

Cardinal Bea Succumbs at 87; Led Church's Ecumenical Drive

Rome — (NC) — The Church's best-known figure in its search for ways to reunite Christianity, Augustin Cardinal Bea, has died here at the age of 87.

The German-born Jesuit scholar had spent a full lifetime in Biblical studies, but this turned out to be a preamble to an entirely new career that began for him at the age of 79. Then he took an assignment from Pope John XXIII to lead a Vatican office set up for Christian reunion discussions with Protestant and Orthodox churchmen, in connection with the Second Vatican Council.

Appointed in 1960 as president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, he brought to this work a freshness and openness of approach and an energetic pace that belied his years and astonished the world.

His death in Villa Stuart hospital here (Nov. 16) came after two weeks of confinement with a respiratory infection.

Pope Paul VI had visited the ailing cardinal two days before his death.

Cardinal Bea represented in the hall of the Second Vatican Council some of the principal ideas from the Church's liberals now enshrined in Council documents, including the declarations on Divine Revelation, on Christian unity, on religious liberty, and on relations with the Jews.

A note that illuminates his personality is widely remembered in Rome: after the publication of the news in 1959 that he was to be named a cardinal, he continued teaching Holy Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute for four weeks, until the very day before the ceremony that bestowed upon him the new honor.

Cardinal Bea's approach to the reunion problem reflected in the directives of the Vatican council, was summed up in a message he sent not long ago to the Lutheran World Federation:

"With all of you, we deeply regret that 450 years ago the unity of Western Christianity was broken. We do not wish to blame each other for this



CARDINAL BEA

terrible schism; rather, together we wish to seek ways of restoring the lost unity."

Looking at what he called "the remarkable growth of objective scholarship on both sides" in the ecumenical movement of the '60's, he could exclaim in 1967 "How far we have come!" At the same time, seeing beyond the work of the scholars to the whole range of ecumenical activities, he pleaded for patience, warning that "the re-establishment of union surpasses all human powers and gifts."

One of his final actions was a statement of clarification of the conditions under which Catholics can join non-Catholics in public worship. This detailed reminder of the current limits set by the Church in this field was regarded as a rebuke to leaders of the 1968 Latin American Bishops Conference who admitted

non-Catholic observers to the reception of Holy Communion.

Cardinal Bea was in effect the host to the non-Catholic observers at the Second Vatican Council. How well he served the observers is seen in a comment by one of them at the council's end that "our seats were not good ones at all — they were simply the best seats in the hall; thanks to your door-opening magic." This same spokesman told the cardinal "thanks to the friendship you have shown us, the ground is now laid out of which reconciliation can grow."

Cardinal Bea's leadership on ecumenical matters extended beyond relations with other Christians. It was he who presented the draft declaration on relations with the Jews to the Vatican council. He was also identified with the council's declaration on religious liberty.

He visited the United States in 1960, 1963, and 1965. In connection with a series of addresses he made at a Catholic-Protestant seminar at Harvard University he was awarded an honorary doctorate by Harvard. He has been similarly honored by the Catholic University of America, Fordham and Boston College.

Cardinal Bea was born in Riedbohringen, in Baden, Germany, on May 28, 1881. He studied philosophy and theology at the University of Freiburg in Breisgau from 1900 to 1902. On April 8, 1902, he entered the Society of Jesus. He continued his theological studies at Valkenburg from 1910 to 1912, when he was ordained to the priesthood.

From 1914 to 1917 he was superior of the Jesuit community in Aachen, Germany.

In 1921 Father Bea was named first provincial of the new Jesuit Province of Upper Germany. He held the post until 1924, when he was appointed to the faculty of the Pontifical University, Roman seminary conducted by the Jesuits. He was also assigned in 1924 to the Biblical Institute, on whose staff he was to remain for 35 years, until 1961.

He served as personal confessor to two popes, Pius XI and XII.

Nigeria OKs UN Food Plan

United Nations — (RNS) — Nigeria is scheduled to receive food from the United Nations World Food Program, it was officially announced here.

WFP relief efforts would cover "the war-affected areas of Nigeria," which presumably covers portions of Biafra.

The offer was made by special U.N. envoy to Nigeria, Niis-Goran Gussing of Sweden. The federal government in Lagos informed Gussing that it was "agreeable" for the WFP to undertake the humanitarian mission.

No specific figures have been announced, but a spokesman for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, which together with the U.N. runs the World Food Program, said that a potentially giant step could be made when problems of logistics are overcome.

The food program would be coordinated with the Nigerian Red Cross and implemented by the International Red Cross and other voluntary agencies, including UNICEF.

WFP operates on a voluntary basis, receiving food shipments largely from western governments, including the U.S. and Canada.

