



Future Royal Family

Prince Juan Carlos Alfonso Victor Maria de Bourbon, 31, has been designated by Generalissimo Francisco Franco and the Spanish Cortes (Parliament) to become the king of Spain when the provisional government headed by Franco since the 1930s comes to an end. The monarch-designate is shown with his wife, Princess Sophia, and two of their children, Elena (at center) and Christina. (RNS)

Von Braun Cites God's Blessing

Wheaton, Ill. — (RNS) — The scientist who developed the Saturn V rocket which took the Apollo 11 astronauts to the Moon believes that God has given his blessing and permission for man to explore the "celestial bodies."

An interview-article on Dr. Werner Von Braun, the German-born physicist who is a key figure in the U.S. space program, appeared in the July issue of Christian Life magazine, published here.

"God has built man with curiosity," said Dr. Von Braun. "God expects man to use this gift. Now we have the tools available to explore space and I believe if it were not the Creator's intent for us to explore celestial bodies, He would not have permitted us to have acquired the tools."

"Something else is apparent. God has not placed any visible obstacles in our way. I believe we have His permission and His blessing."

The Von Braun family belongs to the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Ala., where the scientist is director of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Dr. Von Braun feels that probes into space will have a good effect on man's spiritual life. "Our religion, our environment and our outlook has been earthbound," he said. "Astronomy and space explorations are teaching us that the good Lord is a much greater Lord, and master of a greater kingdom."

"Manned space flight is an amazing achievement, but it has opened for us thus far only a tiny door for viewing the awesome reaches of space. Our outlook through this peephole at the vast mysteries of the universe only confirms our belief in the certainty of its Creator."

Dr. Von Braun sees no reason why God cannot retain the same central position in the world of technology and cybetrons that he held before the modern scientific world dawned. The Christian Life interview quoted him:

"I find it best through faith to accept God as an intelligent will, perfect in goodness, revealing Himself in the world of experience more fully down through the ages as man's capacity for understanding grows. For spiritual comfort I find assurance in the concept of the fatherhood

of God. And for ethical guidance I rely on the corollary concept of the brotherhood of man."

Dr. Von Braun said he was certain there are other beings in the universe. "I am in no position to say whether man will find that Christ's appearance on earth was a unique event in the universe. It could very well be that the Lord would, under comparable circumstances, send His Son to other worlds to bring the Gospel to them."

"I believe the good Lord is full of such tremendous compassion that He will take whatever steps are necessary to bring the truth to His creation."

No Reason To Fear Science, Pope Asserts

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Catholic faith "has no fear of comparison between its humble doctrine and the marvels of modern science," Pope Paul VI said here in an address commenting on the Apollo 11 Moon journey.

Speaking at his regular Wednesday general audience, the Pope said that a comparison with science "would be advantageous to faith" because faith fills an "intrinsic and natural" human need.

The Pope compared the "energy and study involved in preparations for the Moon voyage with the 'defeatism' found today among many young intellectuals."

Some young people, he said, seem to think that defeatism "is the proof of daring progressivism, proof of their superiority filling them with rebellious instincts and thoughtless contempt for our era and its creative endeavors."

"But life is serious," he continued, "and we are taught this by the weight of studies, expenses and work, the efforts, risk and sacrifices required by such a colossal undertaking."

"Nor do we reproach the young for their instinct for emancipation and novelty. We do not deny the right to criticize, but we do think unworthy of young people the iconoclastic, loveless decadence of professional contesters."

"The young ought to feel instead the ideal and positive impulse offered to them by this magnificent enterprise."

Obscenity Laws Face British Ax

London — (RNS) — Fears — or hopes — that Britain's "permissive society" may soon be further extended are being expressed here following publication of a report urging the repeal of a five-year trial period of all laws curbing obscenity in publications and on the stage.

The report was issued to a committee set up last year by the Arts Council, whose members are appointed by the government which finances the Council's work.

