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European Bishops Laying Groundwork for October Synod

This week at Coire in Switzerland nearly 100 Bishops of Western Europe, including 12 Cardinals, are meeting to discuss "The Priest in the Church and the World." Their discussions may be a prelude for the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October. Father Francis X. Murphy, a Redemptorist theologian from Rome, here discusses the background of the agenda for the Coire meeting and the implications.

By REV. F. X. MURPHY

What is happening in Europe right now could affect the role of the priest in tomorrow's world drastically. Reports of wild or bizarre activities on

a pastoral level emanating from Holland or Belgium or France are matched in the European press by accounts of the underground Church or liturgical experimentation on the American scene.

But these are not the most important happenings. Beneath these attention-attracting moves, there is a growing unrest among the junior and middle-aged clergy that is assuming the proportions of a slow burn threatening a general conflagration.

Originally called as a friendly meeting of bishops, the Coire Assembly is the second such gathering of Western European prelates. The first took place at Noordwykerhout in Holland, two years ago, and proved a

prelude to the Synod of Bishops held in Rome in October 1967. Thus the present Coire meeting is seen as an immediate preparation on the part of the European bishops for the new Synod to be held in Rome this fall.

In actual fact, considerable preparation has been made by the bishops. Sociological surveys were conducted this past year, concerning the attitude and situation of the priest in view of the growing shortage of vocations, the world-wide agitation in favor of a married priesthood and the so-called identity crisis now apparently being suffered by large groups of the younger clergy.

The conference is due to open with a discourse by Cardinal Doepfner of

Munich on "The Constants and Variables in the Understanding of the Priest," and to close with a summation by Cardinal Suenens of Belgium. Meanwhile, the discussions will be introduced by the prelates committed to a vigorous pursuit of the goals set at the Second Vatican Council, including Cardinal Heenan of England; the new primate of Spain, Cardinal Enrique y Tarazona of Toledo; Cardinal Poma of Bologna, and Bishops Falcao of Lisbon, Guyot of Toulouse, De Smet of Bruges, and Worlock of Portsmouth, England. It is expected that a majority of the Western European prelates including the Poles and possibly Czechoslovak bishops will attend.

What has the concerned priests of

these countries worried is the simple fact that, with the mounting crisis in vocations and defections among the more involved clergy in Europe and America, the prelates at Coire may be tempted to compromise, or show too great concern for the conservative camp.

It is this latter tactic on which these priests blame the failure thus far of the Church generally to achieve the beginnings of the renewal called for at the Council. Now they want a showdown.

On the questions of clerical celibacy, the new types of parish organization, the consequent new approach to priestly spirituality, and finally in regard to the structures of the priest's

position and work, they want the radical changes hinted at in the Council.

They feel that the bishops at Vatican II actually short-changed the priests by accepting the ban on the debate over celibacy, and by not giving a full airing to the problems faced by pastors and curates consequent to a new consciousness of the Church's commitment to worldly tasks.

They are determined that at the coming Synod of Bishops in Rome, these matters should be taken up, specifically as part of the relations between the Episcopal Conferences

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\$8.2 Million Received for College Fund

Total payments to date of \$8.2 million for the Joint College Fund to benefit Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College and Becket Hall (diocesan seminary-college) are reported this week (see detailed chart on page 10) in the final public statement of monies received.

The Joint College Fund Drive in the fall of 1965 reached a total of \$10.6 million in pledges, the largest fund-raising campaign in diocesan history.

Results of the monies spent are the completed Becket Hall on Fairport Road, the Science Building on the Fisher campus and the Arts Center at Nazareth College. Still to be built from the fund is the Fisher Library.

Gratefully praising the donors for fulfilling pledges totaling \$8,210,334 in less than four years, fund directors indicated that at least \$1 million more is definitely expected from corporation gifts which were pledged for extended payment.

Nixon Vetoes Vatican Envoy

Miami, Fla. — (NC) — The United States President Nixon has decided, will not establish formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

This was announced here by Ron L. Ziegler, White House press secretary. The decision was made by the President while he was vacationing at nearby Key Biscayne on the 4th of July weekend.

