



Operation Rice Bowl

New York City's Billmore Hotel was the recent setting for a day-long meeting to launch the 1976 American Catholic Overseas Aid Appeal. Representing the Rochester Diocese was Father William J. Flynn, diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services, seen here (right) discussing this year's campaign with Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of CRS and Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York. Emphasis was given at this meeting to the Lenten phase of this year's appeal — "Operation Rice Bowl" — a special program of family prayer and sacrifice to benefit hungry people around the globe.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Third in a series

How appropriate!

Today is Jan. 28, the feast day of St. Thomas Aquinas (born near Aquino, Italy in 1225) that most reasonable of scholar-philosophers who is the patron saint of Catholic education. It is St. Thomas who wrote:

"Since sacred doctrine derives its principles, not from human but from divine knowledge, it derives from the highest wisdom and transcends all sciences, speculative and practical, and although things beyond man's knowledge may not be sought by him through reason, what is revealed by God must be accepted through faith."

With this in mind I return to the Humanist Manifesto with its accents on the natural and its blatant denial of the supernatural. The eight final directives

8) The humanist considers "complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life, and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist's social passion."

9) "In place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being. (Please note that the social awareness replaces traditional religious worship.)"

10) "there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with the belief in the supernatural."

11) "Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his

knowledge. Reasonable and manly attitudes will be fostered by education. Humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene, and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.

12) As religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists (must) encourage achievements that add to the satisfaction of life.

13) "all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life and the enhancement of human life. Certainly religious institutions their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world."

14) "The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. A radical change in methods, controls and motives must be instituted."

15) "We endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all not merely the few. By this positive morale and intention, humanism will be guided (and) the efforts of humanism will flow."

The 15 directives emphasize that man and the universe were not created, but evolved through a process that there is no conscience (the mind must not duel with the body); religion is not centered on Christ or any God-figure; there is no supernatural; no religion can be based on a God-figure; there is no sin (everything human is religious); there is no eternal life; (only the here and now); there is no soul, only the body and its fulfillment potential; there is no divine revelation; and there are no valid traditional religious ecclesiastical methods.

Yet somehow the Manifesto defines itself in its 15th directive as a "positive morale."

How? Where?

NEXT WEEK: Humanist Manifesto II.

CLARIFICATION

The term religious humanism as used in the present series is taken directly from Humanist Manifesto I and does not refer to Christian Humanism.

Christian Unity Urged by Pope

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul declared that "true and proper unity in faith and love of all who believe in Christ" is "a most urgent matter."

Speaking to a crowd in St. Peter's Square at noon on Sunday, Jan. 18 — the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — the Pope recalled that unity among His followers was "something that Christ wanted, inaugurated, and preached."

The pontiff observed that "over the centuries" the drive for Christian unity had waned "although at the same time the apostolic and universal Church did not lose that essential and mysterious prerogative, unity, which is correlative to its universality."

"The time has come," he went on "for the Church to show forth the fruit of spiritual ecumenism through the conversion of heart and the holiness of life of her members."

Unity a Job For All — Vatican Radio

Vatican City [RNS] — Vatican Radio, in a comment on the 1976 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25), said that, under God, the achievement of such oneness "depends on each and every Christian."

The theme of the week, chosen by a joint group of representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, is "We shall be like Him."

It is taken from the First Epistle of St. John (3:2): "Dearly beloved, we are God's children now, what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

The theme, said the Vatican broadcast, "is thus of divine origin and is based on that unity which Christians — while separated — already possess, and on that fuller, more definitive unity which Christians are trying to achieve by overcoming present divisions."

"from the grace of being God's children now" it went on, "springs that vigorous impulse, which presses each Christian to commit him or herself to the quest for unity."

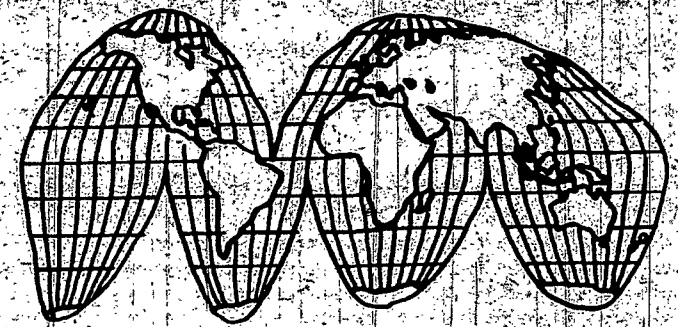
Business In The Diocese

Security Trust Company has named John T. Hoover of Greece, and Lawrence L. McVinnie of Brighton vice presidents and operations officers.

