



Behind the walls of the Kremlin rise the Bell Towers of Ivan the Great.



Huge stone crosses decorate the yard of a Greek Orthodox church in Bucharest, Rumania. Below, typical onion domes decorate roof of Royal Chapel in Kremlin.



## Tradition and Modern Life In Eastern Europe

Half a century of official atheism has not destroyed the landmarks of the religious heritage of Eastern Europe. In the midst of more modern sights, three Rochester priests who recently toured Communist lands found constant evidence of the ancient religious history of the area.

On the Promoting Enduring Peace tour were Fathers Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary; Daniel Brent, superintendent of education in the diocese; and William Graf, professor of homiletics. The tour, a project of Quaker Dr. Jerome Davis, has been an annual event since 1916 and goes to East Berlin, Leningrad, Moscow, Bucharest and Yugoslavia.

Certain ironies are immediately apparent to the tourist: behind the warm, red brick walls of the Kremlin rise steeples; the state

in the USSR helps maintain the exterior of churches; and everywhere the exclusive palaces of the wealthy and powerful are now open to the commoner.

In East Berlin, said Father Brent, "the Russian presence is everywhere. Even the major place names are Russian." And to create the famous Russian war memorial in East Berlin, in tribute to the soldiers who "liberated East Germany," he said, "they took over the best park in East Berlin."

Modern and ancient coexist throughout Eastern Europe, the travelers noted: old churches are visible behind modern government buildings; in the Communist sector of Berlin, graceful new streetlamps reflect design motifs of the sixties next to streets full of houses build during the Nazi era.

Photos by Father Daniel Brent



East Berlin street scene, with older apartment buildings in rear.