

Patrice Munsel:

'Fascinated by Religion'

By JOHN DASH

Patrice Munsel, the lovely star of "I Hear a Waltz", currently playing in Corning, has added flood relief to her troupe's repertoire.

When the group left Rochester for the last leg of their summer tour with the show, Miss Munsel advised them. "I've offered that we'd help out while we're in Corning, I'm sure you don't mind." One cast member answered, "But, I haven't got a shovel!"

The musical comedy star who was once the youngest diva to grace the stage of the Metropolitan Opera house was in Rochester last week performing and rehearsing for her next role in "Applause".

Patrice Munsel describes herself as "super religious," "absolutely fascinated by religion."

Born into the Episcopal tradition, Miss Munsel converted to Roman Catholicism when she married producer Robert Schurer, but she has a broader view of the Church than many.

"The Church is the Church," she says. "This separation is imposed by man and, it seems to me, negates everything we should be striving to live for."

"We've complicated things," she says. "Take a look at the kids. They're trying to bring us back to simplicity. They don't care how they worship."

Pope Names Black Auxiliary Bishop Of Johannesburg

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has named a black priest, Father Pietro Butelezi of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, as auxiliary Bishop of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Bishop-elect Butelezi, 42, was ordained priest in 1957 after completing his studies in philosophy and theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. He also matriculated at The Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Shortly after his ordination, he was appointed rector of the major Catholic seminary in Maseru, the capital of Lesotho — an independent enclave kingdom in South Africa. He was also appointed superior of the Oblate Fathers in Lesotho.

In 1968 he was made Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Umzimkulu in the South African province of Natal. Bishop-elect Butelezi is an accomplished linguist. He speaks fluent English, French, Italian and German, as well as Zulu and Afrikaans (South African Dutch). In his new post, Bishop-elect Butelezi will be auxiliary to Irish-born Bishop Hugh Boyle.

CDL. GIOBBE DIES

Vatican City (RNS) — Italian Cardinal Paolo Giobbe, oldest member of the College of Cardinals, died at his residence near St. Peter's Basilica here on Aug. 14. He was 92 years old. His death reduces the number of cardinals to 117, the lowest it has been in years.

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Miss Munsel waxes wroth on the subject of justifying war on the basis of religion. "My God, saving a nation in the name of Christ is simply staggering to me. Look at what Pope John did, in eight months he got us all together as friends. The whole world loved that man. But he died, and we're becoming unfortunately dogmatic again."

She sees hope in the children. "The Jesus Freaks are pretty incredible," she says, citing an incident that happened in Los Angeles. She was walking down the street when she noticed a "perfectly ordinary kid" reading a Bible while waiting for the bus. She caught his eye and he greeted her with the "Jesus is the One Way" salute. "I think that's just fantastic," she says.

"I can't see why parents are so upset when their children become Jesus freaks. I think it's just wonderful. Maybe the movement will only last a short while; but in the meantime, why put it down?"

Miss Munsel's own children have taught her another lesson. "Did you know the Indians never owned land. They thought of the land as Mother Earth. They considered themselves as a part of the universe. I think one of the most poignant advertisements for saving the earth is the one where the Indian is seen paddling his canoe down a filthy river. Then we see his face as he looks at the pollution."

"Then I think of how we 'civilized' them."

In a sort of one woman "back to the earth" movement, Miss Munsel toured with "I Hear a Waltz" in a camper. A camper, by the way, which served as home for herself, two of her children, Niki and Chico, two dogs and a mouse.

She will also tour with "Applause" in a camper.



Three "ambassadors" reminiscing about their trip to four eastern bloc countries are: (l-r) Fathers Joseph Brennan, Daniel Brent and William Graf.

Priests Visit USSR

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The priests felt welcomed in Russia, which was not the case in East Berlin.

The people in East Berlin seemed "very self-conscious and talked with a chip-on-their-shoulder about their communist country. In East Berlin I don't feel we came near personal contact with anyone," said Father Brennan.

For Father Graf, the greatest experience of the trip was attending Mass in Russia at a Russian Orthodox Church. He was impressed by the number of young people going to confession, while old people were lighting candles, and a priest was speaking to a bride and groom at another altar.

Though he likened the service to a "four ring circus," he felt the "deep devotion was very impressive, knowing the social frowns the Christians must receive."

The Church was much more evident in Rumania than in Russia. In Leningrad, added Father Brent, "everywhere you go church spires peak up over all other buildings, there are as

many churches as government buildings, but now the churches serve as museums."

There is "freedom of religion" in Russia, that is, liturgical kinds of things are allowed, such as choirs.

"Religious freedom ends with the ability to celebrate the lit-

urgy," Father Brennan said. Churches must rent land and pay taxes on collections and no private schools are allowed. There are Russian Orthodox seminaries in Leningrad and Moscow and a Catholic one in Lithuania.

A Russian Orthodox priest told Father Graf that he is optimistic for religion in Russia.

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