Nixon, however, wishes to maintain "close communication" with the Vatican and believes this can be done effectively "by sending high-level officials" to Vatican City from time to time, according to Ziegler.

Presidential assistant Peter M. Flanigan, Ziegler said, was to inform Pope Paul VI about President Nixon's decision not to send a full-time diplomatic envoy to the Vatican.

(Flanigan had flown to Rome July 3 and delivered a message from Mr. Nixon to the Pope in a private meeting at the Vatican. Flanigan said afterwards "the message was entirely private," adding, "I can't say anything.")

Fisher Graduate Named Bishop

A June graduate of St. John Fisher College — a 38-year old African priest — was this week named by Pope Paul VI as the first Bishop of Machakos, Kenya, a newly-created diocese in East Africa, just below the Equator.

Bishop-elect Raphael S. Ndingi, ordained only eight years ago in his home-town of Myanyani, Kenya, has been attending St. John Fisher for two years.

He received a Bachelor of Arts in history this June, under a scholarship established between Archbishop John J. McCarthy, of Nairobi, and Father Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., president of the college.

Baptized at the age of 14 by an American missionary, Father John Marx, now living in Philadelphia, the Bishop-elect studied in seminaries in Tanzania before ordination in 1961.

He was a parish priest in the capital city, Nairobi, and in his home-district of Machakos before becoming in 1965 the Educational Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Kenya, directing educational programs for all the Bishops of the country.

He credits Monsignor William Kaiser, a former Rochesterian who is Catholic Relief Services director for eastern Africa, for suggesting that he come to St. John Fisher for degree studies.

While attending the college, Bishop-elect Ndingi has lived at Becket Hall and assisted weekends at nearby parishes of St. Thomas More and Holy Spirit of Penfield. He has been regular weekend assistant at "Our Lady of Good Counsel Church since January, 1968.

The Bishop-elect left Rochester Tuesday for his new post with stopovers in Ireland and Rome.

He expects to be consecrated about Aug. 1 by Pope Paul himself in Uganda, some 400 miles west of his new diocese, when the Holy Father visits Africa to dedicate a shrine to the Uganda Martyrs.

"I am the first one in my family to become a Christian," the young Bishop-elect revealed. "My mother

Columbia U. Terminates Chaplain Post

New York — (NC) — Columbia University has announced the abolition of the post of university chaplain and an end to the appointment of religious advisers by church denominations.

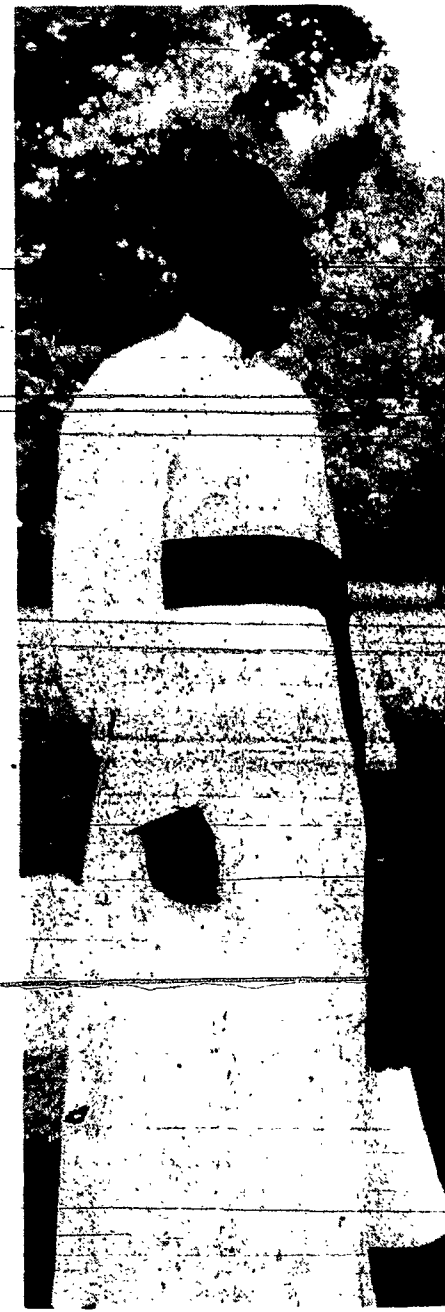
The university also announced creation of an ecumenical-type Center for Religion and Life, to be directed by Msgr. James E. Rea, a New York archdiocesan priest who has been the Catholic student counselor at Columbia for the past 13 years.

