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'Renewal, Yes; Arbitrary Change, No' -- Pope Paul

(Compiled from Courier-Journal news services)

Rome — In one of his strongest attacks on extremism in the renewal of the Church, Pope Paul VI affirmed the strength of Catholic doctrine before some 30,000 listeners at a general audience in St. Peter's, on April 25.

The Church is experiencing "a great and magnificent awakening," the Pope said. But some Catholics, he regretted, were deforming the ideas of Pope John XXIII who had initiated the Church's current renewal.

"Renewal, Yes," he declared, "But arbitrary change, No."

Often speaking in faltering voice, the Pope outlined his views on "the unreason which troubles some sections of the Catholic world."

Observers noted that although his themes of the immutability of the truths of faith and the necessity of fidelity to the Church were those he has often spoken on recently, his words were more pointed and his stand more insistent than ever.

Pope Paul declared that in the Catholic Church "there are many things which can be corrected and

changed, integrated and expanded in terms more easy to understand. Many norms could be simplified and better adapted to the needs of our times.

"After the council, the Church enjoyed and is enjoying a great and magnificent reawakening which we are happy to recognize and encourage. But the Church has also suffered and is suffering, still because there is a whirlwind of ideas, of facts which certainly are not in keeping with good spirit (of the council)."

The Pope explained that a double effect has come into existence following the council within certain Catholic circles: "For some, the idea of change has taken the place of the

idea of aggiornamento (updating), forsaken by Pope John. This eagerness to change attributes, against evidence and against justice, to that most faithful shepherd of the Church, norms, which are at times even destructive to the teaching and discipline of the Church itself."

"But," he emphasized, "still there are two things which can never come under discussion—the verity of the faith, authoritatively sanctified by tradition and ecclesiastical teaching; and the constitutional laws of the Church, which imply obedience to the ministry of the pastoral government which Christ has stabilized and which the Church in its wisdom has

developed and extended.

"And for this reason — renewal, Yes; but arbitrary change, No."

"The Pope went on to raise questions which he answered with "yes" or "no."

"Theological integration according to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council—Yes. Theology in conformity with the free subjective gifts often mutilated by adversary sources—No."

"The Church open to ecumenical charity, to responsible dialogue and to recognition of the Christian values of the separated brethren—Yes. But

theories renunciations of the truth of the faith—No."

"Religious freedom for all within the framework of society — Yes. And also freedom of personal adhesion to religion according to the dictates of one's conscience — Yes. But freedom of conscience not supported by the authenticity of a teaching serious and authorized—No."

Pope Paul observed that today the Catholic Church in various countries was passing through a stage which was "not at all serene," and this, he said, "is a reason for lively apprehension and even sometimes bitterness for the pastors of the Church and for us."



BECKET HALL rector, Monsignor Joseph L. Hogan, stands before the new diocesan seminary's house of studies, which will be dedicated by Bishop Sheen this Sunday, May 5.

Becket to Graduate First Class

Becket Hall's first graduating class — 22 men — will receive their diplomas from St. John Fisher College this June. The seniors will enter St. Bernard's Seminary in September for four years of theology.

This class represents the first fruits of what was considered a bold venture in seminary training when it was outlined three years ago.

Today, many dioceses have adopted the 4-4 structure, with the middle four years on a college campus, as the norm for training future priests. The traditional setup had been a 6-6 plan, with the first six years (four of high school, two of college at a minor seminary, the other six (last two of college, then four years of theology) at a major seminary.

In the Rochester Diocese, St. Andrew's Seminary (now King's Preparatory) covered the first six years, and St. Bernard's offered the last six.

Famous Churches To Be Featured

With this issue the Courier-Journal begins a pictorial series on famous churches of the Old and New Worlds which you may want to visit on your vacation. If you're not that much of a gadabout, the series will be excellent cut-out-and-save material.

The first church in the series is the famous Basilica at the shrine of Lourdes in France. Please turn to Page 11.

Dedication Rites

Bishop Sheen will preside at the formal dedication of Becket Hall on Sunday, May 5 at 5 p.m. An Open House for the public will begin at 3:30 p.m.

All guests are asked to park across the road at St. John Fisher College for this occasion.

A concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered in the Marian Court of Becket Hall following the blessing of the new building. Bishop Sheen will be principal celebrant and give the homily. His concelebrants will be Paterson's Bishop Cassey, Bishop Hickey and Bishop McCafferty.

St. Bernard's now has the four years of theology exclusively.

Looking back on three years as rector of Becket Hall, Monsignor Joseph L. Hogan, stated this week that he was "most pleased" with the results.

"It's a realistic program for men aiming for today's priesthood," he commented. The four years at Fisher seem to accelerate "the maturing process" for the seminarians, he added.

This year marks the first of on-campus residence for the Becketmen.

whose new house of studies was completed last summer. They lived in the former St. Elizabeth's Guild House, 1475 East Ave., for their first two years.

There are 98 young men in the Becket community. The senior and junior classes are almost the same size — 22 and 26 men, respectively. The sophomore class is very small — 12 in all, but the freshman class is hopefully large — 38 students.

The "mortality rate" overall has been about 35 per cent during the three years of operation. This is about the same as it was in the old 6-6 days, but there are some aspects that are different, and better, in Msgr. Hogan's view.

"The men who leave, have considered it carefully, talked it out thoroughly with us, and usually feel they've made a sound decision," he explained. Moreover, since most of those who leave the Becket program simply transfer to Fisher as regular students, the transition is a less traumatic one than formerly, especially when the decision comes in the middle of a school semester.

"Communication and responsibility" are two words that are used often at Becket Hall.

Becket's spiritual director, Father Louis J. Hohman, is strong on the communications thing.

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U.S. Bishops Set Strategy On Issues Facing Church

By FLOYD ANDERSON (NC News Service)

St. Louis — The U.S. bishops concluded their 2½-day spring meeting here April 25 following a number of actions very significant for the life of the church.

During their meetings they:

— Issued a strong statement on the national race crisis, asking special attention to education, job opportunity, decent housing, welfare assistance.

— Approved a report for the reorganization of the U.S. Catholic Conference secretariat and authorized the general secretary to plan immediately for its implementation. Set new budget of \$9.8 million.

— Approved a USCC Social Action Department program responding to current urban crisis.

— Decided to petition Pope Paul VI for permission to restore in the U.S. the permanent diaconate.

— Set up a committee to administer means of mediating and arbitrating differences between dioceses, communities and organizations within the Church.

— Approved a study costing \$200,000 on priestly life and ministry in the U.S.

— Set up a national secretariat for Church personnel to help cope with the current shortage of priests.

— Approved guidelines for issuing statements from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the USCC.

— Approved a Bishops' Committee on Vocations.

— Approved guidelines for seminaries, pending final approval from the Vatican.

— Proposed a new pastoral letter on the Church in the Modern World, to be issued in the fall.

— Approved a request that the National Newman Federation be allowed to undertake fund raising in dioceses with the local Bishop's approval.

— Heard a report on the Catholic University of America and increased the annual diocesan collection for the university by more than \$2 million, to \$4.5 million covering one-third of total school budget.

— Approved a report on general norms for diocesan senates of priests.

— With "growing anxiety for peace" the bishops adopted resolutions expressing full support of the Pope's efforts for world peace; gratefully endorsed President Johnson's recent decision to limit bombing of North Vietnam and to seek negotiations toward a political settlement in Vietnam.

Bridges of Justice

The Statement on the National Race Crisis said "we must build bridges of justice, compassion and understanding, and we must do so at once." It said special attention must

be paid to education, job opportunity, lack of decent housing and welfare assistance.

The bishops declared certain tasks remain "unfinished business of the Catholic religious community. First among these is total eradication of any elements of discrimination in our parishes, schools, hospitals, homes for the aged and similar institutions. Second, there is the Christian duty to use our resources responsibly and generously in view of the urgent needs of the poor."

Father John Whalen, temporary rector of the Catholic University of

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Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey of Rochester attended St. Louis meeting as did Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty. (Bp. Hickey, left, with unidentified friend.)

Bishops Cite Failure In Fight on Racism

St. Louis — (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States confessed here that, despite religious pronouncements and civil legislation, they have failed to change the racist attitudes of many Catholics.

