

AROUND THE WORLD



Bishop Dies, Defended Basques

San Sebastian, Spain —(NC)— Bishop Lorenzo Bereciartua y Balerdi, 73, of San Sebastian, an outspoken defender of the Basque people, died here Oct. 23 of a heart ailment.

In September the bishop was the center of a political storm, when in a pastoral letter he protested arrests and the search of rectories and other residences as "violations" of the existing concordat between Spain and the Holy See.

The province of Guipuzcoa in which his diocese is located has been under a state of siege as a result of what the government branded as terrorist activity by Basque clandestine groups.

The official press unleashed a barrage of criticism against the pastoral.

Bishop Bereciartua was born in the Basque country in 1895. He came to San Sebastian in 1963.

Laity Council Issues Bulletin

Vatican City —(NC)— The Vatican Council on the Laity has begun publication of a bulletin as an "official and regular instrument to keep people in touch with life and activities of the council.

In the first issue of "The Laity Today," Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec, president of the council, said that the scope of the publication would include the words of the Pope on questions of immediate concern to the laity; information about the decisions or activities of the laity council; international Catholic life and the major events of interest to lay people in various countries.

Airport Has Inter-Faith Church

London —(NC)— London Airport, which serves 13 million passengers a year and has a full-time staff of more than 40,000, now has its own permanent church.

The church, a three-denominational ecumenical center with three altars serving the Catholic, Anglican and Protestant churches, was built entirely underground to cut out the permanent noise from the runways some 20 feet above.

Of the \$168,000 already donated \$80,000 have been contributed by the Church of England and \$60,000 by the Catholic archdiocese of Westminster. The rest has come from the Protestant Churches, the airport authorities, the City of London, and Britain's two state airlines, while one of London's old guilds, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, presented an altar plate worth about \$12,000.

Hindu Prayers Proposed For Liturgy

Bombay —(NC)— Catholic experts in Hinduism and Indian culture have suggested that suitable Hindu prayers and hymns be used in the liturgy.

At meetings held in preparation for a national seminar on the Vatican Council and the Church in India, they also called for "a profound change of attitude" on the part of most Indian Catholics and Church institutions toward the religions of India. All seminaries, they said, should give a major place in their curriculum to Hindu philosophy and spirituality.

Thousands of Families Restored

Geneva —(NC)— Twelve thousand migrants and refugees were helped to rejoin their families and start new life by the International Catholic Migration Commission in 1967, it was reported at the recent 18th session of the ICMC's council.

Forty national delegates represented 20 countries. James Norris, assistant to the executive director of U.S. Catholic Relief Services was re-elected ICMC president.

The ICMC council decided to look into inter-American and inter-African migration movements.



Nun-Doctor to Go to Biafra

Sister Mary Hilda (left), known in medical circles as Dr. Gloria Hester, discusses the stark realities of hunger in Biafra with her superior, Mother Stanislaus of Dublin, Ireland. A member of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, the nun is finishing her residency in Memphis, Tenn., city hospitals and at the famed St. Jude Research Hospital for Children. Sister Hilda, of Winona, Miss., is preparing to join one of the 23 convent-hospital communities operated by her order in Biafra.

NCR Publisher Urges Some Latin Masses

New York —(RNS)— Donald Thorman, the publisher of a controversial liberal weekly—the National Catholic Reporter—argues "for the resumption of Latin Masses on a limited basis" in his latest book, "American Catholics Face the Future."

"The traditionalists within our midst," he admits, "have often been treated badly by us in an unloving and sometimes un-Christian manner."

Both conservatives and liberals in the Church, he says, are fighting for a victory and "there is no way in which both can win" so long as Rome hands down either/or decisions.

In such a situation "there is no incentive to dialogue or to try to understand each other," he observes. But there is a possibility that both can win "as in the present case of the 'updated' liturgy which is already on its way to becoming traditionalized and frozen."

