

Cardinal Slipyi Offers Mass at Pope John Tomb

Vatican City (RNS) — Cardinal Jozef Slipyi observed the 10th anniversary of his release from Soviet imprisonment by offering a Mass at the tomb of the man

believed to have engineered his freedom — Pope John XXIII.

The exiled leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, who

Give Self to Prayer Pope Urges Pilgrims

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has appealed to today's men and women to break through the barriers of pride, sensuality and self-delusion, and give themselves wholeheartedly to the practice of prayer.

Speaking at his customary Wednesday general audience here, the pontiff described prayer as dialogue or "conversation" with God that presupposes an awareness of His "mysterious transcendence," as well as of His "ineffable nearness."

The Pope conceded that achieving familiarity in such "conversation" is faced with many obstacles: lack of religious instruction, widespread denials of God, unbridled sensuality, and ever-growing human pride. But

he observed, even today there are many "shining and comforting" examples of "authentic and exalting prayer" on the part of those who do not "see" with eyes, but "know" with deep certainty that they are in touch with a "real, personal, infinite God — the living God."

Nonetheless, he went on, too many people today refuse to pray, if they even think about it. This may reflect a lack of religious training, the Pope surmised, but, he said, a key barrier seems to be human pride "the pride of man who is under the delusion of self sufficiency, and is ashamed to bow his head or bend his knee before God and admit the limits of his own being."

New Cardinals, New Rites

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has announced that the elevation on March 5 of 30 prelates to the rank of cardinal by Pope Paul VI will involve a new and simplified ritual.

In the past, the Pope would hold a secret, or ordinary consistory (assembly) of the cardinals in and around Rome and announce to them the names of the new cardinals he had decided to create.

Several days later, at a public consistory generally held in St. Peter's Basilica, the new cardinals would be invested with the red biretta and the red cloak or mantle. The conferring of the red hat, the symbol of their rank, would also take place at that time.

On March 5, however, the two ceremonies will be abbreviated, blended, and held on the same day.

The 30 new cardinals, from all continents and including three Americans, the Archbishops of Boston, Los Angeles, and San

Pope Optimistic Over Spanish Church Role

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul, receiving Spain's new ambassador to the Vatican, indicated approval of recent moves by the Spanish bishops to achieve a measure of Church-state separation in Spain.

The Church cannot be neutral, the Pope said, "when fundamental values of the spiritual and moral order are at stake, values such as brotherly love, justice, civil and religious freedom."

He then affirmed that he viewed with optimism and trust the activities of the Church in Spain for the good of the entire nation.

Pope Paul's remarks came after he received the credentials of Don Juan Pablo de Lojendio, the Marquis of Velesca, as ambassador from Spain to the Vatican.

Spain's bishops, by a wide majority, recently gave approval to a 48-page document entitled "The Church and Political Community," which called for a revision of the 1953 Concordat that regulates relations between the Vatican and the Spanish government. In the document, the bishops asked the government for "full liberty" in naming bishops.

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will be 81 later this month, went down to the crypt area under St. Peter's Basilica to offer the Mass at John's burial site.

It was on Feb. 9, 1963, that Cardinal Slipyi arrived in Rome a free man, after more than 18 years as a captive of the Russians in Soviet prisons and work camps.

It is generally accepted, although it has never been confirmed, that Pope John had conducted secret diplomatic maneu-

