

# Pope's Africa Trip Success

(Continued from Page 1)

organization to promote development in Africa, gave several charitable donations.

To the bishops attending the symposium of African bishops the Pope counseled them to affirm their African-ness, but at the same time never fail to be aware they were not only the Church in Africa but also a living part of the universal Church.

To Uganda's parliament and the assembled presidents of six African nations the Pope spoke out against violence, war, colonialism and racism. But again he urged them to look beyond the confines of Africa and to seek international cooperation for development and a sense of identity with the broader panorama of the international community.

Everywhere the Pope went — to celebrate Mass at Kololo Terrace and ordain 12 new bishops for Africa, to hospitals, social study centers or the shrines of the Uganda martyrs at Namugongo — he was surrounded by thousands of Africans, many of them Catholics, but also many Moslems and animists. Their reception was warm and courteous.

There was no repetition of the mob scenes and frantic zeal such as he had experienced before in Colombia, India or the Holy Land. As Bishop Paul Marcinkus, the American who arranged many papal trips in the past, put it, "they're the best yet."

Throughout the visit the Pope had the chance to experience the exotic life that Africans, with people of all ages with twisted limbs of polio victims, the Pope also saw tribesmen wearing leopard skins and ostrich feathers.

To honor the Uganda martyrs Pope Paul celebrated Mass on an island of an artificial pond near the Catholic shrine. A crowd estimated at up to 100,000 was present, standing in the enclosures descending the hollow toward the pond, or sitting in the aromatic grass strewn in the enclosures, or even watching from trees.

The Pope wore vestments of bark cloth, long the commonest stuff for clothing in Buganda and the cloth worn by the martyrs themselves. The epistle was read in Swahili, the Lingua Franca of East Africa, and the Gospel in Luganda, the language of the Buganda tribesmen who founded the kingdom of Buganda, now part of greater Uganda.

At times the Mass proceeded to the accompaniment of tom toms, at times to that of Gregorian chant.

The Mass at the shrine and the visit to the Protestant shrine were among the most moving experiences of the Pope. As the Anglican archbishop of Uganda pointed out, in the past Catholic and Protestant converts in Uganda had murdered each other in religious hate. Now the two churchmen knelt together on the



Laurian Cardinal Rugamba, bishop of Bukoba, Tanganyika, is the dean of the African Catholic hierarchy.

spot where most of the 22 Catholic and 23 Protestant martyrs had been killed.

The number 22 kept recurring throughout the trip. At the shrine the Pope baptized and confirmed 22 catechumens and among the gifts presented to the Pope by President Obote were 22 elephant tusks, each with a silver plaque bearing the name of one of the martyrs.

If 22 elephant tusks seem to carry generosity to the limit, it should also be known that he was presented with a stuffed antelope, two stuffed

crested cranes and an enormous stuffed head of an impala.

In all respects the Pope's journey to the heart of Africa was an exceptional experience. As he himself put it: "It was a truly great thing, precisely because of the response of the little people, of the people who live outside the city, who came out along the roads and who threw themselves on the ground."

He said that the crowds had recalled to his mind the Biblical passages describing the enthusiasm with which crowds had received Jesus.

"It brought tears to our eyes," the Pope said, "that we could not cure the sick, straighten the cripples or give sight to the blind. But at least we were honored by their gentle smiles, thrilled with an indefinable spiritual vision spreading all over their faces and their twisted bodies."

Referring to the Martyrs of Uganda, whose still uncompleted shrine he had visited to dedicate the main altar, Pope Paul said that the history of Christianity in that country was "almost a miracle." Less than a century after the mass executions which had supposedly "brought an end" to Christianity, he noted, "there are some 50,000 catechumens (students for baptism) and almost 3,000,000 Catholics in the country. It is a marvel that moves us and makes us think... It is the law of dying to live."

"We tell you that from among the various experiences which providence has reserved for our ministry—and they are not all of the same quality—this is truly one of the most consoling. And we thank first of all the Lord and we also ask you to think Him, for the happy outcome of this our African excursion."



