

# 'Hours Later My Hands Were Still Trembling'

## Cardinal Koenig Describes His Visit to Cardinal Mindszenty

(NC News Service)

Rome — Pope John XXIII said to him: "Why don't you go to Budapest to visit Cardinal Mindszenty and invite him to the council? Pay no attention to the border being closed. Just buy a ticket and go."

It was not as simple as all that, but Franziskus Cardinal Koenig of Vienna offered it as one of the incidents which led to his now famous visits to Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Esztergom, who still lives as a "monk in strict cloister" in the United States Embassy in Budapest.

The 77-year-old Cardinal Mindszenty, the Catholic primate of Hungary, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Hungarian regime nearly 20 years ago, but has been a "guest" of the U.S. government since the aborted-Hungarian revolt of November 1956.

Interviewed in the Italian monthly *Famiglia Cristiana*, Cardinal Koenig told of his emotion-filled meeting with Cardinal Mindszenty for the first time in 1962. In the interview, Cardinal Koenig did not explain why he was now making public his impres-

sions of Cardinal Mindszenty, nor was it specified what diplomatic contacts eventually gained him admission to the U.S. embassy in Budapest.

On that first visit, the Austrian Cardinal was allowed four hours with Cardinal Mindszenty and came away trembling from the emotion of it all.

Cardinal Mindszenty's first question was on the will of the Pope for him. The Hungarian primate was "immensely comforted by the visit," Cardinal Koenig said.

In the interview Cardinal Koenig said that he had been briefed to conduct himself as if there were hidden microphones, so the two cardinals conversed over the blare of a radio turned to its highest volume.

"We first tried English," Cardinal Koenig said, "but I could not get around his accent, so he spoke in Latin. He commented on his situation there, his personal problems, his human drama. No one could see him, only a priest who from time to time would come to hear his confession.

"This was a concession ordered by all presidents of the United States,

starting with Eisenhower. This is probably the first time in the history of the United States that the President has given an executive order to allow a priest in for confession. (The visit was emotional for both of us. Hours later . . . my hands were still trembling."

Cardinal Koenig noted that Cardinal Mindszenty lives his day as a monk in strict cloister, saying Mass early, then devoting himself to reading and writing, concentrating on his memoirs. "His situation is practically insoluble," Cardinal Koenig said. "Budapest would allow him to leave (the country), but on the condition that the Pope forbade him to speak or to write, terms the cardinal would not accept."

The "guest in the embassy" has displayed tremendous loyalty to the Holy See, according to Cardinal Koenig. When the U.S. elevated the legation to the rank of embassy, Cardinal Mindszenty wanted to flee his refuge in protest, facing immediate arrest. Pope John sent word to remain and the Hungarian Cardinal responded: "If the Pope wishes it, I will stay here. I also wish to give an example

of obedience to the Holy Father."

Cardinal Koenig also praised the efforts of the U.S. government on behalf of its cardinal-guest. He noted that "obligation has been handed with great delicacy and tact. Two people sleep on his same floor, prepared to confront any emergency. Catholics working in the embassy sometimes attend his Mass. For the rest, his is total silence. Before she died, his old mother could visit him. Now, no one from outside can enter."

Early in the interview, Cardinal Koenig insisted that he is not a Vatican diplomat, but that his assignment as archbishop of Vienna placed him near fellow bishops of Iron Curtain countries. Further, as the president of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Believers, he has been in contact with groups of Marxists and atheists.

Although he admitted that the press gave many diplomatic implications to his many trips into Iron Curtain countries, Cardinal Koenig insisted that he is merely the archbishop of Vienna, and leaves diplomatic contacts to the papal secretariat of state.



CARDINAL KOENIG

Pope John told him, "Don't pay attention to border being closed . . . just buy your ticket and go."



CARDINAL MINDSZENTY

He lives as a monk in strict cloister, saying Mass early . . . concentrating on his memoirs.

# COMMENTARY

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### Thoughtfulness is a Virtue

By Sarah Child

It occurred to me again on my way home from church a couple of Sundays ago that I was a woman of great intention and little action.

The assistant pastor had delivered what I thought was a first rate sermon. Not brilliant, spellbinding nor unforgettable, mind you. Just good, solid, interesting advice on how to retain a Christian spirit of love and helpfulness in an increasingly complex world.

Throughout the past months there had been other homilies by the same man that I, chronic complainer of sermons, had enjoyed and profited from.

Never timid, when it came to grumbling about the dullness and inefficacy of other sermons which seem to do nothing for the individual other than numb the posterior, I had vowed each time to go home and write a short note of thanks to the priest.

Of course I didn't. The warm glow from the sermon lasted throughout the day and by Sunday night I was telling myself I'd write it tomorrow. The next day passed without the note being written and during the following week the intention fluttered away in a whirl of daily routine.

It was but another in a long list of instances in which my intention to wish another happiness, congratulation or say thanks went undone.

Oh, the big things I remember — most of the time. The baby card to the new parents, the gift to the graduate, the visit on the special anniversary.