The mechanics of getting the food into Nigeria are yet to be worked out. The U.N. announced that some unspecified quantities of food had already reached Nigeria, including stock fish from Norway and skimmed milk from the Netherlands.

er Pessoa Camara of Olinda and Recife, Brazil, some observers believe. The Brazilian prelate, a subject of violent controversy in his native country is an opponent of many policies of the conservative Brazilian government and a world-famous advocate of the cause of developing nations.

It is persistently reported here that Amleto Cardinal Cicognani is about to resign as Vatican Secretary of State. The cardinal will be 86 on Feb. 24.

Nigerian Succeeds American Jesuit

Lagos — (RNS) — A Nigerian priest will succeed an American Jesuit here as assistant secretary general of the Nigerian National Catholic Secretariat.

Father Anthony Sanusi will also serve as secretary of the Secretariat's education department. He had been education secretary for the Western State prior to his new appointment.

He succeeds Father Joseph McKenna, S.J., who has completed his term of office with the National Secretariat and is now in the United States.

Cardinals to Be Named, Vatican Sources Claim

Vatican City — (RNS) — Plans are being made for a consistory to create a number of new cardinals and for a second international Synod of Bishops, according to unofficial reports originating with well-informed sources here.

The consistory, at which at least 12 bishops and perhaps many more will receive the red hat, is expected before the end of January. The Synod may be held later in 1969 or even in 1970, according to the reports.

A major purpose of the Synod, according to observers, will be to heal the divisions revealed in reactions to the encyclical and to attempt to find a modus vivendi between the central authority of the Church and the local episcopal conferences which are showing increasing autonomy. It is believed here that the Pope may ask the Synod to help him define legitimate forms and grounds of independent action by the various bishops' conferences.

Reports on plans for a consistory note that 12 cardinals have died in the past year and that the number of cardinals is now down to 103. The new appointees will probably include the heads of a number of dioceses traditionally led by cardinals, including New York, Paris and Montreal, according to one report. A surprise nominee for the rank of cardinal may be Archbishop Held

Report of Council of the Laity

Following is the text of a report issued by the Council of the Laity following its fourth plenary session in Rome, October 1968.

The Council of the Laity held its fourth plenary session in Rome, Sept. 27 to Oct. 6, 1968, under the presidency of Maurice Cardinal Roy, archbishop of Quebec. The members and consultants took part in this meeting, including those most recently appointed, coming from Japan, Brazil, the Philippines and Canada.

The council dealt with a wide range of topical questions of particular interest to laymen.

1. In the field of doctrine and study, the council noted many questions concerning the laity and their activity both in the Church and the world. These include a full knowledge—based on study—of Vatican Council II's theology of the laity.

Brief discussions took place on such matters as communications and dialogue within the Church, relations between priest and laity, the rights and duties of Christian laymen in social action, different social questions, the problems of lay spirituality in a secularized world.

2. With regard to youth, and deeply conscious of the need to be "listening in" on the world, the council decided to undertake a study on youth, with the following aims:

• To inform itself on the situation of youth in general, starting from particular, concrete situations in the different regions of the world;

• To collect all the data from inquiries already carried out on the life of young people, experiences throughout the world, their needs and aspirations in society and in the Church;

• To inspire, if necessary, the Christian thinking of young people, adults and clergy, in dialogue and with the help of specialists, in order to find pastoral guidelines in the various fields at the local level also.

3. In the course of this meeting, the Laity Council gave much time to the discussion of world reaction to the encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae*. In so doing, the council is fully conscious of the Holy Father's duty and responsibility to speak with authority concerning the doctrinal principles of family life.

After the members and consultants had given their reports of the varied response and reaction in their own countries and milieus to the encyclical letter, it was agreed that all these reports be submitted in full to His Holiness the Pope. It was further agreed that the president of the council be asked to express to the Holy Father the various reflections arising from the long discussions which took place.

The council recognizes its responsibility to act as a means for the mutual exchange of views between hierarchy and laity (cf. *Moto Proprio "Catholicam Christi Ecclesiam,"* I, 1), and desires to serve the whole Church in this way. Accordingly, it has decided to set up a Commission on

Family Life which will include among its duties the following objects:

a) The promotion of study and reflection upon the encyclical, and the formation of minds and consciences in the Christian concept of marriage and family life presented by Pope Paul.

b) The encouragement of responsible, sincere and charitable discussion of the issues raised directly and indirectly by the encyclical.

c) The collection of further information about the response to the letter from throughout the world.

d) The consideration of how the scientific and medical research called for by Pope Paul can be promoted and adequately supported.

VISITS SCHEDULED

York, England — (RNS) — Archbishop Donald Coggan of York will visit South Africa and Kenya in late November and early December.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 80 No. 4 — November 22, 1968
Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single Copy 15c; 1 year Subscription in U.S., \$4.00; Canada and South America, \$4.50; other foreign countries, \$5.50. Main Office, 35 Scio Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14601. Second Class Postage Paid at Rochester, N.Y.



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