



CANON TOWNROE

Christian Unity Is Canon's Goal

The canon lives "by the post bag."

It seems that after 30 years of service to the Church of England, most of it as the administrator of a seminary, The Rev. Canon John Townroe has found himself a mailing address out near Stonehenge and spends his days responding to requests to speak, organize and counsel — ecumenically and internationally.

That explains why he was teaching at St. Bernard's Seminary last month and is now helping direct a program sponsored by Roman Catholic superiors and novice mistresses in London. He took time from his schedule to speak with the press while he was here.

The Canon believes that "the Gospel speaks to all human needs, and that of those needs there is a hunger for spiritual things, a hunger for God," rising in the world today.

The Canon noted that "The Holy Spirit is active everywhere and is always calling men; but, for various reasons, people are readier now for the things of the spirit: Vietnam, race, drugs, world hunger."

"Man has had a shaking from

his own arrogance," he said.

Indicative of this hunger is the rise of the charismatic experience and some of its manifestations, such as healing and the gift of tongues. "I believe that Jesus healed people," he said, "and through the Spirit of Jesus today, we cooperate with the power of God to bring healing to those in need, according to His will."

He said that he first heard tongues in Westminster Abbey — "a way of praising God." It represents a release for man. It allows people to let their whole being go in worship.

But, to the canon, tongues is only one spiritual gift and not the highest. "Love, healing, prophecy, discernment of spirits, teaching, administration — reporting is a charism," he said and quickly noted that his father served as a reporter for the London Times, Daily Telegraph and the Manchester Guardian.

"At the heart of the matter is the love of God and the love of God's world and all that's in it," he said.

Central to the canon's motivation is Christian Unity. "Christians are on the move toward unity. I'm not here in order to do academics, but to promote Christian unity."

Local Men Named For National Group

Men from The Rochester court of the Knights of Equity took over the leadership of the national organization last week in elections held during the group's annual convention in Buffalo.

Those elected are Dennis O'Reilly, worthy supreme sir knight; Jack Bolsinger, worthy supreme vice sir knight; Father Thomas R. Bartley, worthy supreme chaplain; Norman W. Fox, worthy lecturer; Kenneth T. Powder, worthy supreme secretary; Martin F. Scahill, worthy supreme treasurer; John F. McMahon, worthy supreme organizer and national director of public relations; James I. Butler, supreme editor; Patrick P. Costello, supreme director of celtic culture; James E. Houlihan, supreme director of degrees.

President Visits Padre Kino Tomb

Magdalena De Kino, Sonora, Mexico [RNS] — The Presidents of the United States and Mexico, Gerald Ford and Luis Echeverria, during their discussions here, visited the tomb of a Jesuit missionary who introduced Christianity to the Indians of Spanish Mexico in the 17th Century.

The remains of Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, a Catholic priest from the Tyrolean Alps of Austria, were discovered in 1966 in a joint archaeological effort by scholars from Sonora and Arizona. Now Padre Kino's bones are enshrined in a domed sepulchre in the main plaza of this Mexican town.

Padre Kino established a string of 24 mission churches a century before the better-know California missions. He also brought new varieties of grain and vegetables and introduced methods of raising cattle, sheep and horses to Indians of the region. The priest died in 1711. After the discovery of 1966, this Mexican town added "de Kino" to its name and honors his memory.

Supreme trustees are John T. Marren, Buffalo; Daniel F. Clifford and Raymond L. McKelvey, Detroit; Alfred J. Pedro, Toledo; Michael D. Walsh and James R. Parks, Pittsburgh and Bernard McGlinchey, Philadelphia.

The 1975 national convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Rochester.

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THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Hohman

In a recent letter to the editor, [Courier-Journal 10/16/74] Father Fred Straub said:

"In one of his recent instructions, he [Father Hohman] answered a question about the proper use of the word 'Catholic'. The question concerned an ecumenical prayer group whose leadership consisted of Catholics and non-Catholics, yet the group called itself 'Catholic' and 'Ecumenical'. Was that honest? Father answered the question cannily, and I thought, with some ambiguity. Although the Catholic Church does not employ trade marks such as Coca Cola and Xerox to fend off pretenders, the Roman Catholic Church does seem to be recognized by the big 'C' on the front end of that word."

"These days, as we know, there are some Catholics who prefer the title Christian. They are of that group which may disagree with Cardinal Danielou's dictum that ecumenism was never intended to build the superchurch of the future based on minimal values."

Dear Father Straub (Fred),

I had no intention of making a big deal about a big "C" or little "c" but the man who wrote in the question obviously was being very offensive and/or protective about someone appropriating the

use of the word "catholic" which he wanted to reserve for himself and his Church. I have no problem with identifying the Roman Catholic Church as the Catholic Church and I'm pretty sure most people don't. But when people try to construct walls to restore the ghetto mentality which sadly existed in this country for so long, I personally want to knock them down. I know it is pretty subtle, but when the Catholic Church is placed over and against other churches (non-Catholics) I feel there is a potential for great harm. Nor do I look forward to or see the possibility of a "superchurch" which settles for a least common denominator of Christian truth. Like you, I am proud and happy to be a Catholic, but I think we should try very hard to lead the people to reach out to other expressions of Christianity in understanding and love. It reminds me of a little verse I came across:

He drew a circle which left me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout;
But love and I had the wit to win,
We drew a circle which took him in.

Just one postscript: it is of interest to me that in printing Eucharistic Prayer I, the new Sacramentary refers to the "catholic and apostolic church, small 'c'". I wonder what they meant by that?

Taste a legend in the making.

We went back to this area's first settler, Ebenezer "Indian" Allan, to name our restaurant. At Ebenezer's, you'll see touches of this mad-dog Englishman everywhere. A gristmill. Waterfall. Plus nightly entertainment. A huge salad bar. Seafood to do a Gloucesterman proud. And some of the finest steaks a palate could beg to taste. Make the new Marriott Inn your place to make dining history.

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