The little gestures, the unexpected ones that may mean even more to the recipient, never take form.

I have a friend who inspires me with her true warmth and graciousness.

Never a party or dinner that she



is invited to that she doesn't follow up the next day with a telephone call to say what a nice time she had, picking out some item that she knew took the hostess extra time and work to focus on.

A new dress that may do nothing for the wearer in the way of fit will elicit a compliment on the color from my friend. If there is something good to say about something, she will find it.

Appreciate it? Of course, I do. Hopefully I will, with a little more effort, emulate this woman.

For a starter, I'm about to dash off a couple of lines to a do-it-yourselfer friend of ours whose picture appeared in a newspaper last week along with the house he built.

It was a pleasure to see a familiar face and read of someone we knew. And I'm about to tell him so.

## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

### Dutch Priests; English Martyrs

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

There are six priest-Hogans in our diocese, namely, Daniel V. G. Stuart, Michael C., William, Corning Joseph F. and Rochester Joseph L. who is our bishop. When the radio announced the appointment of Joseph L. as bishop, a relative of Joseph F. was vacationing with friends. They heard the announcement over the radio and congratulated the sister of non-designated Corning Joseph F. The relative calmed her excited friends thus: "My brother is Joseph F. The new bishop is Joseph L. There's an L of a difference between the two."

The religion section of *Time* for January 19 reminded me of that incident. The section has two articles about the Church. One is about the Dutch Pastoral Council, which reportedly is demanding lighter and different crosses in following Christ, especially in the celibacy issue. The other is about the coming canonization of 40 English Reformation martyrs. The two articles brought back the words in memory: "There's an L of a difference" in the spirit of the two groups.

According to the report the Dutch apex was on celibacy, with the "repentant emphasis." "We don't want a break," i.e. a break from Rome and the universal Church. The inference seemed to be, however, that while "we don't want a break, we will break if we don't get what we demand."

On the other hand, *Time* reports in its own quirky way the coming canonization of 40 martyrs of the English Reformation. I say "quirky" because *Time* connects the unconnectable; i.e., the liturgical calendar, which dropped 200 feast days, with the coming canonization of 40 English martyrs. This suggests the Pope is trying to pacify saintologists disturbed by the liturgical changes. This is a ridiculous quirk indeed.

Those familiar with the English Reformation are inspired by the martyrs. These priests and laymen, hiding from vigilant police and informers to practice their faith; the Mass, their fidelity to the Holy See, the doctrines of the Church, remind us of what we have so easily. Many readers will recall the Reformation series of convert Msgr. Robert Hugh Benson, viz. *The King's Achievement*, *Come Back, Come Pope*, plus a remarkable Orwellian type book, written in 1906 called *The Lord of the World*.

Some will remember E. Waugh's *Edmund Campion*, *Devin's Life of R. Southwell*, and John Farrow's *Thomas More*. Millions of non-Catholics saw with wonderment a *Man For All Seasons*, both a play and a cinema about Thomas More.

Embedded in every life of the English martyrs are these: 1) a fidelity

to the Pope and to the Holy See; 2) a love for the Mass and for Our Lady; 3) a willingness to suffer loss of property, of friends, of health, of life for the Catholic Religion; 4) and utter lack of self-centeredness.

The reported Dutch hostility to the Holy See, some hanky panky liturgies, and an over concern with self are in sharp contrast to the martyrs' loyalty to the Holy See, reverence for the Mass and Our Lady, and the willingness to disregard self for a greater Self, Christ and His Church.

"Greater love than this no man has than to lay down his life for his friend." (Jo. 15:13) The laying down of life for the Faith is the giving of life, not just for one friend, but for the great Community of the Faithful. It would seem that people would be holier, happier and authentic to the Holy Spirit if they took their inspiration from the saints, rather than from the school of self-concern.

The Dutch suffered terribly and bravely during the Nazi ravishment, showing a capacity for passion and endurance. The martyr Robert Southwell, a poet, wrote: "I know that no man can express a passion that he feeleth not." May the passion of the Dutch and all of us be the passion of the English martyrs, inflamed with a genuine love of Christ and His Church.



## EUROPEAN SCENE

### Dutch Pastoral Council . . . Little Support

By ROBERT HOLTON

Courier-Journal European Bureau

Vatican City—A Dutch priest assigned here said the recent demand for a married clergy made by a group of priests and laymen in Holland is nothing more than a pressure move to have the Vatican approve a small experimental program along those lines.

"The hierarchy, clergy and laity in Holland will never defy the Vatican on this issue," the Rev. Mark Reuver, a Carmelite, said. "What might be done in answer to this demand from the Dutch Pastoral Council will be an appeal to the Holy See to permit a period of experimentation in this area with a few selected married priests."

"But even then, if the Holy See turns down the request, I know that my people will let it die there. They have no other choice if they want to remain in the church."

He said he had "grave doubts" about what percentage of the clergy and laity the pastoral council represented when it made the demands for a married clergy and women priests two weeks ago.

