

Photo by Dave Witbeck

The committee that organized the centennial celebration at St. Michael's parish included [l-r] Father John Reif, Mrs. Reinaldo Reyes, William Roeger, Ceil Hasenauer, Mrs. John Heberger, Joe Meehan and Norman Tracy.

St. Michael Centenary

St. Michael's parish will close its centenary celebration Sunday, May 19. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will offer a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m. and the jubilee dinner will be held at Bishop Kearney High School at 6 p.m.

A history of the 100-year-old parish has been published in a booklet entitled "Changing Century."

The celebration began with two forward-looking events, a retreat for the parish council, with emphasis on goal setting, and a human development training program, with eight weeks of study and neighborhood work. The first formal event was commemoration of the setting of the first cornerstone for the North Clinton Avenue church.

Maternity Insurance Bill Backed by Catholic Unit

Albany — A bill to bring coverage of maternity costs by insurance companies up to date was strongly endorsed by the Catholic Committee again this week.

"We have been interested in the program from the beginning," said James W. Sanderson, assistant secretary of the Catholic Committee which advises the Catholic Bishops of the state in the field of public affairs. Prolife groups also are urging support.

Priests Polled On New Bishop

Ellsworth, Me. [RNS] — Priests of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland are being polled to determine the man they would prefer as the new bishop.

Father Conrad L'Heureux, pastor of St. Joseph's Church here and president of the diocesan Senate of Priests, said the survey is unofficial. However, he said, it may well give Maine priests a voice in choosing a successor to Bishop Peter L. Gerety, recently named by Pope Paul to head the Newark, N.J. archdiocese.

"This bill will finally provide equity to the parents who are bringing a child into the world," said Mr. Sanderson. "The argument that it would be too expensive for the insurance companies to provide full coverage disappears in the face of the falling birth rate and the full coverage being provided to abortions," he added.

The bill, S 4682-A by Sen. Donovan, insures that insurance coverage for hospital and doctor for a woman carrying a pregnancy to term is adequate by providing full reimbursement for hospital, surgical and medical expenses for the first four days the average time a new mother and baby are in the hospital.

In urging passage, the committee noted —

"Many other surgical procedures are covered at full cost or at least 80% reimbursement, whereas maternity care is usually given a low flat rate not only to reimburse for hospital but also for surgical expenses. This would change in a more equitable status with approval of the bill."

Cooke's America Returns to PBS

New York — Alistair Cooke's "America," the most-honored television series of recent years, will be rebroadcast nationwide next fall over the Public Broadcasting Service. The series will begin in mid-September in a weekly time period to be announced.

"America" was televised twice previously as 13 hour-long programs. For its PBS run, each episode has been converted into two half-hour programs, enabling the series to be televised over 26 consecutive weeks. Cooke, the noted historian-journalist who conceived, wrote and narrates "America," is filming new introductions and epilogs for each program.

So that the nation's school teachers may more easily utilize "America" for classroom instruction, each half-hour program will also be televised by many local PBS stations during school hours. Specific time and day will be determined by each station in conjunction with its local school system.

"America" will be rebroadcast through a grant from the Xerox Corporation.

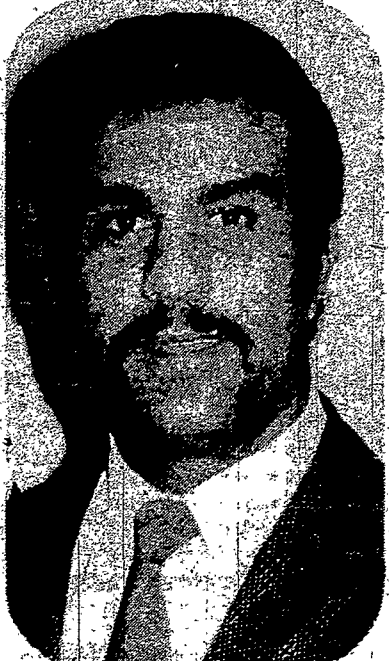
Bishop Gerety Picks Newark For Homesite

Portland, Me. [RNS] — The Roman Catholic archbishop-designate of Newark, N.J., says he will reside in Newark and thus be the first Roman Catholic prelate to do so.

Bishop Peter L. Gerety of the Diocese of Portland, which includes all of Maine, says he will live in the rectory of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"I've looked over the rectory and since I'd like to be in the City of Newark I made the decision to move there," he said. Bishop Gerety, who will succeed Archbishop Thomas A. Boland when he is installed June 28, has long been active in civil rights.

