



Mardi Gras Photos by Sue McKinney

Left to right are John McTigue, Marguerite Barrett, chairman, and R. Max McCarthy, discussing plans for McQuaid High School's Mardi Gras, to be held at the school February 24, 9-1:30 p.m. Dance music will be orchestral and the evening will end with a French supper at midnight.

Nazareth Professor To Get Award March 1

The top academic honor awarded by the French government will be formally conferred upon Dr. Virginia Otto, chairman of the Foreign Languages Department of Nazareth College of Rochester, during a ceremony at the college Thursday, March 1 at 11:30 a.m.

Gérard Abenzour, cultural adviser to the French Embassy, Washington, D.C. will formally present a medal and ribbon, symbolizing the honor, confirming Dr. Otto as a Knight in the elite L'ordre des Palmes Academiques for her "outstanding services to the advancement of French culture in the United States."

The honor, which must be approved by the prime minister of France, was conferred upon only 10 others in the United States during the past year, according to French embassy officials in New York. Created in 1808 by Napoleon, it is the highest academic honor granted by the French government and is awarded to a select group of writers, artists, professors, scholars and scientists.

Dr. Otto has pioneered study abroad programs and on-campus living-learning experience through the college's unique French House. Fifteen Nazareth students are studying abroad this year and a group of 18 spent the January interterm session in Paris. Sixteen students now live in the college's French House under the supervision of a native of France who joined the Nazareth faculty last year.

Starting last fall Nazareth College initiated its own year-in-France program in Rennes, one of Rochester's sister cities, which features close faculty supervision, living with French families, and an overall cost approximating one year's tuition, room and board at the college. The program is expected to evolve into a study program in France for freshmen and sophomores, as well as juniors, and involve students in any interested academic departments of the college. Fifteen students are presently enrolled in the program and 21 are enrolled for next year.

NCC Aide Charges Intimidation of Press

New York (RNS) — The director for broadcasting and film of National Council of Churches charged here that the Nixon Administration is "intimidating" the electronic news media in particular and news reporters in general.

The Rev. William F. Fore made the accusation in announcing an appeal of the NCC's Broadcasting and Film Commission (BFC) asking Congress to "protect the integrity of the Federal Com-

munications Act and the right of all reporters to confidentiality of their sources."

He was joined at a press conference by Nelson Price, chairman of the commission and a United Methodist broadcast executive. They also said that the BFC has launched a campaign to make the public aware of recent threats to free access of information.

Both Mr. Fore and Mr. Price frequently cited what they consider the "serious and insidious attack," particularly on electronic news media, of statements by Clay T. Whitehead, head of the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy.

They claimed Mr. Whitehead's statements are indications of an Administration hope to remove coverage of controversial issues from broadcasting.

"Religion is a controversial issue of public importance," said Mr. Fore. "It deals with such matters as abortion, general amnesty for victims of the Vietnam war events, sex and violence in national life. If we take Mr. Whitehead literally, then there is no place for such a controversial matter to be stated with advocacy — ideological plugola (a Whitehead phrase) — in broadcasting, yet this (is) the essence of dealing with issues which matter, and which are in the public interest."

He also said that the First Amendment guarantees not only freedom of the press but the freedoms of assembly and religion. "Thus when the freedom of the press is under fire, we become equally concerned about the freedom of religion and its exercise in American life."

Ecumenism, Social Action Melbourne Congress Theme

Melbourne (RNS) — The theme of the 40th International Eucharistic Congress, Christ's exhortation "To Love One Another As I Have Loved You," stresses the spirit of ecumenism sweeping the Christian world, and Christian social action.

Already, Cardinal Jan Willebrands, president of the Vatican's Secretariat for Christian Unity, expressed that spirit by accepting the hospitality of Australia's Anglican Primate, Archbishop Frank Woods of Melbourne.

He agreed to be the Anglican prelate's houseguest after Archbishop Woods jovially offered the Cardinal the "heretical environment" of his home.

Not long ago, Cardinal Willebrands was the guest of Archbishop Michael Ramsay of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, London. In fact, post-Reformation history was made when the Cardinal became the first Roman Catholic to offer Mass at the palace chapel.

While past Congresses have often concentrated on "pomp and ceremony" in an effort to underscore the importance of the Eucharist in Catholic life, this week's congress also has a strong social action thrust.

A formidable number of seminars, lectures and group discussions have been packed into the Congress week. Concern for the needy, the underprivileged and the handicapped, at home and abroad, is a paramount issue and practical ways to solve the world's worst social problems are being discussed.

