



Byzantine Art

"The Splendor of Byzantium," an exhibit of Eastern Church art from the collection of the St. Paul Center Byzantine-Melkite Information Bureau in Washington is on display at the Mullen Library of the Catholic University of America. Melkite Rite Archbishop Armand J. Jacopin, left, executive director of the St. Paul Center, explains the craftsmanship of an enameled and gilded 18th Century Russian chalice to Bishop Papken Varjabedian, representative of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Washington, D.C. The exhibit features examples of Eastern Church art, including icons, ceremonial objects and vestments dating from the 6th Century. (RNS)

Most Crucial Ecumenical Area?

By MARJORIE HYER (NC News Service)

New York — A growing number of ecumenical leaders feel that Christian-Jewish relationships constitute a crucial area much in need of further exploration.

One of these leaders is the Rev. Dr. Robert C. Doolie, associate secretary of the division of Christian unity of the National Council of Churches.

"Jewish-Christian relationships are the single most important item on the ecumenical agenda," Dr. Doolie believes.

But while American Protestant and Orthodox churches have extensive ecumenical programs concerned with the various branches of Christendom, Dr. Doolie complained that there is "virtually no interest in the Jews at present."

Dr. Doolie credits the Roman Catholic Church with being "way ahead" of Protestants at present in this field, though this has not always been the case.

"There was a period — before Vatican II — when Jews working on this problem felt that Protestants were more progressive than Catholics," he explained.

"Now through the declaration on the Jews of the Vatican Council and the recent draft of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, the Catholic Church — in the hierarchy and officialdom — recognizes the Jew as brother. Protestants have yet to take any similar step."

Dr. Doolie noted that "outside of officialdom," both Protestant and Catholic theologians and thinkers are calling for more progress. "They are beginning to say that it is as important to the future of Christianity that we reorder Jewish-Christian relations as it is to the future of America that we reorder black-white relations."

Parents: High Court Rejects Challenge to Law On Birth Control

Washington — (RNS) — Cases involving birth control, the draft, and race were settled by the Supreme Court in recent opinions.

The court rejected a challenge to a Massachusetts law prohibiting the distribution of birth control devices by anyone except a doctor or pharmacist. The law allows only married persons to receive the devices.

The court's brief order left standing as final a decision made last May by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts that a ban on distribution of contraceptive devices to other than married persons pressed no conflict with the Constitution.

The state court did strike down as a violation of free speech rights the ban on exhibition of such devices.

The Supreme Court also rejected a challenge to the power of draft boards to compel conscientious objectors to work in hospitals.

Timothy J. Boroski of Mount Morris, Mich., had claimed that orders to work in a hospital were outlawed when the 13th Amendment prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude.

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Bishops Name News Chief

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Robert B. Beusse, director of administration and public affairs for RKO General Radio and Television, has been named communications director of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

He will succeed Warren V. Schwed on Feb. 2, Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, USCC general secretary, announced here. His headquarters will be in New York.

Mr. Beusse, a veteran in broadcasting, advertising, public relations, and magazine, newspaper and book publishing, has been with RKO General for 10 years. Earlier, he was assistant advertising director of Schering Corporation, assistant public relations director of McCall's, and a staff assistant at the now-defunct New York Daily Mirror.

The USCC Communications Department includes the National Catholic Office for Radio and Television (NCORT) and the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (NCOMP), both with headquarters in New York City; and the National

Catholic News Service and the Information Division, both located here.

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Attendance at Church Down 7 P.C. in U.S.

Princeton, N.J. — (RNS) — Forty-two per cent of the U.S. adults in 1969 attended church in a typical week, 7 per cent less than in 1958, the Gallup Poll reported here.

Attendance at worship steadily declined over the 11-year period, the survey organization said. The 1969 percentage was down a point from 1968. A high of 49 per cent was reported in 1955 and 1958.

Gallup reported that the falloff was higher among Roman Catholics than among Protestants. The Catholic decline was from 74 per cent adult attendance in 1958 to 63 per cent in 1969.

The Protestant drop was from 43 per cent in 1958 to 37 per cent in 1969.

The Gallup Poll has been measuring church attendance since 1940 and on a regular basis since 1955. The research is conducted on the basis of samples of 12 widely scattered weeks during a year. In 1969, 18,000 individuals were interviewed.

"They were asked, 'Did you, yourself, happen to attend church in the last seven days?'"

The greatest decrease was

Fight Crime, Catholics Asked

Jersey City — (NC) — Parishioners at the more than 30 Catholic churches in this city are being asked to write to Gov. William T. Cahill and express their concern about organized crime.

Mimeographed letters addressed to the governor are being distributed at many of the churches as a result of a resolution adopted by the Jersey City Priests' Association, an independent group.

The action was taken to buttress a resolution adopted by the Jersey City priests asking for expansion of the current federal-state investigation into organized crime in Newark.



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St. Bernard Spring Curri For Priests-

A number of priest-alumni will be taking courses beginning Feb. 2 at St. Bernard's Seminary along with the regular students in a program of continuing education leading to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.). The schedule for the spring semester includes courses by four professors who are new to the seminary faculty.

Dr. Henry Mitchell, Martin Luther King Jr. memorial professor in Black Church Studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall, will offer a course entitled "The Black Bible and the Black Imagination." This course will analyze the characteristic elements of the use of biblical stories in black preaching, with special application to life-situations. (Friday, 1:30 p.m.)

Canon John Townroe, warden of King's College, London, England, and noted Anglican scholar, will offer the course "Christian Mysticism and the World Today," an attempt to relate the common theme that seems to exist in LSD, interest in astrology, "dropping out," pop culture, and interest in Eastern religions with the main current of the Christian mystical tradition. (Tuesday, 1:10-3 p.m.)

Msgr. Richard Quinn, formerly rector of St. Andrew's Seminary, will teach a course on "The Theology of Enthusiasm." Fringe movements in Church history of the "enthusiastic" type will be investigated, as well as certain individuals, such as Abbot Joachim, Mme. Guyon, and Dorothy Day, in an attempt to see what they have contributed to the main tradition of Christianity. (Wednesday, 1:10-3 p.m.)

Basilian I

In the nearly 150 years since the Basilian Fathers were founded, the men who joined the congregation developed a trait—a pioneer spirit founded in humility and holiness.

Some have been scholars, others administrators; some theologians, others men of practical affairs—but always the Church has been enriched by these outstanding men.

Father Robert J. Scollard, C.S.B., former secretary general of the Basilian Fathers and librarian at the University of St.

Jr. Achievement Exhibit Planned

Hundreds of Monroe County high school students will be operating their own businesses on the Midtown Mall during the last week in January.

The students, from 24 schools, participating in 34 Junior Achievement companies, will join together at Midtown Plaza to present their first J.A. Trade Fair. The fair will be the highlight of J.A. Week which begins Sunday, Jan. 25 and runs through Saturday, Jan. 31.

GREEK PRELATE DIES

Athens — (RNS) — Metropolitan Dionysios Charalambous of Trikkas and Stagon, who during World War II was arrested and imprisoned by the Nazis, died here at the age of 64 after an illness of 10 months.

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