The changes were in line with recommendations by a committee formed by university trustees in 1968 to undertake a comprehensive study of religious life at Columbia.

The committee said that while the system of externally appointed chaplains may have worked well for "a small minority" of students, "we affirm the right of any group of university members to organize or assemble for religious purposes and we believe that the university has a continuing responsibility to facilitate the interests of such religious groups."

Under the old system, religious advisers were appointed by four bodies recognized by the university for that purpose. They were the Jewish Advisory Board, the Catholic archdiocese of New York, the Protestant Foundation and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

In the reorganization, student groups will choose their own religious advisers and will also be responsible for paying their salaries. The university will provide the counselors with the use of Earl Hall, which has housed Columbia's religious activities for the past 60 years. Msgr. Rea's salary as director of the center will be paid by Columbia, but he will be involved more in the ecumenical operation of the center than in religious counseling.



BISHOP-ELECT RAPHAEL S. NDINGI

and one sister and all my nieces and nephews have followed me into the Church."

His father is a retired farmer and a former blacksmith. He has one brother and three sisters who all live near his parents about 35 miles from Machakos, the see-city of his new diocese.

"Machakos, in southern Kenya

has a total population of about 600,000, of whom perhaps 50,000 are Catholics," he said. "There are 35 priests in the area of the new diocese. Only 5 of them are Africans.

"Our area has a great need for missionaries and teachers. I hope to enlist some American religious communities to come to our diocese to supplement the Irish priests and Sisters who have worked with us so faithfully.

"I say 'work with us' because foreigners must not come to Africa to work 'for' the people but 'with' the people. Africans want to feel independent. They are very poor but they must be helped to help themselves. Outsiders will be welcomed if they come to show our people how to use their own resources to make themselves a little more prosperous."

Regretting the absence of strong industry in his new diocese and describing the handicaps of its rural life, the Bishop-elect said that even well-water was scarce. It was necessary for his family and neighbors to walk 3 miles to get water.

"Money I have been able to save since the day of my ordination has gone into building a home for my parents and, more importantly, putting up a water-tank in their yard to catch rain water to save them the long walk to the well."

Father Louis J. Hohman, rector of Becket Hall, bidding farewell to the Bishop-elect, said, "As Father Raphael he was a splendid example to the seminarians of our house for these two years. He mixed well with everyone here and at Fisher and was a hard worker at his studies."

"Always smiling and generous, he participated actively in everything his class did. He even enjoyed being part of an intramural football team called 'The Rejects 12' and wore a team sweatshirt with the word 'Chaplain' on it."

Asked about his aspirations for the new diocese the Bishop-elect immediately said "ecumenical leadership."

"I intend to try very hard to get all the Christian groups to work together as Christians. Christianity must not be bitter, but it sometimes looks that way when the denominations and leaders do not work together."

"But the ecumenical movement will be very slow because so many people do not read or write. Education, poverty, unemployment, health — all these needs should be objects of our united Christian concern."

Priests' Role Topic Of Swiss Meetings

By PATRICK RILEY (NC News Service)

Coire, Switzerland — More than 100 bishops from 19 European countries—including some under Communist rule — met here this week to discuss the priest's role in today's Church and world.

Not altogether willingly, they found themselves working in the small town with a group of some 40 priests from eight European countries who came to tackle the same subject and, if possible, to "crash" the bishops' party.

The two meetings presented a vivid study in contrasts.

