

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Mass on City Hall Steps

Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York gives Communion to a worshipper at Mass concelebrated by the prelate with 19 pastors on the steps of New York's City Hall. The outdoor Mass was the third in a series of appearances the prelate is making throughout the archdiocese to "get to know the people." Archbishop Cooke previously offered a Mass with folk music in New York's famed Central Park.

Baptist Leader Cites 'Today's Good News'

Boston — (RNS) — The president of the American Baptist Convention told delegates to the denomination's annual meeting that "anti-intellectualism is dead in the church."

Dr. Doward L. McBain, pastor of the First Baptist church of Phoenix, Ariz., said that some of the great minds of the times are dedicated churchmen and the church itself is "on the cutting edge of society in the pursuit of learning."

The death of anti-intellectualism was one of the "headlines" which Dr. McBain said was fitting for the "good news" about the church today. He also cited an ecumenical atmosphere in which churches no longer fight each other.

Dr. McBain continued that there are many who are implementing the Christian faith in the streets and it is "good news to modern man that Jesus is being taken seriously when he talks about the poor, the rejected and the despised."

Priests' Councils Foresee Democracy

Atlanta — (RNS) — The national secretary of the Federation of Priests' Councils said here that the new organization will introduce democracy into the decision-making process of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

Asked about the reaction of the nation's bishops to the federation, Father Michael A. Morris replied that as yet they have not recognized it officially.

"However," he continued, "this has nothing to do with its vitality. It exists and represents nearly 40,000 priests who are members of diocesan associations and senates."

"It will begin to operate," he said, "and to face the tasks assigned it by the 300-member house of delegates and it will be heard from."

Father Morris voiced strong opposition to the present situation in which the diocesan senate of priests ceases to exist with the death of its bishop.

"This practice," he declared, "is inconsistent with the fact that senates are elected representatives of the body of priests."

"I believe," he continued, "the American experience of representative democracy as a viable and efficient means of government has much to offer us in this area."

Worse Things Than Disorder, Churchman Says

Greenwich, Conn.—(RNS)—Presiding Bishop John E. Hines told the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church that "most of us" have been silent on the Vietnam war not because of lack of courage, but because "we fail to discern a specific Christian stance with reference to it."

"Generally speaking," he said, "the state deserves our support for the sake of order . . . and to prevent chaos. But there are worse things that can happen to men than 'disorder' — even violent disorder."

"And when there may be national policies so devastating to the concept of human dignity (as it is enunciated in the New Testament) as to make the present and future of mankind an unmistakable hazard, then it is that a Christian is required to give his conscience to the higher power . . ."

"The more sensitive an issue is," Bishop Hines asserted, "the more necessary that the right of dissent not be circumscribed."

Ecumenical Social Project Launched

Milwaukee — (RNS) — A private, non-profit corporation has been organized here by a Lutheran congregation to engage in interreligious community projects.

Incorporators are the Rev. Wilbur Cain, pastor of the sponsoring Ebenezer Lutheran church, and six others, including a Roman Catholic and an Eastern Orthodox.

The corporation will collect and allocate funds to meet specified needs in child care, pre-school education, and family life. Included in the plans are programs of sex education, pre-marital counseling and marriage enrichment. A center expected to open in July will offer day care and training for more than 100 children. Other projects planned include a teen-age center and a Summer day camp.

Mr. Cain said that by forming a corporation independent of the church, the sponsors hoped to obtain federal funds.

Council of Churches Theology A 'Mix'

Charlotte, N.C. — (RNS) — It is a misconception to think that the National Council of Churches is "always theologically liberal," the general secretary of the ecumenical organization said here.

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy told members of the Council's General Assembly from the Southwest that the theology of the NCC is "a mixture of all its members — ranging from Greek Orthodox to Quaker."

Dr. Espy said some churchmen criticize the NCC for always "taking positions on social issues," but the Council, he asserted, believes "any Christianity which confines itself to preaching the Gospel of life after death without the Gospel of life here is a betrayal of human faith."

"We take the Bible seriously, and we take the world seriously. The Council believes that the Christian church will become irrelevant and passe if it does not become concerned with all issues facing humanity."

New First For N.Y. City Archbishop

New York — (RNS) — Roman Catholic Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York told one of the largest gatherings ever assembled at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine that the church must "plunge into programs," both its own and in cooperation with government, to meet today's crisis in the cities.

The ecumenical Pentecost service marked the first time a Roman Catholic had ever preached from the pulpit of the massive Episcopal cathedral.

New York's Mayor John V. Lindsay led a "trialogue" litany for the service. The litany included portions of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (Kerner Report), an excerpt from one of Dr. Martin Luther King's last sermons, and passages from Scripture.

Members of the cathedral staff estimated the crowd at between 10,000 and 12,000. Hundreds stood in the aisles and around the sides of the cathedral throughout the late afternoon service. Nearly one-quarter of the congregation was Negro.

