

AROUND THE WORLD

Bishop Consecrated in Refurbished Cathedral

Birmingham, Eng.—(RNS)—The consecration of a new bishop and a history-making ecumenical service highlighted a week of celebrations marking the re-opening of St. Chad's Cathedral, the first Catholic cathedral to be built in Britain after the Reformation.

Bishop David Brownfield Porter of Birmingham became the first Anglican prelate to preach in the cathedral when he took the pulpit during an unprecedented ecumenical service.

Earlier, Msgr. Anthony Emery had been consecrated in the cathedral as Auxiliary Bishop for Birmingham — with no fewer than 40 of his relatives in the congregation.

One of them was a brother, Canon Augustine Emery, who celebrated Mass with the consecrators.

Art work, blackened by 50 years of grime from this industrial part of England, has been cleaned and faithfully restored. The 13th Century monks' oak stalls, the intricately carved 15th Century reredos and pews bearing the coats of arms of the country's bishops, St. Chad and Pius XII, were carefully stripped and repolished.

Authorities Deplore "Beat" Mass

Rome — (RNS) — A qualified rebuke was administered by Rome diocesan authorities to priests who organized a "beat" Mass here on Sunday, March 10. The highly publicized Mass featured a guitar-playing group singing songs of their own composition, one of which was to the tune of "We Shall Overcome," the U.S. civil rights song.

The Liturgical Commission of the Vicariate of Rome unanimously "regretted" that the Fathers of the Servants of Mary of St. Alexis Falconieri church conducted this Mass without consulting Church authorities.

However, the statement issued by the Vicariate took note of the exclusively experimental, one-time nature of the Mass, meant primarily for youth, and not conducted in a parish church.

Pope Asks Philosophers Not To Shake Faith

Paris — (RNS) — A papal message to the French Catholic Intellectuals' Week here stressed that philosophers and theologians must be careful "not to disturb thoughtlessly the faith of the Christian people."

Sent in the Pope's name, the message said that there is an "urgent" necessity to "re-state our faith in Christ the Savior in such a way that it reaches the contemporary mentality in its legitimate psychological, philosophical and theological researches."

Cuban Church Thrives, Ambassador Reports

Madrid — (NC) — Cuba's Spanish-born ambassador to the Holy See, told newsmen here that the situation of the Church in Cuba has improved since the government of Fidel Castro took control of the country. Pointing out that there were now nine bishops in the country and that before Castro there had been only six, Ambassador Luis Amado Blanco added that the Second Vatican Council reforms are being fully implemented in this island nation.

Asked about a reported decline in vocations in Cuba, he answered that the rector of the seminary in Havana had assured him that the vocation situation is about the same as it had been.

Married Deacons Ordained in Germany

Cologne — (NC) — The first married deacons in Germany will be ordained in the Cologne cathedral April 28.

The ordination of the five men will be in accordance with regulations approved by the German Bishops' Conference at Stuttgart. The conference announced that the Holy See had granted permission for German laymen to distribute Communion for a three-year term. Bishops may permit laymen to distribute Communion if the regular distribution at Mass takes too much time, or if no Mass is celebrated, or to bring Communion to ill persons if a priest or deacon is not available. Superiors of convents may also distribute Communion in the case of illness under similar conditions.

Puerto Rican Bishop Urges Church to Courage

San Juan, P.R. — (NC) — A "fear of making decisions" in the Church in Puerto Rico is seen by Bishop Antulio Parrilla, S.J. As a result "problems are indefinitely postponed or resolved incompletely."

"We are in need of courage... It is better to make a mistake than to paralyze oneself to avoid error," he said in a talk at the Ateneo Puertorriqueno, a San Juan cultural institution.

Calling on Puerto Rican Catholics to "start the work of renewal," Bishop Parrilla urged in particular that laymen and clergy work out a new relationship with each other.

"Our laity still depend too much on the priest and the bishop," he said, and there is "a sort of worship of the personality of the priest" which goes beyond "respect for the sacred ministry."

Assam Expels More Missioners

Shillong, India — (NC) — The Assam state government has informed the superiors of all missionary organizations in the state that all foreigners under them must leave within 18 months.

A Catholic priest of Assam going to Europe to his dying mother was virtually expelled when the government refused to grant him a "no objection to return" certificate.