"Surely the Church is not going to be threatened because an occasional Mass is offered in Latin," he argues. "But neither is the Church threatened by the needs of the so-called Under-

ground Church whose members also find the present parochial celebration of the liturgy inadequate and an unfruitful and unproductive experience."

Both the traditionalist and avant-garde Catholic, Thorman says, "are frustrated largely because they dare to wish to depart from the norm handed down from above—a norm arrived at with little or no consultation with the people involved."

"Because there is no easily available channel of communication and dialogue in the contemporary Church, it is possible for both conservatives and liberals to be hurt—but most of all the Church is injured."

\$1 Million Worth of Aid

New York —(NC)—The Catholic Medical Mission Board has sent \$466,763 worth of medicine, drugs and hospital supplies to Nigeria and Biafra since the beginning of 1968.

The figure represents the wholesale value. Market value of the supplies is close to \$1 million. The shipments have totaled some 64 tons.

First in 600 Years

Catholic Bishop Visits Greenland

NC News Service
Godthaab, Greenland—Greenland has had its first visit by a Catholic bishop in nearly 600 years.

Bishop Hans Martensen, S.J., of Copenhagen, spent three weeks visiting the tiny Catholic population of Greenland.

Bishop Martensen's guide

throughout his visit was Father Finn Lyng, O.M.I. Believed to be the only Eskimo Catholic priest in the world, Father Finn is one of the three Catholic priests at the Godthaab station on the east coast.

Eskimo Catholics in Greenland number six among the approximately 50 Catholics here. Most of the Catholics

are Americans working at the U.S. Thule air base. Greenland has about 35,000 people.

The bishop said in a radio interview that the presence of three priests among so few Catholics was for company in the isolation of such a vast uninhabited country, rather than for missionary or conversion purposes.

"We feel respect and responsibility toward the work of the Danish (Lutheran) State Church in Greenland," he said. "However, I believe it reasonable that the Catholic Church should be represented up here, at least officially, and accessible to the people so that they may learn to know this segment of the Christian world."

Bishop Martensen visited Julianashaab in the south and Godthaab, where he celebrat-

ed Mass, preached, baptized and administered Confirmation at Christ the King chapel.

He said he is not concerned over the limited presence of the Catholic Church in Greenland, because he had not expected "any Catholic development in the direction of conversions."

He cited the Faroe Islands, where the Church has had a mission station since 1932 and operates a large school in Torshavn, stressing that the Church has educated a quarter of Torshavn's population without a single conversion having been recorded.

"However," he said, "I believe the Catholic Church has a positive influence on the population of Torshavn despite the fact that there are, in all, only 39 Catholics in the Faroe Islands."

Puerto Ricans Get Holy Day Dispensation

San Juan, P.R. —(NC)— Archbishop Luis Aponte of San Juan, chairman of the Puerto Rican Bishops' Conference, has announced that the Holy See has dispensed Puerto Rican Catholics from the obligation of attending Mass on "Feasts" (holy days), with the exception of Christmas and its octave, the Feast of the Circumcision (Jan. 1). The dispensation is effective Nov. 1.

The letter also explained that with the dispensation, "it is in no way intended to eliminate the Feasts (holy days), and much less the devotion of the faithful, which will be more meritorious because it comes out of a free and spontaneous will."

The instruction went on to say: "A holy day celebration of this type requires by its own nature a community celebration with active participation of the faithful."

If the "community participation" is not possible because of reasons (beyond their control, the Church cannot, and does not, want to insist on the obligatory nature of the community celebration of the Eucharist, when it falls on a 'day of obligation' not observed by (civil) society."

Vatican City —(NC)— Instructions on adjusting the liturgical calendar in some countries where the Feasts of the Epiphany, Ascension and Corpus Christi are being transferred to Sundays have been issued by the Holy See.

Some national bishops' conferences had obtained the faculty to switch the three feasts to Sundays. Epiphany, like

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