

# 17,000 Attend Eastern Charismatic Meeting

Atlantic City, N.J. (RNS) — The largest indoor gathering of Catholic "charismatics" ever assembled was told that the charismatic movement has a "tremendous message" for the Church — not in gifts of healing, prophecy, and tongues — but in the renewal of the whole Christian community with a "spirit of love."

Addressing more than 17,000 persons attending the second Eastern regional conference of the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, Father Francis MacNutt, OP, famed for a healing ministry, said that love is the greatest of God's gifts, the "unifying principle poured out by the Holy Spirit in all our hearts."

"In this Holy Year, we must be reconciled with God and with one another, not just by talk but by the gift of Christian love," he said, adding that it is only through God's love — which is a "gift" and cannot be earned — that Christians can "heal creatively" the breaches in the social order.

Father MacNutt, director of Merton House, St. Louis, a center dedicated to prayer for reconciliation and healing, gave two major talks during the three-day conference (Oct. 10-12) in Atlantic City's mammoth Convention Hall. The main assembly area was adorned with some 200 banners which complemented the conference theme: "Jesus Renewing and Reconciling His Church."

Ruth Stapleton, a Southern Baptist who is founder of Behold, Inc., a lay evangelical and teaching mission, addressed a Saturday night gathering on God's love and healing power. The conference master of ceremonies was Father John Bertolucci of the Albany, N.Y., Catholic diocese.

Auxiliary Bishop James L. Schad of Camden, the host diocese, welcomed the gathering in the name of Bishop George Guilfoyle, and with Auxiliary Bishop John J. Dougherty of Newark, blessed the conference. A letter of greeting from Archbishop Jean Jadot, Apostolic

Delegate in the U.S., was read to the participants.

Bishop Dougherty, who admitted during the conference he received "the gift of tears," told the gathering that "it is overwhelming to believe that the Spirit that was in Jesus is in you and me. We can love like He loved," he observed, adding, "that mountain is worth climbing."

On Friday evening, Father Vincent Walsh of Philadelphia read a letter from Cardinal John Krol, inviting Catholic charismatics to participate in the 41st Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia Aug. 1 to 8, 1976.

More than 350 Catholic priests concelebrated a closing liturgy on Sunday afternoon. The main concelebrant was Father John Randall of Providence, R.I. Father MacNutt preached. During the Mass a special plea was made for all Catholics present to "ask forgiveness" from their non-Catholic "brothers and sisters" present for any anguish they may have caused them through the years of separation.

In his talks, Father MacNutt said that love, the love of God, is seldom if ever held up as a "sign of the Church" and that many Christian communities are experiencing difficulties within because they lack that sign.

He asserted that the "whole Christian people are starving for the love of God" and that the greatest need, for healing is among those who do not know that God loves them and wants them to have His "gift" of love.

While urging "charismatic Catholics" to proclaim the love of God to the world and to the Church, he warned of an "indisidious pride" which can affect the movement and the prayer communities within it. He warned against judging others "because we can't see into a person like Jesus can."

"We just have to try to love people as Jesus loves them because love brings power and healing takes place," the Dominican priest said. "Jesus wants to set us free, to love one another, to stop judging others harshly."

"Refreshingly," he noted, "The Charismatic Renewal has rediscovered sin, not just personal sin, but the sin of the world. But we can't cope with it on the human level. We need the 'gift' of God's love."

Father MacNutt said that in the practical order, the Church does not yet fully understand this. Citing problems like homosexuality, drug addiction and alcoholism, he said the Church does not fully realize these problems need the "healing power of God."

"There is sin in the world, heavy and powerful, and we can't hack it alone by our own will power. We need to let it go to God," he stated. The Church must seek to "save the sinner, heal the sick and leave judgment to God."

He lamented the fact that Christians are more ready to discipline than to love, to preach doctrine rather than love, and he called on charismatics to "express love, so the love and forgiveness of Jesus can be spread."



## Church Combats Gun Problem

A Columbus police officer inspects a handgun that was turned in during Mass at St. Philip Roman Catholic Church. Eighteen guns were handed over to police as part of a parish campaign spearheaded by the pastor, Father Richard Engle, to stop the "flood of handguns in America." (RNS)

## Ethnic Survey

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upper echelons of the occupational strata, subtle and perhaps not all that harmful among the Irish, but rather blatant against southern and Eastern European Catholics."

The report speculates that the success of recent immigrant groups may be the result of an "overthrust" phenomenon, an intense need for achievement: the children and grandchildren of immigrants need to do not only as well as everyone else, but better "because of the sheer, raw power of their elemental drive for respectability and success."