Last month, Father Raymond Bujold, C.S.C., vicar of Chhingchhip in the Mizo Hills district of the state, was ordered to leave by the end of the month in pursuance of the government's aim of clearing the state's "sensitive areas" of all foreign missionaries.

Of all the foreign missionaries in the Mizo district, only three — two Baptists and one Catholic — have not been served an order to leave.

The government claims that the Mizo tribesmen's continuing agitation for independence makes foreigners in the district a security risk.

Should Canadians Help U.S. Draft Dodgers?

Toronto, Ont. — (RNS) — Are Canadian Christians justified in helping U.S. draft-dodgers who come here? The United Observer put the question to its readers.

Of 2,201 laymen who answered, 1,203 said "No!" Of 134 ministers who answered, 84 said "Yes!"

Rich Parish Aids City's Poorest Neighborhood

Caracas, Venezuela — (NC) — Maryknoll priests here have succeeded in channeling the resources of a rich new parish into one of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

"It is not mere aid. These people are also giving themselves to this work," said Father Vincent T. Mallon, M.M., rector of Ascension parish at Prados del Este, a suburban development of affluent Venezuelan and foreign families about 14 miles east of Caracas.

At the receiving end is Catia, a heavily populated, hilly sector where slums mix with low and middle-class family homes.

"Maryknollers have worked with the poorest of the poor in Latin America; but a recent top-level conference of our society decided to tend to the rich this time. They have the means and the influence to make changes and get some action on social betterment, once they acquire a social mind," Father Mallon said.

Most Ascension families have a yearly income of about \$10,000, which by Latin American standards is very good. The Catia homes make out on one-tenth of that or less. Prados del Este homes reflect this affluence: four and five-story buildings, elaborate garden apartments bought on a cooperative basis by the families.

"We are fostering community spirit by inviting them to block meetings, where each couple brings some of the food. We told them they can deal with any subject, except politics; and in exchange we will never talk about money. They usually take up church renewal, rearing children, wife-husband relations, and ways to help the poor or plan social reform.

Regulations Explained on Immigration

Washington — (NC) — Anticipating a storm of protests from religious groups which have enjoyed virtually come-when-you-please immigration in this country for years, a top immigration authority explained new regulations on first-come-first-served immigration which will be effective July 1.

John E. McCarthy, director of Immigration Department, United States Catholic Conference, said since the 1920s immigration to the U.S. was controlled by the "national origins quota system." This meant that a foreigner's opportunity to come to this country was determined by the country of his birth.

"This custom favored countries of northern and western Europe and discriminated against those from other parts of the eastern hemisphere," McCarthy said. "Countries such as Great Britain and Ireland never fully utilized their quotas. But families from the low quota countries faced years of separation."

The death knell of the national origins quota system was sounded Dec. 1, 1965, when a new immigration law became effective, based on a first-come-first-served basis. Unused visas from one country were pooled, to benefit the low quota countries. "The latest reports from the Visa Office of the Department of State indicate that beginning July 1, 1968, preference demands for such countries as Italy, Portugal, Greece and China will exceed the 20,000 foreign state limit for the next year," he said.

Applicants from open quota countries, such as Great Britain and Ireland, which presently have no backlogs, will after July 1, 1968, experience delays in some preference categories. Since applicants from the closed quota countries who have already been waiting to come have established priority registrations, future applicants from Ireland or England will have to wait a year or two.

Applicants for visas from the open quota countries such as Great Britain, Germany and Ireland are rushing to have their applications filed and processed before July 1.

"For the western hemisphere an overall ceiling of 120,000 visas per year will be imposed on July 1. Since the Cuban refugees who are arriving at the rate of 3,500 per month are counted against the ceiling, there may not be sufficient visas to meet the demands of other natives from the western hemisphere," McCarthy explained.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Berlin — (NC) — In a pastoral letter read in all the Catholic churches of communist-ruled East Germany, the East German Bishops' Conference criticized provisions for religious freedom in the new constitution now being studied in the East German parliament.

GERMAN BISHOPS ACT

Stuttgart — (RNS) — The Catholic hierarchy of West Germany, holding its Spring meeting here, sent a telegram to West German President Heinrich Lübke offering "the 54 bishops' respect and blessings." The message is being interpreted as a gesture of support for the president, who has been under attack recently for alleged cooperation with Nazis during World War II.

