

Bishop Kocisko Named To Pittsburgh Byzantine See

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI named Bishop Stephen J. Kocisko of the Passaic, N.J., Byzantine Catholic diocese, as new Bishop of the Pittsburgh Byzantine See.

He succeeds Bishop Nicholas T. Elko whose resignation as head of the Pittsburgh eparchy was accepted by the Pope. A Vatican announcement gave no reason for Bishop Elko's resignation.

The new diocesan leader, Bishop Kocisko, has been head of the Passaic Byzantine diocese since it was created in 1963 when the Pittsburgh See, then comprising all of the U.S., was divided into two jurisdictions. The Passaic diocese has about 95,000 Byzantine Catholics, mainly American descendants of the Ruthenians (Czechoslovakia), Hungarians and Croats.

Bishop Elko had headed the Pittsburgh diocese since 1955. It covers all of the U.S. west of Pittsburgh and has more than 220,000 members and 145 priests.

"The Byzantine prelate has been in Rome since December 1966 while complaints filed against him by a group of diocesan priests were investigated. Exact nature of the accusations was not made public, but it was reported unofficially that the bishop was charged with being too slow in implementing Vatican II reforms and that he had interfered with academic freedom at the diocesan seminary.

During his absence from Pittsburgh, Msgr. Edward Rosack, diocesan vicar general, has been serving as apostolic administrator sede plena.

In Pittsburgh, Msgr. Rosack had no comment to make on the appointment of a new Ordinary and on the resignation of Bishop Elko. He said "the matter was between Bishop Elko and the Holy See. Everything that happened, happened in Rome."



BISHOP KOCISKO

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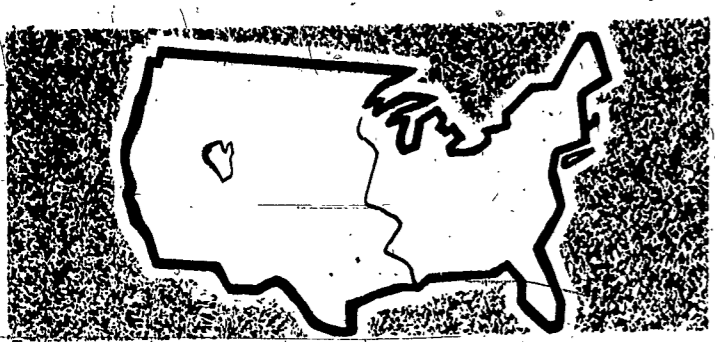
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Around The Country

Priests Seek Vote on Bishop

Green Bay, Wis. — (RNS)—The Priests' Association of the Diocese of Green Bay has requested a voice in the selection of a bishop.

Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona, head of this see in northeastern Wisconsin for more than 22 years, died Dec. 1.

The association's board of directors made its request in a letter sent to the Apostolic Delegate and six members of the U.S. hierarchy.

The letter asked "if it is possible for priests of this diocese to be consulted in regard to the appointment of a new bishop to fill the vacant see."

Noting that the Green Bay Diocese has not had one of its priests named bishop for the past 63 years, the letter declared:

"This said fact may not be a compelling reason for our writing, but it is one of those very human factors which has led us to explore the more basic issues and policies at stake."

The letter continued:

"Our priests are intensely interested in the candidate's openness to renewal, his collegial spirit, his age, his convictions on episcopal retirement, his pastoral experience and the esteem with which he is held by his brother priests."

Show Traces Roots of Jazz

Charlotte, N.C. — (RNS)—A television documentary relating jazz to religion has been produced by a Presbyterian Church agency.

The program is an attempt to get into touch with people who do not attend church, the Rev. Kirk Hammond explained. He produced the feature entitled "Come, Join Your Horn."

The script, by Lonnie McJohnson, traces the role of the negro in the development of jazz and the spiritual.

Some excerpts:

"So it was that somewhere in the deep South a century ago a man's soul cried out to be heard," the script says. "For this unknown spirit, a horn was the only thing that would say it right and that's when jazz was born."

"Jazz, and its twin the spiritual, grew up in a small country church during the last half of the 19th Century. A reader 'lined out' a hymn, and the congregation improvised a response. It may have been a quiet 'Amen' or a vibrant 'hallelujah.'"

Ex-Convicts Get Church Help

New York — (RNS)—A controversial but highly successful experiment in human rehabilitation got a boost here when Methodist, Episcopal and Reformed agencies pledged some \$21,000 to its continuance.

Project Anti-Recidivism is a grass roots program in Jersey City designed to help ex-convicts find jobs and keep out of further trouble with the law.

The project was begun last April under the sponsorship of the Jersey City Council of Churches. Supported by church funds and a \$100,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity, the project, since last June, has helped 92 men find employment after their release from jail or prison.

Project directors issued this statement:

"One clear evidence of the project's worth is the fact that while generally some 78 per cent of persons convicted of crimes return to a life of crime after serving their sentence, in Jersey City this recidivism was reduced to a mere 5 per cent among persons reached by this project."

Poll Finds More Churchgoers

Princeton, N.J. — (RNS)—Church attendance, for the first time in 10 years, rose in the United States in 1967, according to a Gallup poll.

The American Institute of Public Opinion, the Gallup agency, found that 45 per cent of all adult Americans attended church during a typical week. This would amount to about 51 million persons, the institute estimated.