Archbishop Boland has been living in the Llewellyn Park section of West Orange. His predecessors lived in South Orange.



Americano!

Vincent Gatto of the Aquinas faculty, an Italian teacher in either sense of that expression, cut his classes April 24 to be sworn in as an American citizen. He came to the U.S. with his parents in 1961 and was graduated in 1967 from Franklin High School, where he was an "all scholastic" soccer player. He attended Penn State on a soccer scholarship, won a degree in modern languages and took graduate work at the University of Salamanca, Spain. He coaches the junior varsity soccer team at Aquinas and the Scorpions in the Rochester Junior Soccer League.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Father Paul J. Cuddy

Won't Pope Paul's recent document on Mary undermine ecumenism?

On the contrary, it probably will strengthen authentic ecumenism. Genuine ecumenism brings sincere, earnest men of differing theological views to discuss them mutually. True ecumenism makes men regard one another with benevolence, even when they hold different beliefs. Pope John certainly wasn't selling out the historic Catholic Church. Yet he was a superlative ecumenist. He was no fake ecumenist — that dreadful ostrich type. And Pope Paul is a candid ecumenist, also.

One of the best things about authentic ecumenism has been a reassessment of one another by Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants. Our judgments of one another have been profoundly influenced by religious history, much of it incredibly unchristian. Will Herberg gives the best summary of the "400-year cold war between Catholics and Protestants," and the thaw with Vatican II that I have read.

"It was a cold war that the Council of Trent, and its counterpart in Protestantism, proclaimed and ushered in. It was a cold war with all the misunderstandings, misrepresentations, confusion, and bitterness that cold war often brings in its train.

If the Council of Trent that ended in 1563 marked the launching of the cold war in Western Christendom, the Second Vatican Council, four centuries later, has officially marked its end and conclusion. Vatican II did not spring out of nothing. It was in the hellfire of totalitarian Europe that Protestants and Catholics rediscovered their common faith. They began to feel once more a growing socio-cultural rapprochement and reconciliation, instead of the alienation and hostility which characterized the earlier centuries.

Who is this Will Herberg?

A Jewish professor who teaches philosophy at Drew University, which is a Methodist institution. His "Getting Back to Vatican II" is a keen analysis of Vatican II and the aftermath. (Cf. National Review: March 29, p. 366)

But Mary is a stumbling block to Protestants.

Ecumenism addresses itself to

the Orthodox even more strongly than to Protestants. With the Orthodox we share valid Holy Orders, the Seven Sacraments, the Mass. We are almost one in Faith. And we are one together in our devotion to the Mother of the Lord. Pope Paul wrote: "Catholics unite themselves with their brethren of the Orthodox Churches, in which devotion to the Blessed Virgin finds its expression in a beautiful lyricism and in solid doctrine. . . . If the papacy is a stumbling block to unity with the Orthodox, the Theotokos, Our Lady, is a bond for unity. Both the liturgy and the literature of the Orthodox proclaim their love for Her." The Pope continues: "Catholics are also united with Anglicans, whose classical theologians have already drawn attention to the sound scriptural basis for devotion to the Mother of our Lord." Of Protestants generally, he writes: "Praising God with the words of the Virgin (cf. Luke 1:46-55), Catholics are united too with their brethren in the Churches of the Reform, where love for the Sacred Scriptures flourishes. . . . Now, it is not likely that all the Baptists and Presbyterians and Lutherans will be asking for rosary beads or for the Catena of the Legion of Mary this year. But it is likely that as Protestant uneasiness lest honor to Mary bring dishonor to Her Son subsides, the path to union and understanding will become smoother. Archbishop of Sheen, in his cassette tape on the Blessed Virgin, recommends a book on the rosary: "Five for Sorrow; Ten for Joy." Who wrote it? The Reverend J. Neville Ward, who is a member of the Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Church in England.

Are Marian devotions still in?

Indeed yes! Part III of Pope Paul's address to the Bishops is entitled: "The Angelus and The Rosary." I do hope our Catholic schools and CCD classes are stressing both during this month of May, the month of Mary. The Spirit breaths through the Magisterium.

FIRST PENANCE

Addison — First Penance will be administered at St. Catherine's on Saturday morning, May 18, to all children in the second and third grades provided their parents feel they are ready. Again there will be these same opportunities on June 22 at 10 a.m. and on June 23 at 9:30 a.m.

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