

AROUND THE WORLD



Buddhists at Catholic Church Dedication

Buddhist clergy, in an unprecedented ecumenical gesture, are shown as they participated in the dedication of a new Roman Catholic church in Katukurunda, a suburb of Colombo. At left, Father Henry Rodrigo, O.M.E., pastor, assists as the Ven. Malewana Gnanissara Mahanayake Thero, chief high priest of the local Buddhist temple, lights the traditional oil lamp at St. Philip Neri church. With them is another Buddhist high priest, the Ven. A. Piyatissa Thero. (Religious News Service)

End Occupation, Missioners Urge Israel

Beirut — (RNS) — An ad hoc committee of 62 American Protestant missionaries working in Lebanon has called on Israel to remove troops from territory it occupied after last year's Arab-Israeli War.
The missionaries made their plea in an open letter to the West issued at the University Christian Center in Beirut.
Citing the obligation of charity to the "least," the missionaries wrote, "Just as Christians were called upon to do all in their power 25 years ago to relieve the suffering of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, so now we are called upon to do all in our power to relieve the suffering Arab refugees."

South African Diaconate Approved

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican has approved the establishment of a permanent diaconate in South Africa, the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples announced here.
South Africa is the first country on the African continent to receive permission for a permanent diaconate where there is a serious shortage of priests.

Israel To Pay Churches For War Damage

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Israel has agreed to pay full compensation for damage suffered by churches in the wars of 1948 and 1967, regardless of whether Israel or Jordan was responsible.
The religious bodies involved in the settlement are the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, the Armenian Patriarchate, and the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which represents Catholic property rights.
The amount of money involved has not been determined.

New Attitude Shown Toward Birth Control

Hildesheim, Germany — (RNS) — The pastoral council of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hildesheim, with delegates representing both the clergy and the laity, adopted a resolution saying that "decisions regarding responsible parenthood are subject to the conscience of the spouses, formed by faith." Vote was 194 to 14.
Discussion before the vote showed that an overwhelming majority of the council members, both clerical and lay, believe the Church must change its attitude toward birth control.

Latin American Bishops Set Diaconate Rules

Buenos Aires — (NC) — Guidelines for the training and functions of permanent deacons, including married men, were mapped here recently at a meeting of the vocations department of the Latin American Bishops' Council.
More than 40 experts attended the meeting to implement for Latin America the directives on the diaconate of the Second Vatican Council.
Latin America at present has 10 centers for the training of deacons. Pope Paul VI will ordain several permanent deacons during the 39th International Eucharistic Congress at Bogota, Colombia, in August.

East Germany Razes Historic Church

West Berlin — (RNS) — Reports from East Germany indicate that grief and anger characterized the mood of the people of Leipzig as their famed 600-year-old university church was razed by government order.
Students of the theological faculty of the University of Leipzig protested the destruction, and several were reported arrested.
Protestant and Catholic congregations used the church, which was erected by the Dominican Order in 1231 and rebuilt by Martin Luther in the 16th Century.
Immediately after Mass had been celebrated on Ascension Day, the church was occupied by state security agents.

German Methodist Leader Retires

Dresden, Germany — (RNS) — Bishop Friedrich Wilhelm Wunderlich, 72-year-old leader of more than 100,000 German Methodists, has announced his retirement.
Bishop Wunderlich, who has travelled extensively in the U.S., holds a master's degree from Northwestern University and has studied at Boston University.
Forty per cent of his Church's members live in East Germany.

Russian Church Marks Anniversary

Moscow — (RNS) — Patriarch Alexei of Moscow and All Russia said here that the Russian Orthodox Church "is working actively to solve all the principal concerns of this time, of which the most important is the preservation of world peace."
The Patriarch's remarks were made at a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the Patriarchal See.
A British prelate, Archbishop George P. Dwyer of Birmingham, read a message of greeting from Pope Paul VI.
The Pope spoke of the "misunderstanding" and "sad events" that had come between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches in the past, adding that the contacts made in recent years are a "pledge of a new growth of brotherly charity, of mutual understanding, and of a common desire to overcome the differences that still exist between the Holy See and the Patriarchate of Moscow."

Cardinal Tells Collegians To Reject Violent Means

Milan, Italy — (NC) — Giovanni Cardinal Colombo of Milan has asserted that violence cannot offer a just solution to the problems of university renewal, since "it runs counter not only to legitimate authority but to freedom and to the rights of others."

The Milan prelate was replying to a letter from the chairman of the student movement at the University of the Sacred Heart, where he is the patron.

Summing up his ideas as "innovations, yes, but not through violent means," the Cardinal said: "No one more than I or any Italian bishop wishes the Catholic University to be

in the vanguard of a providential renewal, so that its structures and programs have adapted to the present demands of society and to the aspirations of a just participation by students and teachers in the life of the university. But renewal cannot and must not be carried out through violent methods that are outside the law and run counter to legitimate authority, freedom and the rights of others.

"These methods forsake the dialogue for force to make one's opinion prevail or to achieve what is regarded as one's own right. They generate and nourish a spirit of combat which is contrary to the Gospel spirit of charity and peace."

Strike Makes Lourdes Look Like Ghost Town

Lourdes, France — (NC) — The national strikes that have paralyzed France have kept tens of thousands of pilgrims from visiting this town of devotion. Lourdes looks like a ghost town.

The shutters were down on nearly all of the more than 30 hotels and boarding houses that normally house about 30,000 pilgrims visiting the shrine here where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous 110 years ago.

The economy of Lourdes is based almost entirely on providing food, lodgings and mementos to pilgrims who visit the grotto here.

A major holiday in France, Pentecost, also known as Whit-sunday, usually draws at least 20,000 pilgrims to Lourdes, but only about 3000 were here today, the lowest number since World War II.

The benches were half empty in front of the shallow cave that became world famous after the girl Bernadette Soubirous, told of what she had seen.

Worshippers did fill the far smaller Church of the Rosary nearby, however, and a number of them filled souvenir-flags with water from the fountain that flows at the sacred site, which was visited by three million pilgrims last year.

There was gloom, however, among the shopkeepers whose livelihood depends on the sale of water containers and a variety of religious articles and souvenirs.

Well, I guess things are okay the way they are. See Page 15

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