In his sermon Archbishop Cooke recalled that throughout Christian history "the church has spoken to the age in which she lived, her approach changing with the changing times . . . She looked around her at the world and asked the plain question, the Christian question: what can I do to serve—how can I be useful?"

In the face of the crisis in the cities today, he continued, the church "must now find words with meaning for the great metropolis. She must concern herself with the Kingdom of God which is within and among us, and to all of us here that means the Kingdom of God in New York."

"Positively, this means standing by people and standing up to problems. It means taking positions on thorny issues: on racial prejudice, fair housing, job opportunities, hospital care, quality education both for the young and the adult, civil rights, poverty, the use and the abuse of credit and its cost — all kinds of issues."

Bishops Ask Help For Farm Labor

Sacramento, Calif. — (NC) — The Catholic bishops of California have called on Congress to pass legislation extending the National Labor Relations Act to farm workers.

Referring to the continuing dispute between farm workers and farmers in California, the bishops of the state's eight dioceses declared that "genuine lasting peace" will not come until the workers are included under the NLRA.

"We have witnessed chaos and human suffering all too clearly to judge otherwise," they said in a joint statement (June 6).

The bishops said the National Labor Relations Act "has proven itself valuable over the past 33 years" in providing procedures for settling labor-management disputes.

Urging its extension to farm workers, they said the NLRA "could not provide the necessary due processes of law and procedures, but also would make available trained personnel to see that both farmers and farm workers are protected and arrive at just solutions to their problems."

They noted that legislation to extend the act to farm workers has been introduced in both the U.S. Senate and House.

"Congress has found reason to exclude such workers since 1935," they said. "We cannot in conscience allow another year to pass without effecting social justice for the farm worker."

The bishops deplored the plight of U.S. farm workers, saying that most of them "belong to that vast number of poor, forgotten and neglected Americans."

"Both government and private agencies have given no more than token response to their cries for help," they said. "Many farm workers and their families continue to exist in the most direful poverty."

Bishop Donnellan Going to Atlanta

Washington, D.C. — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI has transferred Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan, 54, of Ogdensburg, N.Y., to serve as Archbishop of Atlanta and has made Auxiliary Bishop Clarence E. Elwell, 64, of Cleveland the new Bishop of Ogdensburg.

Bishop Donnellan succeeds Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan, who died on March 27. Bishop Elwell succeeds Bishop John J. Carberry, who became Archbishop of St. Louis in March.

Archbishop designate Donnellan was born in New York City on Jan. 24, 1914, ordained in 1939 and appointed Bishop of Ogdensburg in 1964.

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Buddhists at
Buddhist clergy, in a shown as they participate in a service at the Catholic church in Katonah. The service was held at the Gnanissara Mahanayaka Buddhist temple, lights in church. With them is Piyatissa T.

End Occup
Beirut — (RNS) Protestant missionaries to remove troops from Israeli War.

The missionaries West issued at the UN. Citing the obligation writes, "Just as 25 years ago to Nazi persecution, so now to relieve the suffering."

South Africa
Vatican City — (RNS) Establishment of a permanent Commission for the South Africa is to receive permission for serious shortage of p

Israel To Pay
Jerusalem — (RNS) tion for damage suffered 1967, regardless of who The religious body Orthodox Patriarchate of the Holy Land, the Coptic Coptic Custody of the Holy Sepulchre, property rights. The amount of m

New Attitud
Hildesheim, Germany — (RNS) Roman Catholic Diocese of Hildesheim, Germany, is holding both the clergy and laity in a "decisions regarding conscience of the spouse."

Discussion before majority of the council of the Church must change.

Latin American
Buenos Aires — (RNS) tions of permanent deped here recently at a Latin American Bishop's Conference.

More than 40 ex for Latin America the Vatican Council.

Latin America at deacons Pope Paul VI during the 39th Intercontinental Synod of Bishops, Colombia, in August.

East German
West Berlin — (RNS) that grief and anger as their famed 60 government order.

Students of the the protested the destruction of the Protestant and Catholic churches was erected by the Dominican Luther in the 16th century. Immediately after Day, the church was o

German M
Dresden, Germany — (RNS) Bishop Wunderlich, 72-year-old Methodist, has announced that he will resign his post. Bishop Wunderlich holds a master's degree in theology from the University of Bonn, Germany. He studied at Boston University and received his Ph.D. in 1950. Forty per cent of the

Russian Ch
Moscow — (RNS) sia said here that the Soviet government is actively to solve all the problems of the most important is the Patriarch's resignation. The Patriarch's 50th anniversary of the death of the late Patriarch A. British prelate, ham, read a message of condolence to the Pope spoke of the past, adding that the growth of the church in the past 50 years is a sign of a new growth of the church and of a common development between the Holy