Father Brian Walsh, the Congress executive director, said "we are not holding just an extravaganza or a triumphal march. We are discussing vital social issues. We are trying to change people from being selfish individuals to being socially-minded."

There are three major seminars and an ecumenical exhibition in Melbourne on the work that different churches are doing for the needy, and a huge "blessing of the sick" ceremony is slated at the Melbourne Showgrounds to focus attention on social welfare.

Some 1,500 Australian aborigines are holding a special conference, the first of its kind, coordinated by Patrick Dodson, 25, a student for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Seminary, Melbourne, who will become the first aboriginal Catholic priest next year.

Dodson said that "for the first time on a national scale, aborigines will be able to offer the Church, advice, criticism and

guidelines about ministerial actions in the area from which they come and for national policies on matters affecting aborigines."

The aborigines are playing a dominant role in the liturgical services of the Congress. Pope

Paul has approved an Aboriginal Mass, accompanied by a choir of aborigines and special liturgical dancing. After the Congress, the Mass is expected to be incorporated into the aboriginal culture.

Sex Course to Be Explained

Parents of children in Northwest Region parochial schools will have an opportunity to find out what their children are being taught about sex, at a meeting in Aquinas Institute auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 8.

The aim of the evening featuring Dr. Gerald Guerinot, chairman of the diocese's Sex Education Commission, is to reach all the young parents who have not had the curriculum explained to them, said Sister Virginia Steinwachs, principal of Holy Rosary and chairman of the Northwest Region's principal association.

"Education in Love" the course in human sexuality introduced into the schools about three years ago, was originated

by the diocesan education office in collaboration with Dr. Guerinot. The curriculum begins in the first grade and proceeds throughout the elementary years.

Dr. Guerinot's talk will begin at 8 p.m., followed by an opportunity for the parents to look at materials used in the class at 8:45 and a prayer service on the sacredness of life at 9:45.

Parents of children in the following schools are invited: Sacred Heart, St. Anthony's, St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Evangelist, West Ridge Road, St. Lawrence, Most Precious Blood, Our Lady of Mercy, Our Mother of Sorrows, Holy Apostle, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Nazareth Hall, St. Michael's and St. Joseph's Villa.

Anglican Leader Sees Spirit of Unity

Lyons, France (RNS) — The "triumphalist" attitudes of Christendom's separate Churches are gone forever, the head of the world-wide Anglican Communion declared at an interfaith service here.

"There is the awareness of unity in Christ of all who share in the one Baptism in the name of the Blessed Trinity," said Archbishop Michael Ramsey in his address to a congregation celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

"The 'Holy Catholic Church' of the future will involve itself with many national cultures, but will identify itself with none," he declared.

The Anglican primate, who had come to France at the invitation of Roman Catholic authorities, to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25), made his observations in a major address.

The prelate's visit here, as the guest of Cardinal Alexandre Charles Renard of Lyons, coincided with the anniversary of the death, 20 years ago, of Abbe Couturier, the founder of the Week of Prayer.

In his address, Archbishop Ramsey remarked that Christianity "has ceased to be a primarily European phenomenon."

"The Second Vatican Council," he pointed out, "reflected

vividly the more-than-European character of the Roman Catholic Church. The Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in 1968 reflected the more-than-European character of the Anglican Communion. Other Churches have had a like experience. Christian leadership in the world arises from many countries and races."

"So the European Christianity of the future may not be the 'leading' Christianity in the world," he said. "The Holy Catholic Church of the future will involve itself with many national cultures, but will identify itself with none."

Citing a message of Pope John XXIII that "unity is inseparable from renewal," Archbishop Ramsey emphasized that "the drawing of Churches together can happen only through their being renewed both in inward spirituality and in vigorous service toward mankind."

"The credibility of the Christian Faith in the Europe of the future turns upon there being Christians who show by the Christlikeness of their lives that Christ is living and true."

Prior to his visit in Lyons, the Anglican prelate was a guest of Roman Catholic Archbishop Rene Louis M. Stourm of Sens, and participated in an ecumenical service in the Catholic Cathedral.



POWs Released

A group of prisoners of war released by North Vietnam file into the Clark Air Force Base hospital in the Philippines to undergo medical check-ups and receive some American cooking. More than 100 POWs were released by Hanoi and flown to the Philippines on the first leg of their return home. (RNS)