A decline in church attendance began about 10 years ago — after it had reached a peak of 49 per cent of the adult population attending in a typical week. The figure dropped to 44 per cent in 1955 and 1966.

Dr. George Gallup, director of the institute, believes that concern over the war in Vietnam was a factor which may have spurred interest in churchgoing.

Extension Vols Shift Emphasis

San Antonio, Tex. — (NC)—The national director of the Extension Society Volunteers said here that the society has set its sights on a program of total involvement in the modern world and has turned its attention from financing church construction to touching the daily lives of people.

Father John Sullivan, whose headquarters are in Chicago, headed a recruiting team that visited here.

Father Sullivan said in an interview that during its early days the society "helped build over 8,000 churches," but added that "it became apparent to us a few years ago, that what we were doing was not the most gripping program in the world. There are greater needs than for church buildings."

The society's goals, the director said, are twofold:

"We must analyze the needs in various areas of the nation, but we must do this through the experience of total involvement." He said the Extension Society seeks to train volunteers to carry their work into the community long after their enlistment is up.

The major problem faced today by the society concerns recruitment, Father Sullivan said.

"It is simply difficult to get the word across that we have a program and we need people," he remarked.

The effect of the volunteers in America's inner-city ghettos has been minimal, the director

observed, and added: "I'm afraid it is small because of our numbers. We have requests for workers from every major city in America, but we cannot fill them."

"We are not out to baptize everyone. We stress a social program," Father Sullivan said.

"We run job opportunity programs, spend time as informal counsels in court rooms, work with school dropouts, develop recreation programs and train community teachers," he continued.

Father Sullivan, who has headed the program since 1961, admitted that the going hasn't been easy.

"The problem we had," he related, "is that there was no precedent for us. We have come along on trial and error."

"What I look forward to," he added, "is seeing what our trainees do when they get out of the program. This is so important. We've been through the mill, but I'm more hopeful and more enthusiastic than ever."

Affiliates

Minneapolis — (NC)—The National Association of Laymen has announced that it has added two new local affiliates to the 18 already belonging to the association.

The new affiliates are the Society for Christian Renewal of Worcester, Mass., and the New Jersey Association of Laymen, formed in the Newark archdiocese.

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| ASSETS | |
|--|------------------------|
| Cash on Hand and in Banks | \$ 1,158,264.85 |
| Other Bonds and Investments | 2,780,271.23 |
| First Mortgages on Real Estate | 33,836,986.90 |
| Collateral Loans | 141,397.81 |
| Student Loans | 274,733.40 |
| Home Improvement Loans | 542,504.82 |
| Accrued Collectible Interest | 125,927.57 |
| Banking House and Furniture and Fixtures | 106,845.12 |
| Other Assets | 4,778.15 |
| | \$38,971,709.85 |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Deposits | \$35,744,224.43 |
| Escrow Accounts | 296,400.81 |
| Other Liabilities | 214,000.29 |
| Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves | 2,717,084.32 |
| | \$38,971,709.85 |

Wilmington's Bishop Hyle Dies at 66

Wilmington, Del. — (NC)—Bishop Michael W. Hyle, 66, who had headed the Wilmington diocese for seven years, died (Dec. 26) at his home. He was the See's fifth bishop and the first to die in office.

Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore was principal celebrant at a concelebrated requiem Mass held in Christ Our King church, Wilmington, on Dec. 30.

Msgr. Paul J. Taggart, vicar general, was elected administrator of the Wilmington diocese by the board of consultants. He will administer the diocese until Pope Paul VI appoints a successor to Bishop Hyle.

Bishop Hyle came to Wilmington in 1958 as coadjutor bishop with right of succession to Bishop Edmund J. Fitzmaurice. He became head of the See in February, 1960, on the retirement of Bishop Fitzmaurice.

In that time, he had coped with problems ranging from urban slums to rural poverty. The Wilmington diocese includes all of Delaware, and the parts of Maryland and Virginia between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It includes the heavily industrialized northern part of Delaware coastal resorts and the southern Maryland and Virginia fishing villages and tobacco and produce farms.

He was pastor of St. Mary's church in Baltimore when he was named coadjutor bishop of Wilmington Sept. 9, 1958. He was consecrated on Sept. 24 in Assumption basilica in Baltimore. The preacher was the then Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Bridgeport, Conn.

He is survived by a sister, Sister Eloise of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore.

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Fifty Years A Prisoner, Ni

Vatican City — (NC)—Pope Paul VI has sent a letter of encouragement and congratulations to 82-year-old Bishop Julius Hossu of Cluj, Romania, on the 50th year of his consecration. The prelate has spent the last 19 years in detention.

At present, the Vatican City daily L'Osservatore Romano has reported, Bishop Hossu is living in the Orthodox monastery of Caldarusani near Bucharest.

In his letter Pope Paul quoted St. Paul: "We exult in tribulations," and St. Peter: "If you are upbraided for the name of Christ, you will be blessed."

Romanian communist authorities placed Bishop Hossu under house arrest in 1948, but he was able to send out a letter communicating all priests who took part in a meeting arranged by the government in October of that year for the purpose of bringing Romanian Uniate Catholics into the Orthodox Church.

He was arrested at the end of that month and along with

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