"Catholics, like the rest of American society, must recognize their responsibility" for allowing Negroes to be deprived of adequate education, housing, job opportunity and welfare assistance, the bishops declared.

The bishops' confession and plea for all Catholics to end racist attitudes came in a special "Statement on the National Race Crisis."

The 1,500-word statement was approved unanimously by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting here. Bishop John J. Wright of

Pittsburgh, chairman of the Social Action Committee which prepared the statement, said it is intended to "set the moral and spiritual basis" for a detailed program of action.

Beginning by noting that in their statement of 10 years ago, "Discrimination and the Christian Conscience," the bishops said, "We did not do enough."

Referring to the Church in the U.S., the bishops demanded "total eradication of any elements of discrimination in parishes, schools, hospitals, homes for the aged and similar institutions."

They also directed all departments of the U.S. Catholic Conference to set-up an "urban task force" to coordinate Catholic activities.

'Progress of Peoples'

New Column Coming Up



BARBARA WARD

In our next issue, the Courier-Journal will begin a new column by Barbara Ward, now Albert Schweitzer professor of international economic development at Columbia University, titled "The Progress of Peoples."

Barbara Ward (in private life Lady Robert Jackson) is a member of the Pontifical Commission on World Justice and Peace. Formerly Assistant Editor of The Economist in London, Miss Ward is an informed, easily understood writer, experienced in the matters she will discuss.

Read Barbara Ward's new series, "The Progress of Peoples," beginning next week.

Cardinal Leger and the Lepers

By SIMON KIBA (NC News Service)

Yaounde, Cameroun — It is said that, when Paul Emile Cardinal Leger, former archbishop of Montreal, arrived at the leprosarium of Nianing in Senegal last Dec. 18, the lepers looked at his fingers to see if a miracle was going to cure them. It was in fact the first time that the lepers had seen a cardinal.

The cardinal, however, through works of charity, has for a long time been concerned with the lepers. Many of the houses in the leprosarium here at Yaounde have been built through his gifts. The same is true in the Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Cameroun.

Cardinal Leger does not want to impose either his aid or himself on anyone, saying that he does not want to be a burden and that he wants to be regarded as a simple priest.

That is why the Africans admire him—Muslims and Christians agree that his is an example that is not often seen in Africa. The fact that he left behind one of the most important dioceses in the world does not figure in their thinking, but they appreciate the sacrifice that is involved in leaving his native country and adapting to a new environment.

Cardinal Leger has put himself at the service of Archbishop Jean Zoa of Yaounde. He is learning a language that is most widely spoken in the region. He thinks that it will take two years for him to be ready to work effectively.

Works as Simple Priest, Gains Africans' Respect

The cardinal feels the lepers' villages need good pharmacies and is concerned with caring for all types of sicknesses. He sees a need for wells, powerhouses, food suppliers and medicines of various kinds.

What makes him particularly admired is that he regards the lepers as men and not as outcasts. He also gives thought to the prevention of the disease. If leprosia are well organized, it will perhaps be possible to wage a campaign to eradicate the disease.

The cardinal's realism astonished many Africans who like to live from day-to-day and who do not like their customs to be upset. The cardinal understands that the Africans must be shown that aid is not directed at destroying their customs but at bringing them a better standard of living.

In Africa, a man who has passed 50 years of age is called "father" by adolescents and "grandfather" by children, so that the cardinal is addressed by both names. These are signs of respect and show that he has become part of the family.

To have been adopted in this way, he must have won the Africans' respect as a wise man, like the village elders who discuss the tribe's affairs. The Africans' confidence is not easy to win, because they do not like to have someone upset their customs. The cardinal has understood this.

Cardinal Leger, of course, has run into difficulties, for lepers, like other sick people, are not always easy to get along with. There are even those who are afraid of being treated and who prefer to use fetishes or native remedies that are often badly prepared.

The cardinal realizes that his strength may be severely tested by the climate. Yaounde is one of the African towns where it rains often. The equatorial forest keeps it humid. Fortunately, one can live with an air conditioner and a refrigerator.

The African, whether Christian, Muslim or animist believes in the omnipotence of God. He fears God, however, more often than he loves Him. The cardinal will surely represent the love of God. And this is perhaps what the African will most retain from this witness.

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