



By Father Robert A. Graham
RNS Correspondent

Vatican City (RNS) — The 100th anniversary of the birth of Eugenio Pacelli (Pope Pius XII) gave Paul VI the occasion to express a personal tribute to his predecessor whom he had served at close hand for years.

At the commemorative Mass in St. Peter's on Sunday March 7, the Pope declared, "We are able to be admiring witnesses especially as regards the 15 long years of our own modest relations with Pope Pius XII, of his goodness, his culture, his dedication to work, his compassion for the suffering of

Pope Hails Reign of Pius XII

others and his pastoral and apostolic soul."

The ceremony and the allocution were in a sense his own contribution to the cause of canonization which he himself instituted in 1967, along with that of Pope John XXIII. The address itself, observers noted, was not to be construed as a de facto canonization.

The Pope was careful to refrain from the use of such terms as "saint" or "heroicity of virtues." The normal canonical process, they say, is pursuing its regular course, according to the desires of Pope Paul.

The Italian press spoke of the centennial observation as a saint-launching of Pius XII after a decade of posthumous criticism. In fact, the strong conviction prevails in the Vatican that the uproar over Pius XII was largely artificial, the product of extraneous and psychological factors, powerfully promoted by the mass media with the collaboration of some Catholic groups with interests at stake.

Pope Paul, in his March 7 eulogy,

took up some of the recent descriptions of Pius XII in order to deny them, especially those in relation to World War II.

"So much," declared the Pope, "is said about him in this respect and not always in conformity with the truth, falsely playing on an alleged snobbish timidity of character or on partiality towards this or that nation. This magnanimous pontiff is not to be judged in these terms. He was refined in his human and Christian sensibility but always wise and upright. We can also add that he was always strong and equitable, in perfect control of his feelings and a courageous defender of justice, ready to self-sacrifice in the relief of human suffering and the courageous service of peace."

Vatican media, L'Osservatore Romano and Vatican Radio, as well as the Catholic daily newspaper, Avvenire, gave special coverage to the centennial of Pius XII.

L'Osservatore in two issues carried contributions from German, French and Italian bishops and leading laymen. The usually outspoken Prof. Frederico

Alessandrini, himself former editor of the old Catholic daily, li Quotidiano and now the Vatican Press officer, put in more specific language what Paul VI had only implied concerning recent attacks upon the memory of Pius XII.

The controversy over his wartime role, said Alessandrini, was a "hostile campaign," due to the need of some people to find a scapegoat for their own shortcomings. "The greater part of the major organs of the press," he said, "has followed and still follow this line. This is the fact, whatever the reason."

It is propaganda, he went on, persistent in its perfidy. These attacks are "anti-historical" and constitute a vendetta against the Church because the Church, in harmony with its mandate, separated its cause from the cause of unworthy men, for the service of charity, of truth and of justice."

Father Molinari wrote in the L'Osservatore Romano: "Precisely because of his attachment to God, he did not seek the applause of men and was not the slave of public opinion, nor did he allow himself to



be influenced by the dictatorship of the mass media.

"He knew well that some wanted him to come out with a burning protest against the criminal atrocities perpetrated by Hitler and his followers.

"But though he indubitably condemned national socialism in unmistakable terms, he came, after long consultations, much reflection and prayer to the conviction that a public protest would not help in the slightest and even would only harden the attitude of Hitler, and cause (the deaths) of other victims."

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

[Conclusion]

It has been said of John Cardinal Newman, possibly the most original religious thinker the Western world has yet produced, that he owed his originality of thought to a careful avoidance of the "best" books of his time.

Some of the books you may find refreshing to miss are those written or recommended by SIECUS board members and/or supporters. And you'd be wise to check for their names and influence in your children's schoolbooks and classrooms... especially if sex is taught at every available academic opportunity instead of a scheduled course at a scheduled time. Check the audio-visuals used. Listen to the tapes. Some of the things we have seen hastily scrawled on public restroom walls can now be seen written neatly on the blackboards, or flashed in full color on the classroom screens.

Although schoolboard members and many Church spokesmen delicately avoid discussions of SIECUS, most sex education programs plainly reveal the SIECUS influence. And busy parents are easily put off or put down by an educator's condescending manner or his ridicule.

A few SIECUS officers (past and present): Rev. Robert Baumiller, S.J.; Alan P. Bell; Rev. William Genne (National Council of Churches); Rev. George Hagmaier, CSP; Walter J. Imborski, the former priest who wrote/edited the Becoming a Person Program while still a board member of SIECUS, then left the Church to marry his co-author Frances Marzec; Harold Lief; William Masters; Wardell Pomeroy; Isadore Rubin; and Rev. John

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Ithaca — A pancake breakfast is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 28 at the Corners Restaurant to benefit St. Catherine's. Donations of \$2 are requested.

Thomas (Catholic Family Sociologist);

Some of the films recommended by SIECUS: About Your Sexuality (Unitarian-Universalist Association); Reaching Orgasm (School of Medicine, U. of C. at San Francisco); FUN (Center for Marital and Sexual Studies); Boy to Man / Girl to Woman (Churchill Films); Would You Kiss a Naked Man? (Perennial Education); Physiological Responses of the Sexually Stimulated Female (Focus International); Truck Stop (Paulist Productions); and Body Self-Image (Sensate, Media) which depicts explicit techniques for exploratory body-awareness training by a group of nude adults with three mirrors.

