

Prayer for Unity

Prayers for Christian unity are offered by Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox leaders during Pope Paul's visit to the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Left to right, the group includes Jan Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian

Unity; Pope Paul; Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the WCC; M. M. Thomas, chairman of the WCC's Central Committee; Miss Pauline Webb and Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, both vice-chairmen of the committee. (RNS)

First Chinese Bishop of Hong Kong

Hong Kong—(NC)—The appointment of Bishop Francis Chen Ping Hsu, apostolic administrator of Hong Kong, as the first Chinese bishop of Hong Kong was called by him "a sign of the Church's esteem of my people."

The bishop issued his statement upon receiving notification here of his appointment by Pope Paul VI, succeeding Bishop Lawrence Bianchi, P.I.M.E.

Vienna Cardinal Will Visit Reds

Vienna—Franziskus Cardinal Koenig of Vienna has announced he will make two trips to communist countries within the near future.

He will pay another visit to Hungarian Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Esztergom who is in self-imposed exile in the U.S. embassy in Budapest. Also, Cardinal Koenig said he will give an address in Prague.

The cardinal's talk in Prague will deal with the work of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers, of which he is president. He said the invitation of Prague was extended with the approval of Mrs. Erica Kadlecova, who now heads the new office for Church affairs of the Czech state government.

Bishops of Chile Plead for Cubans

Chile's bishops announced their support for the Cuban bishops' appeal to hemisphere leaders to lift the blockade clamped on their island five years ago.

By supporting this appeal to help the blockaded Caribbean nation, children, youth, workers and families now separated will be directly benefited, the Chilean prelates said.

Hero-Chaplain to Go Back To War

Jacksonville, Fla.—In the nation's annals only three chaplains, all Catholic priests, have been awarded the nation's highest honor for heroes. An Honor Medalist is excused from further combat duty, according to military tradition.

But Father (Capt.) Angelo J. Liteky, 37, M.S.S.T., told the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville: "I am returning to Vietnam because I feel that now, more than ever, Americans on the lines will need whatever moral support I might give."

Father Liteky, a native of Washington, D.C., but reared here in Jacksonville where he was a high school football star, was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson at a White House ceremony last Nov. 19. He was ordained to the priesthood May 16, 1960, a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity who are dedicated to work among Negroes.

Church Disturbances In St. Louis

John Cardinal Carberry of St. Louis told Catholics he "cannot and will not condone planned interference or disruption of the sacred acts of worship" in the archdiocese.

His stern statement was made following a demonstration in St. Louis Cathedral during Mass by about two dozen militants asking the archdiocese to act as a non-profit bonding agency for poor people.

Bishop's Publicity Regretted

Leo Cardinal Suenens of Malines-Brussels, at a press conference in Notre Dame University, said the publicity surrounding the resignation of Bishop James P. Shannon as auxiliary of the St. Paul and Minneapolis archdiocese was "unfortunate."

Cardinal Suenens said Bishop Shannon's dissent from the encyclical on artificial contraception, expressed in a letter to Pope Paul, was a normal expression of his views. But it is a pity his letter became public. It changed the whole situation.

Gorton Backs Private School Aid

Kyneton, Australia—(NC)—Australian Prime Minister John Gorton has expressed strong support for state aid to private schools.

In a speech given on behalf of Gorton's Liberal party's candidate in a local election, the prime minister said he wanted to make one thing very clear, that his government had accepted the proposal that all school children should have the same facilities for education whether they attended state schools or private schools.

He said the government would attempt to provide the same opportunities for all children—even those whose parents were prepared to pay something for education.

Honors for Cardinal Cooke

New York City—The National Conference of Christians and Jews will honor three widely known clergymen for "Courageous Leadership in Interracial Relations" at a dinner to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria on June 19, 1969. Reception begins at 6:30 p.m.

