



In Honor of Moon Walk

U.S. astronaut James Lovell Jr., presents a golden globe of the Moon to Pope Paul VI. The gift is from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration commemorating the walk on the Moon by the crew of Apollo 11. Lovell, who will command a later Apollo flight to the Moon, was received with his family at the Pope's Summer residence. (RNS).

Senators Ask Pope's Aid

On Prisoners in N. Vietnam

Washington — (NC) — A group of United States senators have called on Pope Paul VI (Aug. 22) to intercede on behalf of prisoners of war held by North Vietnam.

Sen. Joseph M. Montoya, (N.M.), main organizer of the appeal, wrote a letter to the Pope and gathered signatures from Democratic and Republican colleagues.

Montoya told Pope Paul that North Vietnam is a party to the Geneva convention calling for proper treatment of war prisoners, release of the sick and a regular flow of mail between prisoners and their families.

"The government of North Vietnam has done none of these things, nor has the National Liberation Front or the Pathet Lao. Of the 1,300 U.S. servicemen missing, less than 100 have been heard from in the past five years. Only a handful of prisoners have ever been released," the letter said.

"It has occurred to us that an appeal from Your Holiness, with your unrivaled moral authority, would be extremely influential in helping crystallize world opinion... in securing the release of the prisoners."

Pope Sends Blessing To Hurricane Victims

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in a telegram to Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans transmitted by Jean Cardinal Villot, Vatican secretary of state, expressed his sorrow at the death and destruction caused by Hurricane Camille and gave his blessing to the victims.

The telegram reads: "The Holy Father, profoundly saddened by the tragic consequences of the recent hurricane, prays for the eternal rest of the numerous victims and invokes divine graces, comfort and consolation upon the survivors, imparting to all affected his paternal apostolic blessing."

Cardinal to Devote Full-time to New Job

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has accepted the resignation of Franjo Cardinal Seper from the Archdiocese of Zagreb and the primacy of Yugoslavia and has made several new archiepiscopal appointments, the Vatican announced.

Cardinal Seper, who has headed the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith since early in 1968, will now devote his full time to that position, the announcement said.

Vatican Weekly Criticizes Bishop

Vatican City — (RNS) — L'Osservatore della Domenica, weekly newspaper published in Vatican City, has printed one of the sharpest criticisms of Bishop Matthias Defregger to appear so far in the Catholic press.

The Munich auxiliary bishop, who was involved in a World War II incident in which a German army unit executed 17 hostages, has been a subject of growing controversy in Italy and Germany.

The bishop, who was a captain in the German army, transmitted to a lieutenant his superiors' order for the execution of 17 hostages in Filletto di Camarda in June, 1944. When the incident was made public by the news magazine Der Spiegel earlier this year, the bishop admitted his involvement but said he had repeatedly resisted the order and had managed to reduce the number of hostages before transmitting the execution command.

L'Osservatore della Domenica, reacting to the bishop's comments, said that only God could judge his conscience but noted that "some people do not believe Bishop Defregger has become a different man since the war."

The article refused to judge the bishop's moral status but questioned whether he had shown "Christian conscience and remorse" in relation to the incident.

"It was written, not unjustly, when the full story came out, that the past does not count for much if indeed Bishop Defregger has become a new man and if in him there has been a sign of true conversion."

"May we, therefore, most respectfully request that Your Holiness intercede with the government of the Peoples Republic of North Vietnam, and the Communist authorities in adjacent territories, with a view to securing the release of U.S. and other prisoners currently in Communist hands."

"May we further request that if the Communist authorities are unwilling to agree to a prisoner release and exchange, that they be approached with a view to securing a list of U.S. prisoners now in their custody, immediate release of the sick and wounded, a free flow of mail between them and their families, and the opening of their prison camps to international inspection," the letter said.

Among those signing the appeal besides Montoya were Sens. Howard W. Cannon (Nev.), Jack Miller (Iowa), Alan Cranston (Calif.), Albert Gore (Tenn.), John Sherman Cooper (Ky.), Edward W. Brooke (Mass.), George McGovern (S.D.), Fred R. Harris (Okla.), Allen J. Ellender (La.), Harrison A. Williams Jr. (N.J.), Russell Long (La.), and Robert C. Byrd (W.Va.).

Sadness, Shock Mark Reaction to Shannon News

Sadness and shock coupled with a call for charity and prayers for James P. Shannon has been the general reaction in the Catholic press to the marriage of the former auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

A number of publications used as their guide the reaction to the marriage voiced by Coadjutor Archbishop Leo F. Byrne of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The prelate termed the announcement of the marriage "reason for great sorrow."

The editorial in *The Monitor* in San Francisco, said: "There is little doubt that many who admired Bishop Shannon as an outspoken advocate of Church renewal will be left perplexed and discouraged. Perhaps they, with Archbishop Byrne, may be able to find now an opportunity to renew our faith in Jesus Christ and in His Church, confident that He will sustain and guide all of us in every difficulty."

