found that the Reformed Church had grown by 200,000 white members in ten years, while the generally anti-segregationist Anglican Church had lost 30,000 white worshippers in the same period.

An indication of the strength of the Dutch Reformed Church as well as the effectiveness of the government's racist propaganda came within the Anglican Church itself here when laymen voted down a proposal to teach children that segregation was immoral.

Supported to some degree by Catholics, Presbyterians and Methodists in their anti-discrimination fight, Anglicans have borne most of the fight—and most of the defeats. The most recent came in September.

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## Bishop Frey New Moderator For Thesians

Pueblo, Colo.—The Most Rev. Gerard Frey, Bishop of Savannah, Georgia is the new Episcopal Adviser to The Thesians of America. The announcement was made by Mrs. Virginia O'Donnell, Executive Secretary of this lay organization of 6,000 Catholic women dedicated to the Sisterhood vocation apostolate.

While working in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Bishop Frey organized Borromeo clubs among lay people in the schools and parishes. Their purpose is to create lay participation in the religious vocation effort of the Church. More recently he founded The Thesians of Houma in his native state and was their chaplain at the time of his appointment to Savannah.

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Each evening World Lay Congress I offered Mass with hoc group of English bishops, priests, and room and the group enough to have a liturgy one might home or at a evening there were replacing those who engagements or hav

This is all back theological problem wrestling with and to you for vi

At the offertory came forward and the altar facing the priests. One evening layman across the me signaling another who had not come. The group at the was quite sure that calling did not kn that the man he v was a Lutheran.

When the Luther respond to the st Catholic layman w what of a theolo much respected m life, left the alt back to where t was standing. The conference and the turned to the al the Lutheran te circle. At Commu Lutheran received under both specie eryone else.

More and mor such cases. I a about a Protestan friends who goes t at an ordinary with his Catholi relatives. The case ring to are usualy ship or action gro shared some work and now the gr bring this fellow Lord to its zenith ristic service.

As I watched layman bring the the altar, I won

**ND Stud**

**A S**

**At A**

Editor's tically annou during a r Newspaper "standing ov

The fo Notre Dame that student well address

**A M**

Father James K cent lecture at No as unsophisticate Long harangue: r tional, continuo and consistently

He claimed to of a more auth ity, but not a sin of Christian joy re ent of vindictive poured from his than an hour. Son engineering audit a strangely appr for the whole sad

The speaker d castigate the ir and impersonal old bishops and ridicule celibate nuns. He also cl and public occas some of the mos cisions of his lif cided to reject touching even t ence and the Tri has determined l off from the Ch priesthood.

His remarks fo in the titters an his overflow aud failed to win th approval.

Perhaps it was his naked, hatre was revulsion fro vulgarity, and p perception of con diction, but som third of his hear catching fire.

The liberal K curiously absolut points, including that there are no exemplified his people by hurling ple, Popes and re cused most cont ologians of intell esty, offered to anytime, and then his own theolo was ridiculous.

He accused Po ing an arrogant celibacy, and ther himself. He claim previously been celibate, but ha man who gave u the Kingdom of ed that the insti will never chang serted that the finally accepted had proposed in