New African Bishops

Pope Paul lays his hands ceremonially on the head of one of the 12 new African bishops he consecrated at an outdoor ceremony here. The consecrations were held in conjunction with a Mass which the Pope concelebrated with bishops from all parts of Africa. (Religious News Service)

## Church Panel Endorses Mexican Drive

San Antonio — (RNS) — The Commission on Church and Society of the Archdiocese of San Antonio has issued a position paper which commends the Church in that area of Texas to support and encourage the "movement for full equality" for Mexican-Americans.

In addition, the document lists a series of objectives for the 38-member archdiocesan agency which pledges the unit to work for the elimination of human "injustices and suffering in the counties served by the archdiocese."

Among the major objectives outlined in the document were:

- Promotion of industrial and economic growth, calling specifically for "an increase in wage levels, higher benefits for farm workers and migrants, unionization."
- Support of the federal guaranteed income program.
- Greater emphasis on Negro and Mexican-American studies in schools. "History, social studies and religion courses, where appropriate, must include up-to-date material on segregation and discrimination, and on the contribution of black people and Mexican-Americans to our life."
- Consolidation of some of the public school districts in the San Antonio area and support of legislation for tax tuition grants to parents of children in non-urban schools.
- Encouragement of innovative housing programs for the poor and low-income families as alternatives to existing public housing complexes.
- Creation of effective programs aimed at ending problems of hunger and malnutrition.
- Establishment of special migrant ministries for farm laborers and protection for migrant workers under federal labor relations legislation.

## Ohio Defeats Abortion Bill

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — The Ohio House Health and Welfare Committee has voted to postpone indefinitely proposed abortion legislation.

The action was taken in the closing days of the current legislative session. The committee, headed by Carlton Davidson, heard many witnesses during hearings conducted in March and April.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio presented a long-range educational program during the past year pointing out the legal, medical, and moral objections to the proposed legislation.

In announcing the postponement of the bill, Theodore N. Staudt, conference executive director, said he expects the issue would very likely be introduced again in the 1971 General Assembly session.

## Theologian Critical of Nixon

# East Room a 'King's Chapel'?

New York — (RNS) — President Nixon has "established a conforming religion" in violation of the spirit of the first article of the Bill of Rights, a prominent Protestant theologian has charged.

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, professor emeritus of Union Theological Seminary, compared the East Room of the White House to a "king's chapel" for a "famed religion" which often seems "even more extravagantly appreciative of official policy" than an established religion, forbidden by the Constitution, would be.

The East Room has been the scene of a series of religious services, involving each of the major American faiths, since Mr. Nixon took office. Writing in the Aug. 4 issue of Christianity and Crisis, journal of Chris-

tian opinion published here, Dr. Niebuhr said the East Room has been "turned into a kind of sanctuary."

"By a curious combination of innocence and guile," he said, Mr. Nixon "has circumvented the Bill of Rights' first article. Thus, he has established a conforming religion by semi-officially inviting representatives of all the disestablished religions, of whose moral criticism we were naturally so proud."

"It is wonderful what a simple White House invitation will do to dull the critical faculties, thereby confirming the fears of the Founding Fathers."

Dr. Niebuhr also attacked what he called the "Nixon-Graham doctrine,"

an idea which he attributed jointly to Mr. Nixon and to evangelist Billy Graham — that "a spiritual solution" must be found for current American problems.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 80 No. 45 — August 8, 1969  
Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single copy 15c; 1 year Subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Main Office, 35 Scio Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Second Class. Postage Paid at Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

## Church Ties Cut To Qualify for Aid

Montpelier, Vt. — (RNS) — Vermont College has decided to sever its affiliation with the Methodist Church in order to qualify for low-interest, state-backed loans under Vermont's Educational Facilities Act.

The Vermont Supreme Court has ruled that the state may pledge its credit behind bonds of private and religiously affiliated institutions of higher learning, but bonding companies have refused to back bonds of church colleges pending a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

## ETHNIC DIRECTOR

San Diego, Calif. — (NC) — Bishop Francis J. Furey of San Diego has announced the creation of a diocesan post of director of ethnic affairs and named Father Patrick Henry Gullen to the position.

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Pope Paul

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