The *Catholic Bulletin*, weekly for Dr. Shannon's home archdiocese, said, "It will be regrettable if his literary works are scorned or his human conduct is accepted as justification for failure to follow the teachings of the



Auxiliary Bishop Matthias Defregger of Munich, vicar general of the Catholic archdiocese, center, celebrates Mass during an annual festival at Schleching, Bavaria. (RNS)

"But, according to declarations made by the Auxiliary Bishop of Munich, he obviously believed it was right to reply in a negative fashion to such questions — revealing that not only does he not show regret but that he has not undergone a change in the true Christian sense."

"Without putting forth a judgment pro or con, we deplore this attitude. His sincerity of conscience and intentions are in the competence of another judge."

War crime proceedings against the bishop have been dropped in Germany but preliminary investigations are continuing in Italy, with the encouragement of some members of the hierarchy.

Stalinist Gets Czech Job Over Church

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — An old-line Stalinist Communist has taken over a church affairs office in Czechoslovakia from an official who had been responsible for easing restrictions against the Church and religion, the German Catholic news agency KNA reported.

The Stalinist, Karel Hruza, replaced Dr. Erica Kadlecova as head of the Czech state office for church affairs. Hruza had been in charge of the office during the Stalinist regime of President Antonin Novotny, prior to the liberal political shakeup in 1968.

The Novotny regime was marked by extremely repressive measures against religion and the Church and many priests and Religious were sentenced to prison.

Mrs. Kadlecova succeeded Hruza as head of the church affairs office, but since early 1969 has been head of the church affairs office for Bohemia and Moravia — the Czech areas of the country — when the nation was divided into two federal states.

The church affairs office in the state of Slovakia is headed by another Stalinist, Andrej Belansky.

Catholics Urge 'Jewish Sunday'

Tarrytown, N.Y. — (RNS) — A group of Catholic priests and religious who recently completed a program on Jewish studies at Marymount College here have asked the American hierarchy to designate one Sunday a year for sermons on promoting better Jewish-Christian relations.

The request was made in a public letter thanking "the American bishops for the progress already made in connection with textbook and catechetical references to the Jewish people."

As a result of this progress, they said, Catholic youth "are receiving a more wholesome and truer picture of the Jews."

To reach their elders, they said, there should be "at least one Sunday of the year when sermons will be specifically directed to promoting better understanding between Christians and Jews."

The letter was signed by three nuns, one priest and one Brother who said they "represent a group of 25 Roman Catholic priests, Sisters and Brothers who have recently participated in a Summer institute of Jewish studies."

Church by others less gifted or exalted."

The editorial expressed its sorrow that "one of the most respected and articulate voices for reform within the Church has now removed himself from a position where he could have been one of its most effective agents. The Church will recover from this considerable blow."

The sharpest criticism of the former bishop's action was made in an editorial in *Twin Circle* — The National Catholic Press. It claimed that the action of Dr. Shannon had inflicted a wound on the whole Church.

"The plain fact is that James P. Shannon has acted in a manner that harms the Church he says he does not want to harm. The fact is that he tossed aside solemn commitments he made as a presumably responsible adult."

Don Zirkel, editor of *The Tablet* of Brooklyn, N.Y., urged active editorial support by the Catholic press of Dr. Shannon when he first resigned his post as auxiliary bishop. His reaction to the former prelate's marriage, as recorded in his weekly column, was one of "shock, disbelief, betrayal, embarrassment."

"... Bishop Shannon was too much a symbol of the intellectual, moderate leadership the Church needs, and many said so: bishops, priests, educators, editors. As it turns out, many of those who opposed him were right, but for the wrong reasons; and many of those who supported him were wrong, but for the right reasons."

Other comments from Catholic publications around the country:

• *Pittsburgh Catholic*: "... Bishop Shannon is lost to the Church as far as any visible leadership role is concerned. That's a pity. All hope is gone that Bishop Shannon might continue to contribute to the renewal of the Church in any significant way. In this sense, the Shannon case is closed."

• *The Witness*, Dubuque, Iowa: "This is not the time for idle conversation. This is not the time for condemnation. Although we cannot agree with the decision of the Minnesota bishop, we do agree it is time for some sobering thoughts, a new emphasis on prayer and the upbuilding of faith."

• *Western Catholic Reporter*, Edmonton, Alberta: "As a public figure, James Shannon has shocked us. It was wrong for him to turn his back on his sacred office and marry the way he did. We are not condoning his action. But we are making a plea for an understanding of conditions in the Church today which contributed to the Shannon alienation."

• *Central California Register*, Fresno, Calif.: "Despite his marriage, despite the pain that he has caused his brothers in the hierarchy, and despite the scandal that he has given, many of the things that Bishop Shannon stood for, many of the progressive or liberal ideas that he strove for, are still valid today."

LAST WEEK TO SAVE!

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