

Latin Mass Sets Wanderer Forum Tone

By KIM LARSEN

(NC News Service) St. Paul — The fifth annual national Wanderer Forum got under way with an old-fashioned Latin dialogue Mass, which set the tone for the three-day meeting here.

Latin Masses are so rare today that it appeared the Wanderer Forum was initiating something new in Church ritual. Almost every speech derived in innovation.

But Wanderer delegates felt at home with the ancient worship rites. They agreed with Alphonse J. Matt, Sr., Wanderer Forum founder, who scored "the wild novelties and blasphemies of our avant-garde liturgical experimenters and new age iconoclasts."

All of the many talks and sermons at the Wanderer Forum centered on this year's convocation theme, a quotation from Pope Leo XIII:

"When a society is perishing, the true advice to give to those who would restore it, is to recall it to the principles from which it sprang."

Frank J. Sheed, author and lay theologian, in his keynote address, said Catholics "appear to be looking at a great withering of the Faith."

He called for great charity in defending the Faith. "This doesn't mean we should soft-peddle our convictions," he warned, "but we must not condemn the man" who disagrees.

The rule to remember, Sheed said, "is not to attack the person, but to correct his errors."

Father Ralph March, S.O.Cist., of Dallas, Tex., in a sermon on the opening day of the Forum, helped set the convocation tone by saying the Second Vatican Council Fathers "had reason to be satisfied with their work. But something went wrong."

The priest decried the denial of the virginity of Mary, the questioning of authority, and "noisy" Masses where guitars have replaced organs. Father March also was critical of priests calling press conferences "to point accusing fingers" at what he said they call a cruel institution.

In between sessions, delegates milled about the corridors of Hotel St. Paul, examining tables of literature denouncing communism, sex education in the schools, modern catechetical textbooks, birth control, abortion, and pornography.

Thomas A. Rogers of Los Angeles, presiding over a luncheon session, hailed news of the immaculate Heart of Mary nun being ordered to cease efforts to modernize.

Mr. Sheed admitted the Church has had some dark moments in its history, but warned that these gloomy periods must not be glossed over.

"We present a very strange face in particular points of history," he said, citing the Inquisition and the Crusades and some Popes who were less than honorable.

These tarnished periods of Church history obscure the face of Christ to some extent, the speaker explained, but added that most people learn about the Catholic faith from the Catholic next door and not from the Popes. This is the reason for Catholics to be ever vigilant, he said.

Defending the faith, he continued, must consist of much love. "Love, charity is the thing," he said. "Faith is worth nothing if there is no charity."

Explaining that "hate damages," Sheed said "we have to

love our enemies. We have to do good to those who hate us." He said, "The principle fact about anybody you are in controversy with is that Christ died for him."

"This doesn't mean we should soft-peddle our convictions," Sheed warned, "but we must not condemn the man." He said individuals cannot judge other individuals. "You don't know if the other man has bad motives or not," he said.

Alphonse J. Matt, Sr., who edits the Wanderer, weekly newspaper, told forum dele-

gates the council "has been rightly hailed as a new Pentecost, a new descent of the Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of the faithful and renew the face of the earth."

He cited Pope John XXIII, who called for the council, and the Council Fathers themselves as "declaring the purpose of this new Pentecost to be no more and no less than to reaffirm, whole and entire, without dilution or omission, the sacred deposit of the faith."

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menters and new age iconoclasts."

Matt expressed concern about modern deviations from ancient Church teachings, but was optimistic that the Church will be able to cope with them.

The Church, he said, "knows all about new theologues and dissenters and heretics, for she has been confronted with them anew in every century for upwards of 1,900 years—and every conflict with them has served only to confound the dissenters while vindicating and confirming the ancient faith of the Church."

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(Flannigan had f... 3 and delivered a... Nixon to the Pe... meeting at the Va... afterwards "the me... private," adding, "thing.")

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