The recipients of the awards are His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke, The Rt. Rev. John E. Hines of the Episcopal Church and Rabbi Jacob Phillip Rudin, President of the Synagogue Council of America.

Conscientious Objectors Defended

The German branch of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement, urged the Church to give stronger support to conscientious objectors.

At their annual convention in Krefeld, Germany, Pax members said papal and conciliar documents had opened the way to developing greater awareness of war's harm and to action against war and the arms race.

Black Priests Get Parish Posts

Chicago—(NC)—Three black priests have been appointed to parish posts in the Chicago archdiocese, the chancery office announced.

Father George H. Clements was named pastor of Holy Angels church here. Father Kenneth M. Brigham has been named administrator of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Vicariate, parish in Chicago. Father Dominic Carmon, S.V.D., has been named pastor of St. Elizabeth church, also in the city. Father Carmon, a Divine Word missionary, was appointed at the request of the provincial of the Society of the Divine Word, whose headquarters are in Techny, Ill., and which has been in charge of St. Elizabeth parish for many years.

2 Views on Controversy

Minneapolis—(RNS)—Father Charles Curran, theologian who led last year's dissent of some 600 American scholars and teachers to Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, lectured at Augsburg College here on "Theological Dissent and the Papal Teaching Office."

The point of his lecture, Father Curran said in answer to a question about Bishop James Shannon, was that "one can still be a Catholic bishop, theologian or layman and dissent externally or internally from a papal encyclical."

Father Curran, a moral theologian, from Rochester, N.Y., who teaches at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., noted that other bishops have dissented from Pope Paul's encyclical and noted the reservations about it voiced by some national hierarchies.

In his formal lecture, Father Curran made three main points:

- The whole Church should be involved in teaching on moral issues—not just the Pope, bishops and theologians.
- The Catholic Church will never again enjoy the absolute certitude in teaching about moral issues that it did in the past.

• The nature of teaching is much more to ask the right questions than to give answers.

Father Curran said it is now part of Roman Catholic tradition that one can dissent from authoritative, non-infallible teaching provided there is sufficient reason for so doing.

"Dissent is an absolute necessity for the life of any society, including the Church..."

"Today more than ever we need critical loyalty and loyal critics. Without it, the Church cannot survive."

Father Curran also said the Church needs public dissent. "Truth is best served by open, fresh discussions of issues," he declared, adding that it is also best served when there is immediate response by theologians.

Recalling his role in lining up the theologians against the Pope's encyclical, Father Curran asked:

"If theologians had remained quiet, what would have happened to the credibility of the Church? For the good of the Church, we had an obligation to speak publicly and quickly."

"We need critical loyalty and loyal critics"—Fr. Charles E. Curran

St. Louis—(RNS)—Father Henri de Lubac, S.J., a member of the Vatican's new International Theological Commission, lashed out at those critics "within and against the Church" who make no distinction between its essential and non-essential elements and refuse to recognize all that is good in the past.

Speaking at St. Louis University where he received an honorary doctor of letters degree, Father de Lubac was cited by the University as "the theologian most open to the aspirations of our times and yet most attentive and most faithful to Catholic tradition."

Of the critics "within and against the Church," he said that such critics do not think, suffer or reflect. They are "bitter, vindictive," they "wound" the unity of the Church by attacking the Pope and become the "accusers of their mother and their brothers."

"Agitation is not necessarily synonymous with life," he reminded his audience, and said that he can find "nothing in all of this that is promising."

Father de Lubac said that he knew he ran the risk of being classified as a conservative or a reactionary or "simply outdated" by attacking the "negative self-criticism" in the Church.