The bishops' symposium met in the seminary overlooking the town, while the assembly of priests met in a somber hotel. The bishops' symposium moved gravely ahead at a purposeful pace, superbly organized. The priests' assembly raced forward with more determination than defined purpose, organizing itself as it went along.

None of the participants at the priests' assembly could speak for all the priests of his country. Yet they all had a single problem to confront: the role of the priest in modern times. It was the same problem which confronted the bishops.

Father William Murphy of Phoenix, Ariz., was attending the assembly as the delegated observer of the National Federation of Priests' Councils of the United States. He said: "The men who organized this assembly are fine and dedicated priests, trying to achieve constructive change within the Church. If the bishops fail to listen to the better element in the priesthood, the more rebellious element may take over the leadership of these movements of priests."

Julius Cardinal Doepfner, of Munich, president of the German Bishops' Conference, gave the opening address at the bishops' symposium. As a result of the present trend toward total secularization, he said, "many priests obviously no longer know what they are, what they must do and what is their place in the Church and in the world."

He described this crisis as the loss of "theological and social position." He traced this loss of the priests'

theological and social position to a new emphasis on the priesthood of all the faithful and the growing importance of laymen in the Church.

Here the cardinal tried to crack the nut and extract the kernel. "This priesthood of all the faithful finds in the ministerial priesthood its central point, its recapitulation, its sacramental expression. The two priesthoods are reciprocal."

Thus, said the cardinal, the priest who wants to understand his role "in a new and more complete manner," must consider that his vocation comes to him personally from God and that his vocation "is not opposed to his basic relation with the community."

The cardinal declared: "It is in his ministry itself that the priestly ministry of the Church and of the people of God makes itself known and becomes sacramentally efficacious."

John Cardinal Wright, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, for mer bishop of Pittsburgh, was not on the list of speakers at the symposium but was an invited guest.

Msgr. Fenton Dies at 63

Chicopee Falls, Mass. — (NC) — Msgr. Joseph C. Fenton, 63, author and former dean of the school of sacred theology at Catholic University of America, died in his sleep July 7 at St. Patrick's rectory here, where he had been pastor for the last six years.

(Msgr. Fenton taught dogmatic theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, from 1935 to 1938.)

He was editor of the American Ecclesiastical Review from 1944 to 1964, and served on the Pontifical Theology Commission for preparation of Vatican Council II. A widely-recognized theologian, he participated in all four sessions of the council.

Born in Springfield, Mass., he was ordained in 1930 and taught at Catholic University from 1938 through 1964 as professor of theology before becoming dean. He wrote five books on theology, including "The Theology of Prayer" and "The Concept of Sacred Theology."

He's One Yank They'll Miss in Vietnam

John Snyder is out of the Army after 28 months in Vietnam, and that's good news. But there are orphans, refugees and nuns back there who must be sorry he's gone.

One of the last things he did for the Daughters of Charity and their charges was to buy a washing machine in Okinawa. The Avon Junior Chamber of Commerce will foot the bill.

The 20-year-old soldier had been the crucial link in a supply line that stretched from Livingston County to the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Snyder of 134 Somershire Drive, Rochester, formerly of Avon.

Rated specialist 5, he was a records clerk with the 518th Personnel Service Company. After the Tet offensive of 1968, he and other men in his company began building quarters for children gathered at an orphanage near their Cam Ranh base. Snyder had special home leave during this time, and returned to Vietnam laden with clothing and supplies that the Livingston County Operation Morale had collected for him. He worked on the project with Mrs. Kay Clark, a friend who heads the county organization.

Back in Vietnam, Snyder



John Snyder helps his Vietnamese friends open boxes of clothes from Livingston County

found that his orphanage had been moved 160 miles away. He drove there the first time, and after that flew, according to an Army account. The material kept coming from Livingston

County, and Snyder made six trips with it.

The ex-soldier was brought up in Avon, attending St. Agnes School, Avon Central and McQuaid Jesuit High School in

Rochester. He expects to enter Monroe Community College; his mother said.

Home from Vietnam less than a month, he is relaxing on a camping expedition.

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