

Johnson Claimed Close Ties with Catholicism

New York (RNS) — When Lyndon Baines Johnson took the oath of office that made him the 36th President of the United States, his hand was resting on a Catholic missal.

Thus from the moment it began in 1963, the Johnson Administration had a cordial relationship with Roman Catholics.

Mr. Johnson and his family exemplified an ecumenical relationship during the White House years of 1963-69. Descended from a long line of Baptists, the President was a member of the Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ). Lady Bird and the two Johnson daughters were Episcopalians.

In 1965, on her 18th birthday, Luci Baines Johnson embraced Roman Catholicism. In a ceremony at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, she was received into the Church in a rite administered by Father James Montgomery, assistant director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington.

A year later, in 1966, Luci's wedding to Patrick John Nugent set a number of precedents for

both the Roman Catholic Church and the Presidency.

It marked the first time a daughter of a President was married in a Catholic church; it was the first time a wedding had ever been held in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the nation's largest Catholic church, and it was the first time a President had visited the shrine while in office.

As Vice President in 1962, Mr. Johnson had a private audience with the late Pope John XXIII at the Vatican. He led the

U.S. delegation to the Pope's funeral a year later.

In early 1964, during Pope Paul VI's historic visit to the Holy Land, President Johnson sent a message to the pontiff suggesting that they meet in the future. They did a year later, during the pontiff's precedent-setting visit to the United Nations. Mrs. Johnson and Luci, who had become a Roman Catholic by that time, were also present.

As Mr. Johnson and the nation became embroiled in the Vietnam war, the President once again conferred with the Pope. After meeting with Pope Paul in the Vatican in December 1967, the President released a statement concerning their discussion of the Vietnam war:

"His Holiness has suggested a principle of mutual restraint. If this principle were accepted by both sides, there would be rapid and solid progress toward peace."

At that time, Mr. Johnson also said that he would "keep closely in touch with His Holiness in the days ahead as we shall with others who are searching to lift

the scourge of war from Vietnam and Southeast Asia."

Several months later, after he had halted U.S. bombing of North Vietnam and declared that he would not be a candidate for re-election, President Johnson attended the installation of Terence Cooke as Archbishop of New York. The new archbishop praised him then for his "heroic efforts in the search for peace in Vietnam."

During his administration, President Johnson worshiped at a variety of Christian churches, quite frequently at Roman Catholic churches. He described his feelings about one of them, St. Dominic's in Washington, in his memoirs, *The Vantage Point*, published in 1971:

"Inside," he wrote, "St. Dominic's was simple and restful. I had gone there on many Sunday mornings and on numerous unreported occasions I had dropped in for a few minutes of prayer late at night. I went there with Luci just before midnight in June 1966 when we sent our bombers to hit the fuel dumps in Hanoi and Haiphong."

Buffalo Bishop Named

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Edward Head, executive director of the New York archdiocesan Catholic Charities, has been named Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo by Pope Paul.

The 53-year-old prelate, who has been an auxiliary to Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York since 1970, succeeds Bishop James A. McNulty, who died last Sept. 4.

The appointment was announced here by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate in the U.S.

Buffalo, one of the larger Roman Catholic Sees in terms of percentage of Catholics, has 931,000 Catholics in an overall population of 1,758,000. The diocese has two auxiliaries in Bishop Pius Benincasa and Bishop Bernard McLaughlin, who serve as vicars general.



BISHOP HEAD

Bishop Head, a native of White Plains, attended St. Luke's Parish school in the Bronx, St. Ann's Academy in New York City,

Cathedral College and St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, Yonkers.

After ordination by the late Cardinal Francis Spellman in 1945, Bishop Head studied at Columbia University, where he earned a master's in social work.

The new bishop of Buffalo served in several parishes in the Bronx, Staten Island and in New York City. He taught at Notre Dame College, Staten Island, in 1946 and 1947.

Appointed to the staff of archdiocesan Catholic Charities in 1947, he became director in 1966 and has continued in that position since being appointed auxiliary bishop of New York in 1970.

Bishop Head is also a member of the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, a member of the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference, and chairman of the Health Affairs Committee of the USCC.

He also serves on the NCCB Ad Hoc Committee for the Spanish Speaking Welfare Emergency Relief Committee and is an adviser to the Committee on the Permanent Diaconate.

Famed Missioner Dies in India

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Dr. E. Stanley Jones, one of the 20th century's most famed evangelists, missionaries and Christian writers, died in India Jan. 25. His 89th birthday was Jan. 3.

He had spent decades in India. In 1963, he received the Gandhi Peace Prize.

In 1944, Dr. Jones described in one of his most widely read books, *The Christ of the American Road*, some of the social, political and religious problems which the nation only came to admit in the 1960s.

He was an ardent patriot who believed "America is God's experimental ground, the world's proving ground. As we go, the world goes."