It recommended that the Obscene Publications Acts of 1959 and 1964 and the Theatre Act of 1968 should be withdrawn for five years. At the end of that time Parliament would decide whether they should lapse altogether.

Contents of the report were announced — and adopted — almost unanimously at a conference of 100 people convened here by Lord Good, chairman of the Arts Council. One of the few who opposed it was Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, noted housewife who is a longtime foe of "dirt" on TV and radio and secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association.

Declaring that "pornographers' paradise" loomed ahead, she asked where, in the committee, were the church representatives, the police, the magistrates? Why hadn't they been invited to contribute their opinions, she asked.

Not Treated 'Shabbily,' Bishop Shannon States

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNS) — Bishop James P. Shannon, who resigned as auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, broke a self-imposed silence and denied a charge of a laymen's organization that he was treated "shabbily" by the archdiocese.

"I have never been treated shabbily by the chancery," the bishop told the St. Paul Dispatch in a telephone call from St. John's College, Santa Fe, N.M., where he is now teaching.

Bishop Shannon called the newspaper to reply to a statement by concerned Christians, an unofficial group, calling for removal from office of Msgr. Terrence Bertson, chancellor of the archdiocese.

"I would like to come out flatly and strongly disagreeing with that position," the bishop said.

Concerned Christians is coordinated by Joseph Kroll and Thomas Gilman, past-president and current president, respectively, of the Minnesota Student Association at the University of Minnesota. They claim to have 70 members, one-third of whom are college and university students.

They charged in their statement that Msgr. Bertson "has served only to perpetuate misunderstanding and distrust among area Catholics, clergy, as well as laymen."

"He has," they said, "made an increasing number of dishonest statements within the past year, the most glaring about Bishop Shannon."

Bishop Shannon said he thought it is "most unfortunate" that Msgr. Bertson's "good name has been in any way injured by recent events concerning me and the Church. Msgr. Bertson has been a very good friend of mine for 25 years, and still is a very good friend."

"My only regret," he said, "is that I haven't had the opportunity recently to say this to him."

Bishop Shannon told the Dispatch that "out of respect for my superiors in the Church and out of the deep desire not to shed heat rather than light on a difficult question, I have faithfully refrained from any comment to the press in recent weeks."

"I break this silence only to state my great respect and my abiding friendship for Msgr. Terrence Bertson."

Two Dioceses To Let Laymen Give Hosts

Superior, Wis. — (RNS) — Bishop George A. Hammes of Superior has received Vatican permission to authorize certain lay persons to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion.

Bishop Hammes said similar permission had been granted to Bishop Paul F. Anderson of Duluth. The bishops had applied jointly for the authorization.

In a letter to diocesan priests, Bishop Hammes explained that the authorization had been sought "because so many parishes in the diocese have need of additional help in distributing Communion in order to eliminate the unnecessary long period of time consumed distributing Communion, particularly in tourist areas."

The Vatican permission requires that Bishops Hammes and Anderson grant the privilege personally to individuals in the dioceses.

The diocesan liturgical commission is currently drawing up guidelines for the fitting use of this privilege. Bishop Hammes requested the pastors to explain this privilege to their people and to send in names of qualified laymen in each parish for the granting of the privilege.

Catholic Eucharist Approved for Island Anglicans

Suva, Fiji Islands — (RNS) — Authorization by the Catholic Bishops of the Fiji and Gilbert Islands for Anglicans to receive the Eucharist in Catholic worship — when their own clergy is not available — was cited here as a major breakthrough in ecumenical relations.

Father Martin Doherty, an Irish missionary, noted the new authorization in an address following his election as vice-president of the traditionally Protestant Fiji Council of Churches.

The Bishops' Conference of the Pacific, which gave permission for the practice at its meeting in late June, placed three conditions on the reception of Communion in Catholic churches and missions by members of the Anglican Church. These were: The request must be spontaneous; the Anglican must express faith in the Eucharist in accord with the Roman Catholic Church, and that the Anglican's own minister is unavailable for long periods.

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