The report, to be published next year, calls for more research into the relationship between culture and achievement in America.

The authors note that the celebration of the Bicentennial would be an appropriate time "to take a closer look at these unwelcome immigrants, frequently victims of prejudice and discrimination, who have become successful in the United States and to try to understand what it is in the culture of most of them that has made them "more successful than the American Protestants which constitute the host culture."

### FAMILY PLANNING

A public informational meeting on Natural Family Planning will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, in the library at St. Augustine's School, 420 Chili Ave. The Office of Family Life is the sponsor.

# Sisters Want Means To Work Where Needed

Sisters working in the diocese don't want to limit their services to parishes and agencies that can "afford" them.

Like everyone else, they are feeling the pinch of inflation.

"Community" is an essential element in their vocation, and each must have some freedom to choose the domestic community that will give her the most encouragement in her work and spiritual life.

These assertions were presented to the Diocesan Sisters Council Oct. 11 in the latest roundup of opinion on the Living Needs proposal.

The proposal has been reworked several times in the past 2 1/2 years since the Priests Council began considering what they called "Sisters' Maintenance." Last month, meetings were held in five places in the diocese, and more than 300 sisters commented on the current proposal, Sister Mary John VanAtta told the Courier-Journal. It will be reworded "to reflect the concerns of all," she said.

There was general agreement that a cost-of-living increase was needed, and that "there should be some kind of equitable reimbursement in cases where housing is not provided," Sister Mary John reported. A lodging allowance is seen by many as a solution "until such time as sisters earn enough to pay their own way."

The complexity of Living Needs

## Degrees

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missions for liturgy and liturgical music.

Through his interest in music, Father Ehmann became an early leader in the American Catholic Liturgical Movement. When the National Liturgical Conference was established in 1943 he was elected to its governing board. He has also written many articles on church music and liturgy.

In his pastoral ministry, Father Ehmann was pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen from 1947 until 1961. In 1961 he became pastor of St. Michael's Church, a post he retired from in 1974. Residing now at Holy Apostles Church, he is engaged in work among the Spanish-speaking community of the west side of Rochester.

reflects changes taking place in the public function of the church — school closings and consolidations, resultant closing of parish convents, the development of new social outreach ministries, the employment of greater numbers of women religious in diocesan agencies.

It was pointed out during the council discussion that a priest employed in the Pastoral Office, the Education Department, the Office of Human Development or other non-parish work, receives a room and board allowance that enables him to pay his expenses at a rectory of his own choice. A nun working in any of these offices gets no such allowance from the diocese, nor does one who is attached to a parish that has no convent. Many who commented emphasized that special provision should be made for sisters in poor parishes, that their services not be restricted to the more affluent parishes.

Frequently mentioned also was the effect of a sister's living situation on the quality of her work and of her spiritual life. The residential community was likened to "family." Several noted that community is essential to the

vocation of those in religious life, whereas it is not an element in the vocation to the secular priesthood. The conclusion was drawn that sisters must be able to some extent to choose where and with whom they shall live.

Council delegates heard an analysis of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment from Vicki Burns of the League of Women Voters. They voted personally to support ERA. The vote was unanimous, with one abstention, but it was an expression of personal opinion only. Pro and con views on ERA are outlined in material to be included in the next newsletter.

A report on the conference on ordination of women, to be held Thanksgiving weekend in Detroit, disclosed that 11 laywomen and 15 sisters from this diocese are among the 1,200 who have registered. The conference, sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, was expected originally to draw fewer than 700. New arrangements have been made for the larger number, and registration is closed.

## OHD Takes Stand For ERA

Last week the Rochester Office for Human Development declared itself in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, an item on the ballot for Nov. 4. The statement says that after consulting people on both sides of the issue, the OHD staff came to the conclusion that "The passage of the ERA will give impetus to the process of eliminating wrongful discrimination on the basis of sex. Discriminatory practices in the areas of voting, education, credit and job opportunities have been addressed through specific New York State laws . . ." but "our constitution must witness to the equality of all human beings."

"Some (people) express a sincere and reflective concern that the passage of this amendment might indirectly undermine the family unit," the statement says. "Of course, we share this concern for the well being of the family, in this time when increasing social fragmentation threatens even this first and most vital community of any healthy society. But we do not see how refusing to recognize equally the basic human rights of women provides any principal support for the family. Rather, we believe that the whole of society is strengthened whenever the basic rights of any human beings are finally provided."

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