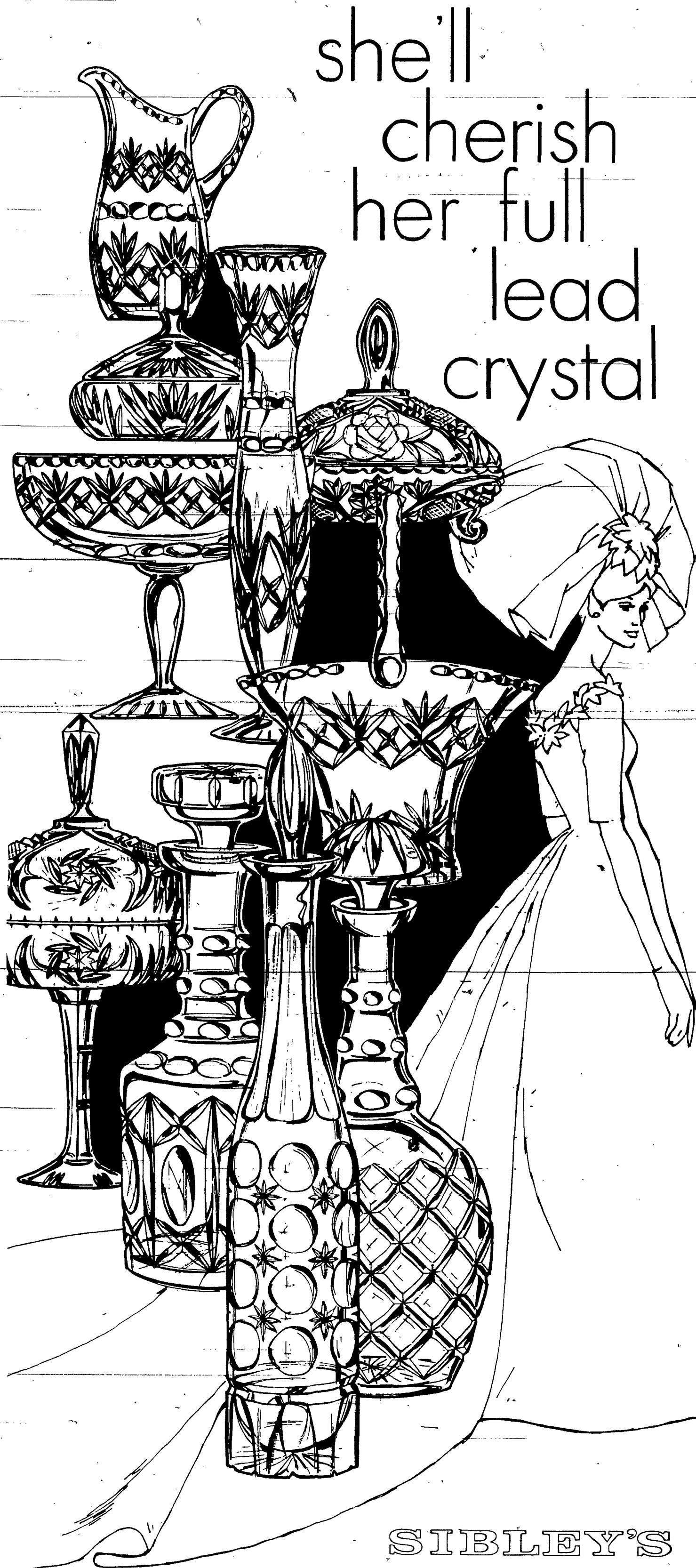
He said he believed people must speak thus to lead the Church out of the "web of ambiguity that is smothering us."

The theologian stressed that he did not wish to impugn those critics who love the church and are seeking needed reform, but was speaking of those who "are against all forms of authority, against all structures."

These, he said, have "falsified" the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, and he called for Church renewal according to the "letter and the spirit of the council."

He said the Council clearly taught that the mission of the Church is to teach, sanctify and govern, and yet some would turn the Church into a "vast democracy." Both the cries for democracy and constant attacks on the Pope "corrupt the very idea of episcopal collegiality" as taught by Vatican II, he said.

"Some would turn the Church into a vast democracy"—Fr. Henri de Lubac, S.J.



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