NEW CANON FOR SPAIN

Barcelona — (RNS) — A Catalan text of the Mass, used experimentally in Catalonia since last October, has been approved by Vatican authorities.

Mexican Bishop Suspends Plan In Communion

Cuernavaca, Mexico — (NC) — Bishop Sergio Mendez Arce of Cuernavaca has temporarily suspended an experiment aimed at increasing reception of Communion in his diocese.

Earlier this year Bishop Mendez authorized Catholics to receive Communion after making a perfect Act of Contrition, "in certain circumstances."

Traditional theology teaches that an Act of Perfect Contrition is sufficient to absolve one from sin only in emergencies, when there is no opportunity for confession.

Mexico's bishops, apparently reacting to Bishop Mendez' experiment, in early March distributed a circular letter to all priests in the country forbidding the distribution of the Eucharist to persons in mortal sin who have not gone to confession.

Bishop Mendez said "until there has been further mature consideration from theologians and the faithful alike" he will not renew his invitation to go to Communion without confession.

Bishop Mendez said, "I have invited the faithful to go to Communion more often and without the need for confession if they considered themselves contrite, a disposition which includes the promise to go to confession later."

The bishop quoted from the Code of Canon Law regarding confession, Communion, mortal sin and those "cases of necessity in which priests and laymen can go to Communion without confession."

Bishops to Attend Theology Seminar

Notre Dame — (NC) — More than 50 of the nation's Catholic bishops have accepted invitations to the University of Notre Dame's episcopal seminar in theology, scheduled July 8-12 in the university's Center for Continuing Education. The seminar will be cosponsored by the university and the Bishops' Committee on Doctrine, headed by Bishop Alexander Zaleski of Lansing, Mich.

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AROUND THE WORLD

Day Care Plan A New York — (NC) — An of New York has announced gram with headquarters at the purpose of the program is to for children whose mothers cation. The children will be and returned to their own h

Archbishop-designate Co ed by New York City's Depar vide foster parents, who w monthly stipend of up to \$75 and instruction to the foste workers.

The program at first w eight months to three years, sometimes difficult to place ethnic backgrounds.

Bishop Says Meanin Lancaster, Pa. — (NC) — the fact of death, Bishop Jo during a lecture at the Uni

"The whole cosmetology serve to insulate us from de reality especially for us Irish for death. We used to like t now we are so anesthetized

Director Nam Boston — (RNS) — The named director of the Bosto endeavor of four Protestant in Greater Boston.

An ordained minister o Wagoner has been associat Union in Berkeley, Calif., fo

Participating schools in Theological School; Boston C ton University School of Th Harvard Divinity School; St.

The Institute, formed in the schools an opportunity t situations. More than 100 st cross registration during the

High Catholic Sch Rockville Centre, N.Y. — berg of Rockville Center Di a Layman, Joseph F. Fox of E in the administration of the Board of Catholic Education, ed to Bishop Kellenberg tha school boards.

School boards will confi parish schools. The boards w councils.

Crime Ri Washington — (NC) — S creased 16% in 1967 as comp a gun was used as the weapo assaults was committed with FBI director J. Edgar Hoov armed robbery" had a sharp was used in 58% of all robb

Crimes of violence were murder 12%, forcible rape 9% against property rose by 16% thefts went up 17%, while or more in value were each

Fr. Kueng Stresse Baton Rouge, La. — (NC) sial Swiss-born theologians e is demonstrating its new "sin of the Louisiana Council of (

"In the Church one fin authentic, functional archite usually open, realistic theate so easily condemned by the C

"There is also in the Chu thing which prevents the ful inquisition, denunciation, cer cion of opinion or belief." Fr pointed to the council as the

He urged greater frankn including recognizing their leaving the matter of baptism marriages up to the parents.

Lay People Verona, N.J. — (NC) — / of the laity is not being heari effective organization.

Father Anthony T. Pad late Conception seminary, I here that priests are organizi at a consensus on the proble mand the bishops' attention.

Father Padovano said, " and docile — in the worst se priesthood. In this regard, Fe a parish council in every pa cil in every diocese, and the

Father Padovano said it look of the bishop, but of the own initiative. Conservative overcome if this is the organ

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