

Sage Convocation Hears Famed Yale Chaplain

Ithaca — An overflow crowd attended the weekly Sage Chapel Convocation on Cornell's campus Sunday morning, Jan. 23. Featured speaker was William Sloane Coffin, Jr., chaplain at Yale University and a distinguished writer and lecturer known for his participation in social, religious, and political causes in the United States and abroad.

Guest musician was Ray Repp, composer of folk music who is spending eight months at Cornell under the joint sponsorship of the Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran communities on campus. Repp's music is being used extensively in Christian as well as Jewish services and his songs are found in almost all leaflet missals in use in parishes of the area.

The theme of the convocation, as introduced by Repp's songs, was the celebration of life, but in view of Mr. Coffin's remarks, it might have been seen particularly as a celebration of feminine life.

The speaker expressed the hope that what he termed the



COFFIN

"myth" of woman's inferiority would be broken down. This will come with difficulty, he said, because such myths cannot be destroyed by more thinking — rather people must "un-think." He cited studies from

Aristotle to Freud that he said had created a condition in which people more or less accepted the conclusion of female inferiority. Mr. Coffin confessed he was no freer than others from the bonds of the myth, since he too grew up with it.

Realistically, he continued, women are not free at age 21 to choose their life style, because they are conditioned, as are men, to accept the traditional role society has assigned women — the role of mother and homemaker.

He suggested that the only real way to correct the imbalance in human dignity afforded men and women was for those of both sexes to recognize that they were basically

human rather than merely men or women. To be human means to suffer from an identity crisis: each person is unique and, therefore, not to be categorized into opposite sexes but rather neighboring ones. The current and contrary approach, focusing on the male-female differences, is but another example of the polarization that tears at the fiber of modern society, he said, and it is no less wrong than the distinctions drawn between black and white.

Among those who will speak at Sage in coming weeks are Robert McAfee Brown, professor of religion at Stanford University, on Feb. 20, and Anthony Padovana, professor of dogmatic theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, on Feb. 27.

Ecumenical Progress Reviewed by Cardinal

Vatican City — (RNS)—Cardinal Jan Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, has issued a report summarizing some of the "initiatives" and "results" of last year's "ecumenical encounters" with Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican Churches.

In the report, issued at the start of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the cardinal singled out "the exchange of important letters" between Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, spiritual head of world Orthodoxy, during the early months of 1971.

"Those messages," said Cardinal Willebrands, "stressed very clearly the fact that in our Churches a genuinely fraternal disposition ought to de-

velop in preparation for the earnestly desired day when, during the concelebration of the Eucharist, we can drink together from the Lord's chalice."

Also early in 1971, Cardinal Willebrands headed a Vatican delegation to the synod that elected Metropolitan Pimen of Krutitsky and Kolonna as the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Turning to the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Dutch-born prelate said that "special progress" had been made at the local level with an exchange of visits between Patriarch Justinian, Romanian Orthodox Metropolitan and Archbishop of Bucharest, and Cardinal Franz Koenig, archbishop of Vienna, and Cardinal Julius Döpfner, archbishop of Munich and Freising.

Cardinal Willebrands noted further ecumenical developments in the historic three-day visit to Pope Paul VI by Patriarch Ignatius Jacob III of the Syrian Orthodox Church at Antioch (Jacobite) and All the East. It ended a period of 15 centuries in which leaders of the two branches of Christianity had not conferred.

The latest official ecumenical contact with Orthodoxy, said Cardinal Willebrands, occurred last November when he led a Vatican delegation to enthronement ceremonies in Cairo, Egypt, of Patriarch Shenuda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

In March, the cardinal, as spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, and Dr. Andre Appel, general secretary of the Lutheran World Joint Lutheran-Catholic commission on the issue of justification — a controversial doctrine which was the center of the 16th Century Reformation.

In August, Cardinal Willebrands addressed the 12th World Methodist Conference in Denver, Colo., and told the delegates that in his opinion relations between the two confessions are warmer, deeper and more confident than they were five years ago.

Finally, Cardinal Willebrands cited the recent "substantial agreement" on the Eucharist issued by the joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission, which has received the approval of Anglican Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury, and Pope Paul. The cardinal said the document was an instrument for further study and discussion.

Priest to Head Narco Program

Washington, D.C. — (RNS)—A priest who is a veteran in counseling drug addicts was appointed here to head the newly-established Catholic Office of Drug Education (CODE), under the auspices of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Health Affairs.

Father Roland Melody, ST, will take over the new agency and will develop a resource center to serve as a clearing house for drug education material, seminar assistance, and as a source of expert counseling for U.S. dioceses.

A native of Newark, N.J., Father Melody is a Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity and was ordained in 1961. He has served as a spiritual director to lay retreatants, done parish work, and counseled addicts in three states.

The author of a book called "Narco Priest," which recounts his experiences traveling with the New York City Narcotics Squad, Father Melody for the past two years has directed a narcotics referral program in Stirling, N.J.

Got Some News?

The Courier-Journal wants to print news of your organization, club or association. Please remember that the deadline is Thursday noon for the following week's paper.

Courier-Journal

Ithaca Area Notes

Penn Yan — St. Michael's will hold a parish "Hearts and Flowers" dance on Saturday evening, Feb. 12, in the church hall. Assistance is needed in the preparation of decorations. Interested volunteers may contact Mrs. John Quinn (536-4192) or Mrs. Edward Monaghan (536-2130).

Ithaca — Adult religious education resumes at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday evening, Feb. 8, in Room 108 of the parish school. The 8 p.m. session will cover "Scripture and Doctrine," and the 9 p.m. session will address current moral questions.

Ithaca — Meetings of parents in St. Catherine of Siena who have children in Grade 2 or older planning to make their First Communion will be held Feb. 15 and 22 at 8 p.m. in the parish center. First Penance meetings for parents of children in Grade 3 or older will be held Feb. 24 and March 2 at 8 p.m. in the parish center.

Penn Yan — St. Michael's School Week will be observed Feb. 12-18. Activities will include a parish dance and school open house. Kindergarten and first grade registration will follow shortly thereafter.


CYO SWIMMING

The CYO at 50 Chestnut St. will start a new swimming Merit Badge program for Boy Scouts who have already completed 1st class swimming requirements. Six — 2 hour sessions are scheduled under the direction of qualified Merit Badge Counselors. Classes will be held on Saturdays Feb. 19 thru March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Contact the CYO Office, 454-2030 for enrollment.

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