The books recommended by SIECUS include: Loving Women-Loving Men; Gay Liberation and the Church; by Gearhart and Johnson, which attacks the Catholic Church; Boys and Sex/Girls and Sex, by Pomeroy; Sex Before Marriage, by Hamilton; Facts About Sex For Today's Youth, by Gordon; Society and the Healthy Homosexual, by Weinberg; and the Joys of Sex/More Joys of Sex, by Comfort. (The illustrations in Dr. Comfort's books were described ecstatically by the SIECUS reviewer: "I particularly liked (as others will dislike) the inclusion of female underarm hair as a part of the erotic attractiveness.")

Among the 190-odd people who publicly supported SIECUS in a 1969 New York Times ad were: Ralph Bunche, Charles Curran, Alan Guttmacher, Dexter Hanley, S.J., Theodore Hesburgh (Notre Dame) and Robert McNamara (World Bank).

To readers who will say that I am giving SIECUS unnecessary publicity... please forget it. In my considered judgment SIECUS is obsessed with sex, exhibitionism, and raw academic/humanistic power. The film labs, the publishing houses and the media industry are making substantial profit "training" the teachers and the religious who in turn are eager to "train" our children. And it is not what the normal person thinks of as sex education at all... in my opinion it is nothing short of pornography.

How do I know? I read SIECUS reports. I read SIECUS books. I read SIECUS recommendations. I do not view their films which are described in detail in their literature simply because I don't want to.

And we don't want SIECUS or SIECUS-influenced teachers anywhere near our children.

NEXT WEEK: The Catholics.

Provocative Cardinal Suenens To Address Eucharistic Congress

Special to Courier-Journal

Philadelphia — A man who said he is ready to pay the price of being misunderstood for the dialogue he started within his Church will offer a keynote speech at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress.

Leon-Joseph Cardinal Suenens, archbishop of Malines-Brussels, one of the strongest progressive voices in the Catholic hierarchy, will speak here on Clergy and Religious Day, Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Cardinal Suenens is the 1976 recipient of the John Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, an international award given in recognition for distinctive advances in the knowledge and love of God.

If past performance is any criterion, the cardinal's remarks could launch a whole new series of discussions on some major theme in Church theology or organization. This was the case in Vatican II, in private interviews with the press and in his contributions to the world Synod of Bishops.

The cardinal's favorite themes include: increased power for the College of Bishops; a higher role for the laity, through the Charismatic movement and the married diaconate; and the place of the Church in the modern world.

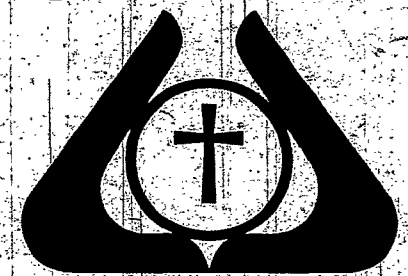
Paradoxically, despite his innovations Cardinal Suenens has a certain ability to bring about unity amid diversity and heated disagreement. Such was the case when he helped break an early deadlock in the first session of Vatican II, and latter when he served as one of the four Cardinal Moderators of the second session.

The Belgian Primate's view of the theology and church organization is not easy to paraphrase, but it does incorporate a readily understood distinction between past and present. For years the Church was seen as a hierarchy, today it is seen as people of God, the assembly



CARDINAL SUENENS

of all baptized — each with his own gifts of charisms. Yesterday the world was organized around the Greek view of nature; today



science has shown a more organic, interdependent view of reality. Without that fresh perspective, outer space travel could not happen; with this new insight, we can have a more dynamic Church.

The 41st International Eucharistic Congress is a worldwide spiritual assembly of Catholics and other Christians gathering in Philadelphia Aug. 1-8.

IN THIS CORNER

George Beahon

Hopscoching The Sports Beat: And wondering why promoters in other cities don't follow the example set by the Red Wings, the Amers; the Lancers and Section 5 officials. Instead of battling each other for ink and air time, instead of pretending they don't co-exist, local promoters have displayed a notable tendency to help each other. Public address systems promote other attractions — except when head-to-head scheduling is involved. They use each others personnel in special pre-game attractions. Best of all, they don't knock.

Section 5 works with Red Wing president Vince Stanley and vice versa. Ditto the Amers and Red Wings and Lancers and it all adds up to an unusually friendly atmosphere. And they all save something in promotion.

March Madness: Section 5 attendance was down slightly this year, but produced more revenue. Some of the weaker early attractions, involving teams from distant towns, were scheduled more

judiciously in other sites than the War Memorial, meaning lower expenses. Early elimination of top seeded clubs like Monroe High and Mt. Morris did hurt the gate some. One much-needed change: Timing of coach-of-the-year awards. They are announced during the bitter final week of semifinals and finals, although the voting is done BEFORE sectional play. Either announce it earlier, before some big winners are eliminated. Or vote AFTER the finals. Kodak made a similar switch in its prestigious NCAA Coach-of-the-Year Awards.

Recruiting Time: How many of the blue-chip high schoolers who get free rides wind up with an education? Among players in the National Basketball Association, 98 per cent of whom came out of full-scholarship situations, less than half wound up with college degrees, even though most completed four years in college. Thousands and thousands of others, with lesser talent, got neither degrees nor careers in pro ball.

Quote and Unquote: Boston Red Sox owner Tom Yawkey, on his greatest player in 40 years: "Carl Yastrzemski, for certain. Ted Williams was a great hitter and fielded better than he got credit for. But Carl does more. I'm sure of that." Larry Csonka, on his buddy Jim Kiick, both under contract to defunct Memphis of the folded up WFL: "Kiick loves it. It's his ambition in life to be unemployed with pay." Notre Dame coach Digger Phelps: "To win on the road, you've got to play almost perfect. You've got to beat the crowd and the officials."