"I have a suspicion from what I have seen and heard in my many recent returns to Holland that this council represents only a small minority—a loud—but still small minority," Father Reuver said. Soon, he said, the hierarchy of

Holland will meet in plenary session under the leadership of Cardinal Bernard Alfrink.

"I am sure that the proposal of the council will be discussed and then Cardinal Alfrink will come to Rome to speak with the Pope about the hierarchy's decision.

"The people in Holland know very well that Pope Paul is not going to back down on his statements upholding celibacy in the Latin rite. They know the law won't be changed now either on an international or even a nation level. But they do hope that the Vatican might agree to an experimental period on a small scale."

The Rev. Eduard Schillebeeckx, a top theologian and close adviser of Cardinal Alfrink, maintains that the Dutch hierarchy has the power to allow a married priest to continue his priestly duties.

Msgr. Fausto Valliane, Vatican press officer, denied they had that power.

"The episcopal conference (of Holland) does not have authorization to resolve questions of this sort which regard the apostolic see," he said.

Father Reuver cautioned against viewing the situation in Holland as "a black and white one."

"First of all," he said, "there is the question of how a married clergy would be accepted by the people. Per-

haps the majority of the people would tolerate such a thing."

Another Dutch Vatican source said "things are much more serene in Holland so far as the Church is concerned than you would believe from reading the newspapers and magazines and listening to radio and television."

A Dutch bishop told this reporter recently that the Church in Holland is stronger and more stable than in most other places in the world.

"In the United States today you are merely going through what we went through in the Church years before," he said. "But Holland is small and the situation could be kept under control. In the United States that is more difficult because of the size of the population and the hierarchy. The Church in Holland today is more stable than in probably any other country in the world."

Although the Vatican has approved the ministry of some married priests in various parts of the world on an individual basis, there are no married men in Holland enjoying all the priestly rights.

"There are a few married priests who are permitted to preside at Mass up to the time of the Communion," one priest explained. "This permits them to read the Gospel and give the homily. But it ends there. They do not enjoy the right to administer the sacraments in full."

## A Plea for Compassionate Policies

Cincinnati — (NC) — U.S. Sen. Edmund Muskie of Maine said this would be a better country if "we could inject a larger dose of compassion and charity into our policies."

"We can't really make this country what we want it to be without God's help. Unless the laws we write are influenced by values of this kind, they will not be enduring," the senator said in an interview in the January issue of *St. Anthony Messenger*, national Catholic magazine published here.

The senator said he views the liberal-conservative polarization in government and in the Church as a cyclical movement that will eventually be resolved, "but it would take a real prophet to predict how the situation will finally settle down and the forms our accommodations will finally take."

"I think that out of all this will

come stronger institutions," he said, "a stronger Church, stronger governmental institutions. . . . The old values will be cast in new contexts, new circumstances."

The use of drugs and freer sexual standards, Sen. Muskie said, "represent not so much a search for new values as the growing doubt of any promise in the future."

Young people, said Sen. Muskie, have material things, "but the war deprives them of, or at least terribly endangers, the prospect of any future. So they tend more to live in the present." He expressed the belief that this weakens the Church's appeal to the young, because "the Church's hold on the people is in the future."

However, the senator said he is optimistic about young people. They have what he calls a "gyroscope" — "an instinct for what will eventually be right for them . . . an instinct for

self-preservation and, more than that, for self-improvement that will eventually set them on the right course."

The responsibility of adults, said Sen. Muskie, "is to find the way to listen to young people, to respond to them, to understand them. In that way we will be effective in helping them."

Concerning his own political future, Senator Muskie admits that talk of his candidacy for the presidency in 1972 makes him uneasy. However, he sees that at present "our society is undergoing one of its greatest challenges."

"That being the case," he said, "I would feel if I left public life I was running out on the commitment I made at the time when the government, the country, the public needs such commitments more than ever."

# If you were born after 1948,

# you're in luck.

If you're under 22, you can join the TWA Youth Club. Which means that everytime you fly with us in the continental U.S., you'll get 40% off regular coach fares, on a standby basis. If we don't fly where you want to go (and we fly to 42 cities around the country), just take another airline. You can still use our Youth Club Card. You can also use your card for discounts at the Hilton and Sheraton Hotels.\* All of which means our Youth Club Card can save you loads of money. Which isn't bad for a \$3.00 card. Just mail in your application with all the correct information, and don't worry about it. Your application won't be rejected.



**TWA YOUTH CLUB**  
IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATION  
FOR AGES 12 thru 21

---

Please Print

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

3. Male  Female  4. Hair Color \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Eye Color \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

7. Fee enclosed: \$3.00 Check  \$3.00 Money Order

Make checks payable to: TWA (Not refundable — DO NOT MAIL CASH)

8. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Trans World Airlines  
P.O. Box 2952  
Clinton, Iowa 52732

1-087-12-16568

TRAVEL RESTRICTED ON CERTAIN HOLIDAY PERIODS

\*in continental U.S. only.