Hoover joined Security Trust in 1959. He is a former vice president of the Town of Greece Youth Council, and a former member of the Town of Greece Youth Board. He is on the Greece Board of Assessment Review and the Greece Chamber of Commerce. He also is active in the Greece Youth Athletic Association and is a leader of the St. Charles Cub Scout Pack.

Lawrence L. McVinnie joined Security Trust in 1945. He attended St. Andrews Seminary and has had additional training from the University of Rochester Extension School and the International Business Machine Corporation. Additionally, he holds graduate certificates in computer, system and tape programming. He is also a Standard Certificate graduate of the American Institute of Banking.

The Nation and ...



Civil Religion has displaced the Judeo-Christian tradition in fixing the moral norms by which Americans live, Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis said recently. He urged that Churches become aggressively evangelistic during the Bicentennial to counter the disillusionment created by this development. Sister Ann Gillen, director of the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry has condemned the silence of the Vatican's representative during the United Nations vote equating Zionism with racism. "In the U.N. debate, the Vatican spokesman did not speak," she said. "Yet the Vatican will speak out when Israel conducts a raid in reprisal to a raid by the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Israel. If the Vatican made equally strong statements about PLO atrocities, I would understand."

More than 60 per cent of all wedding ceremonies taking place in Catholic churches in Britain involve mixed marriages, according to Canon Richard Stewart, secretary of the Ecumenical Commission for England and Wales. Only in the Westminster and Liverpool archdioceses — the two largest in the country — are mixed marriages less than 50 per cent of the total, he said. Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, a leading Eastern Orthodox prelate whose feet were recently kissed by Pope Paul has announced a meeting of all Orthodox Churches that are members of the World Council of Churches. The meeting will include an evaluation of the advances of ecumenism and will promote "the aims of ecumenism — the union of churches."

Items from the Vatican: Pope Paul, warning that "it seems human progress is demanding a license to kill," strongly reaffirmed the Church's condemnation of abortion and euthanasia by lauding pro-life efforts taking place throughout the world. He said "for some time human society has been using all its resources, convincing itself of the legality of killing and adopting laws which ease the conscience." Yet he said, there are "positive, consoling and promising aspects" to human life which must be treated with "respect, admiration and untouchability which binds it to the summit of primordial values and supreme duties." The pope has told diplomats accredited to the Holy See that diplomatic relations between the Vatican and various nations are important primarily because of what the Vatican can contribute to the "solution of problems of life and international order, peaceful co-existence and cooperation among peoples." He further said that the "usefulness" of diplomatic relations did not spring basically from the need to resolve problems of Church life and activities in the respective countries "but rather from the contribution the Holy See can give and intends to give" to help these nations.

He's Not Heavy, Father He's My . . . Sister !!

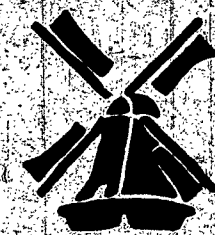
Omaha [RNS] — The traditional all-male campus of Boys Town may find girls in some of its classrooms in the Fall.

Father Robert Hupp, director of the famed non-sectarian haven for homeless boys, said girls would not become regular residents but might be allowed to attend classes as "day students" in a new tuition-free "outside student" program.

Introduction of girls to the campus program, Father Hupp said, is part of an over-all plan to simulate, more closely, conditions in society so that Boys Town residents will find the transition easier when they leave the home.

Father Hupp said future plans include the possibility of including girls in "satellite" residences on a nearby campus affiliated with Boys Town. Girls have never been regular program participants in Boys' community's 58-year history.

The "outside student" program was started in the Summer of 1974 when some Omaha Westside High School students were invited to Boys Town to take vocational courses not offered at the Omaha school. Currently there are some 90 students attending classes at Boys Town, either full or part-time.



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