



Visits Canada

Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, is given a tour of Canada's Parliament by Lucien Lamoureux, speaker of the House of Commons. The cardinal is visiting Canada and U.S.

COURIER / WORLD

Consistory Called on 40 Martyrs

Pope Paul VI will hold a consistory in the Vatican on May 18 to approve the canonization of 40 English martyrs.

The ceremony, purely a formality, will bring together bishops, patriarchs, abbots, and cardinals living in and around Rome. No specific date for the canonization has been announced.

The English martyrs, who were executed four centuries ago after England broke with the Church of Rome, have been the subject of heated debate in England. Some Anglican leaders have maintained that the canonization will not foster the common cause of ecumenism between the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches.

Cardinal John Heenan of Westminster, on the other hand, has urged the Vatican to canonize the martyrs as defenders of freedom of conscience and of the authority of the papacy at a time when both are under severe attack.

Group Urges Religion Major

Teachers' colleges should offer a major in religion, an advisory group recommended to the Ontario Department of Education.

The Ecumenical Study Commission on Religious Education suggested that the current transfer of teachers' colleges to universities offers a singular opportunity to develop a new approach to the teaching of religion. The commission was composed of nine representatives from the Canadian Council of Churches and seven from the Ontario Catholic Bishops' Committee on Education.

"We realize that religious pervasiveness will not become real if it is denied academic status," their brief stated. "Religion must be more than a mere sideline in the history department and should form a department in its own right."

Marchers Protest Abortion Bill

San Juan police estimated that some 40,000 demonstrators marched in silent protest against bills authorizing abortion and divorce passed by the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. Archbishop Luis Aponte joined with non-Catholic religious and political leaders to head the March of Silence to the Puerto Rican capitol.

The Senate adjourned without considering either bill. Gov. Luis A. Ferré, a Catholic, announced that he opposed both.

Many Dutch Catholics Skip Mass

Only half of the Catholics in Holland attend Sunday Masses, according to figures released by the Catholic Social Ecclesiastical Institute in The Hague. The institute noted that many believe they can be good Catholics even if they do not regularly go to Mass, so long as they feel they are leading truly Christian lives.

The institute's statistics show that although the Catholic population of Holland has increased by a million since 1956, Sunday Mass-going dropped from 64.4% in 1966 to 51.5% in 1969. The report disclosed that there are more than 5.2 million Catholics in the Netherlands, which has a population of 13 million.

Rome's 'Unity' Chief in USSR

After the funeral of Patriarch Alexei of Moscow and All Russia, Jan Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, stayed on for several days for talks with Russian Orthodox Church leaders in Moscow and Leningrad. Some Vatican City observers said it was obvious that Cardinal Willebrands was prolonging his stay to discuss the possibility of "further reconciliation" between the two Churches. Others were not so sanguine.

In 1946, Patriarch Alexei was a prominent figure during the Soviet-inspired separation of Ukrainian Catholics from the jurisdiction of Rome. Bishops and priests who refused to switch loyalty to the Orthodox Patriarchate of Moscow were sent to Siberia. An allusion to this situation was made by Pope Paul in his Sunday homily of April 19. While praising the Russian Orthodox Patriarch for his ecumenical work, the pontiff added that he could not think of any sincere union "at the expense of the Eastern (Rite) Catholic Churches."

Courier-Journal

Priests Urge Draft Advisers In 2 Dioceses

Dubuque, Iowa —(NC)— The priests of two Iowa dioceses have approved establishment of draft information and education services.

Proposals to set up draft counseling services were ap-

proved by the Priests' Senate of the Dubuque archdiocese and the Des Moines diocese.

In addition to setting up the information and education service, the Dubuque senate also voted to send a statement to

draft boards in northeast Iowa indicating the several acceptable positions of conscience a Roman Catholic can take concerning war. Only one priest-senator voted against the proposal.

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