Along with preaching the Christian Gospel, he made serious efforts to understand the spirituality of other religions. Dr. Jones developed and spread the concept of "Christian ashrams," an approach to prayer, meditation, and reflection that reflects Eastern themes.

His friends in India included Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and the current Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. The missionary is credited with influencing the provisions for religious freedom in India's constitution.

He had an abiding commitment to world peace, insisted that world government is the only alternative to a third world war and did not hesitate to give his opinions on specific social and political events.

Dr. Jones went to India for the Methodist church in 1907.

His experiences in India led him to a passionate enthusiasm for Christian unity. He labored hard, but failed, to bring the denominations of America together through the principle of a Federal Union.

Our Parish COUNCIL by Bernard Lyons

"I went with my sponsor to the church. The church was filled with people who had never gathered here before. Most of the people just watched us do what we had rehearsed. There was a bishop I had never met and a lot of strange priests I had never seen before. We got a good picture of me being confirmed and went home to have a good party."

Is that a pretty good description of how the sacrament of Confirmation impresses the candidates in your parish?

What can a parish council do to improve the reception of Confirmation and make it a community celebration?

"Attention should be paid," says the Rite of Confirmation, "to the festive and solemn character of the liturgical service, especially its significance for the local church. It is appropriate for all the candidates to be assembled for a common celebration. The whole people of God, represented by the families and friends of the local community, will be invited to take part in the celebration and will express its faith in the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

A starting point for a parish council might be *Together At Confirmation*, by Rev. William A. Bauman and Sister Therese Randolph, R.S.M. (Notre Dame, Ind.: Ave Maria Press). It would be good to buy a number of copies of this book for the council members, and then to read it and discuss it.

The booklet is beautifully done and well illustrated with photographs, though the type could have been larger.

"Sacraments are signs for living Church communities," say the authors. "In this booklet, we shall look upon Confirmation as

a sign celebrated in the process of initiating new members into the Church community. We will try to bring this sign to life with a vision of the community itself, with ideas for instructing both those to be initiated and the community which initiates and welcomes them; and with suggestions for celebrating the sign we call Confirmation."

The authors' second purpose in pulling this booklet together (the Rite of Confirmation is included in the booklet), "instructing both those to be initiated and the community which initiates," would be an excellent project for the parish council.

The first two parts of the booklet, "The Sacrament" and "The Rite of Gathering," would be especially valuable for study and action.

The council will want to pay particular attention to these ideas:

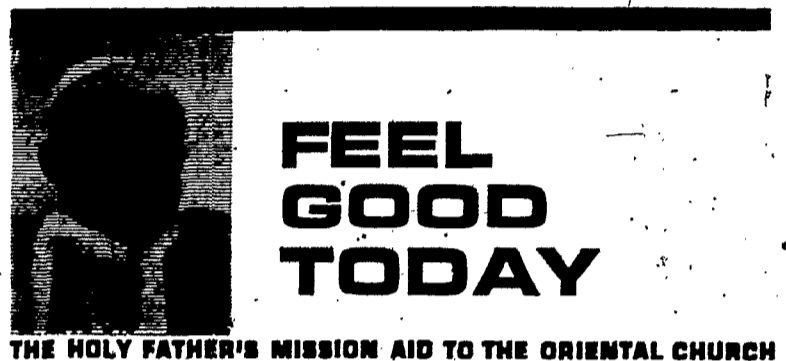
"The preparation of parents and sponsors for the liturgy is an essential part of the celebration."

"Have a parish dinner before the Confirmation, giving the bishop a chance to meet everyone personally."

"At the dinner, go over the songs and other prayers and gestures of the liturgy so the group is ready to celebrate when they enter the church."

"Let families and friends sit together until it is time for the candidates, parents and sponsors to come forward. There won't be the temptation then to watch the young people perform."

A parish council serious about considering itself a Christian community can make the Confirmation rite a real celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you. This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world — it's God's world — while you're still alive.

- DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE
- LEPERS: Only \$8.50 gives our priests and Sisters in Shertalay, south India, enough Dapsone 'miracle' tablets for 43 lepers for a year!
- BABIES NEED YOU: For only \$14 a month (\$168 a year) you can make sure that an abandoned baby has food, clothing, a blanket, and love. We'll send you a photo of the baby you 'adopt', tell you something about him (or her), and ask the Sister-in-charge to keep you informed.
- MEET MISSION EMERGENCIES: Your stringless gifts in any amount (\$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$2) will help the neediest wherever they are — in India and the Holy Land, for instance.
- THINK OF YOURSELF, TOO: Only you can make your will—and do it this week to be sure the poor will have your help even after you're gone: Our legal title: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION. Also, our priests will offer promptly the Masses you provide for.

Dear Monsignor Nolan: ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____ CH _____

FOR _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Please return coupon with your offering

THE CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION

NEAR EAST MISSIONS

TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE, President
MSGR. JOHN G. NOLAN, National Secretary

Write: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOC.
330 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017
Telephone: 212/986-5840