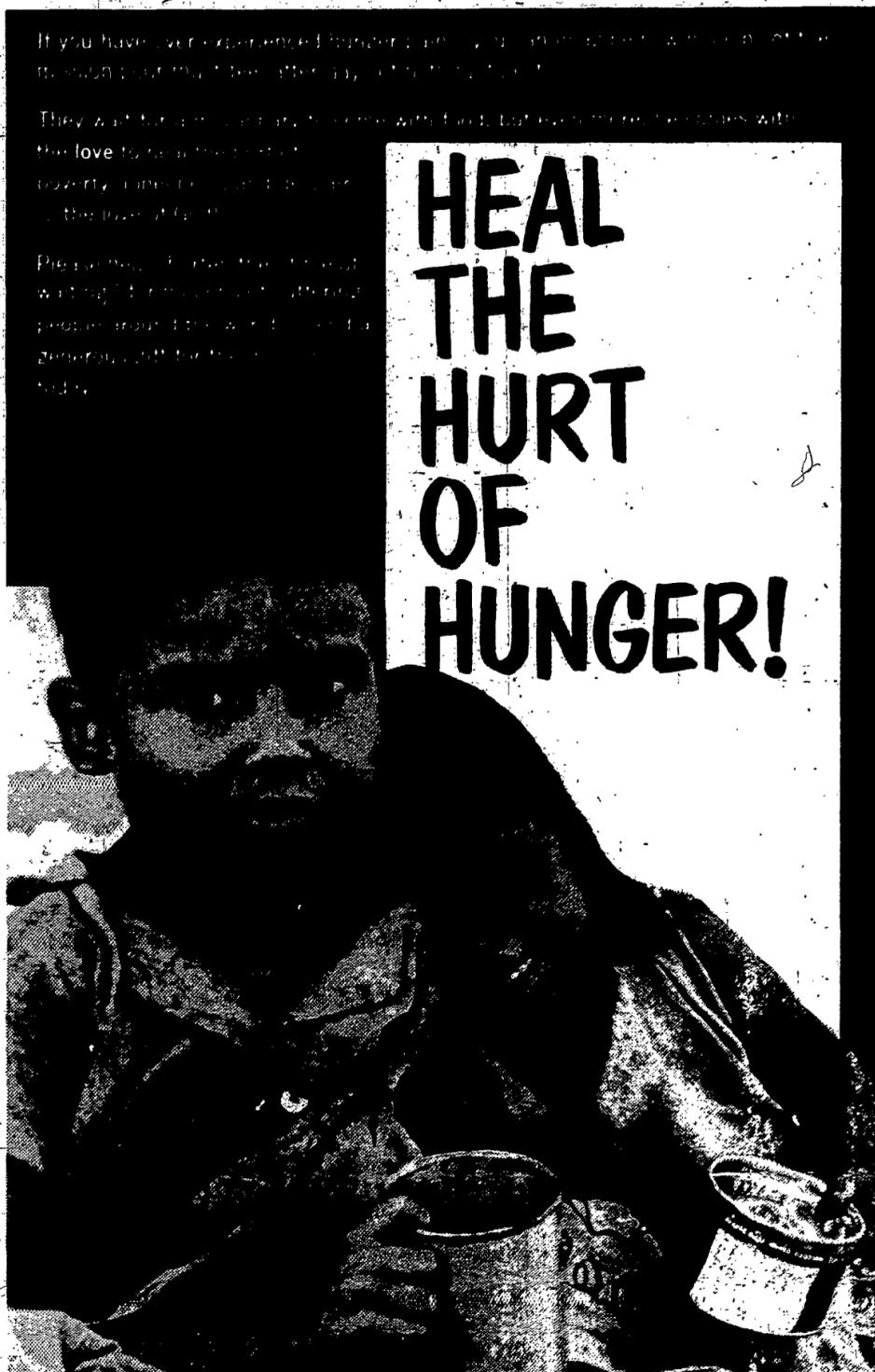
vers with Soviet leaders to bring about the cardinal's release from prison. Pope John never mentioned any role that he might have played.

During the first eight years of his freedom, Cardinal Slipyi maintained a public silence about what he had been through in the Soviet-Union.

However, he shocked many of his closest colleagues and others at the Autumn session of the Synod of Bishops of 1971 in Rome when he chose to speak

out about his days in Soviet custody. He accused the Vatican of betraying his followers left behind in Russia, rather than endanger a diplomatic agreement between the Holy See and Moscow.

He told the Synod Fathers in what was described by one American prelate as "a real shocker and sobering speech" that his people had "sacrificed mountains of bodies and rivers of blood for their loyalty to the Holy See and had received no thanks for their efforts."



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