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Eucharistic Congress Under Way

From Courier-Journal Services

Philadelphia — The legate of Pope Paul VI opened the 41st Eucharistic Congress here with acknowledgement of this bicentennial city as "the cradle of religious liberty" where people are free "to satisfy their profound hunger for God."

Cardinal James Knox, the papal delegate, and his welcoming host, Philadelphia's Cardinal John Krol, participated together in opening day eucharistic and civic celebrations as the largest religious gathering of Catholics in American history got under way.

"It is most appropriate that a Eucharistic Congress which has as its theme, 'The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family,' should meet in a city whose name means brotherhood and whose history is distinguished by a hunger for freedom," Cardinal Knox said.

"Your city's name," he said, "reflects the fact that there is, indeed, a human family. The Declaration of Independence of your nation, whose 200th anniversary you have just observed, recognizes the unity and dignity of the

human family come from one Father, one Creator, Almighty God."

The Australian-born cardinal, who is prefect of the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, spoke at a City Hall civic reception headed by Mayor Frank Rizzo.

"Your city," Cardinal Knox stated, "is distinguished in history as the 'cradle of religious liberty.' In other words, those who seek to satisfy their profound hunger for God have been and are free to worship Him in this city — without oppression, without interference, in fact, with encouragement — the encouragement your Founding Father gave to the public acknowledgement of their dependence on God in the very document in which they expressed their independence of other authority.

"In an atmosphere of religious liberty," he observed, "the hunger for God can be satisfied. We give thanks that you enjoy this blessing; we pray that you may always value it; we hope that others may share it."

In a brief address at the opening congress Mass,

welcoming Cardinal Knox to Philadelphia, Cardinal Krol recalled that the corner-stone of the Philadelphia Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul had been laid by Blessed John Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia. The candidate for sainthood had established the Forty Hours Eucharistic devotion on a diocesan-wide basis 125 years ago, Cardinal Krol observed.

"The appointment of Cardinal Knox as legate for this international spiritual assembly is most appropriate," Cardinal Krol stated, "first, because he serves as president of the permanent committee for International Eucharistic Congresses; second, because he is prefect of the sacred congregation which is the guardian of the Church's public worship and of its sacraments, and the Eucharist is both the most important act of public worship in the Church and its most sublime sacrament; third, because, as Archbishop of Melbourne, Cardinal Knox was the host for the 40th International Eucharistic Congress, and, thus, his understanding of what we are trying to do in this spiritual gathering is quite profound, and his commitment to our common task is deeply personal and obviously enthusiastic."

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Housing Foundation Reports 'Good Year'

At its annual meeting, the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation had several firsts to talk about: the first Housing Conference, the first Housing Week, to seek broader input into programs, and the first loan, of \$50,000, from diocesan funds.

Foundation members met at St. Louis Parish in Pittsford July 27 to examine the past year and to plan for the future.

Victor Hadeed, outgoing president, welcomed the members, and noted that the organization had a good year working with the diocese, and on programs reaching out to the non-metropolitan counties in the diocese.

The financial report given by R. Michael Fitzpatrick noted that the foundation received more than \$24,000 in donations during the period from March 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976. Twelve loans were approved, he reported, and the number of applications received, 40, was double the previous year.

Georgia DeGregoria, head of the

education committee, stressed the need to increase awareness of the foundation and of the housing problem. She cited the Housing Conference in June as a step, and said that more effort has to be made to include parish level housing expertise in the foundation's programs. She also noted that more low and moderate income families need to be made aware of the assistance available from the foundation.

Five new members were elected to the Board of Directors: The Rev. A. David Bos, of the Downtown Presbyterian Church; Emory Dawson, the Urban League of Rochester; Diane Cusolito Moonan, the foundation secretary; John J. Quinn, of the Lewis St. Settlement House; and Barbara Lanphere, director of the Cayuga County Homesite Development Corporation.

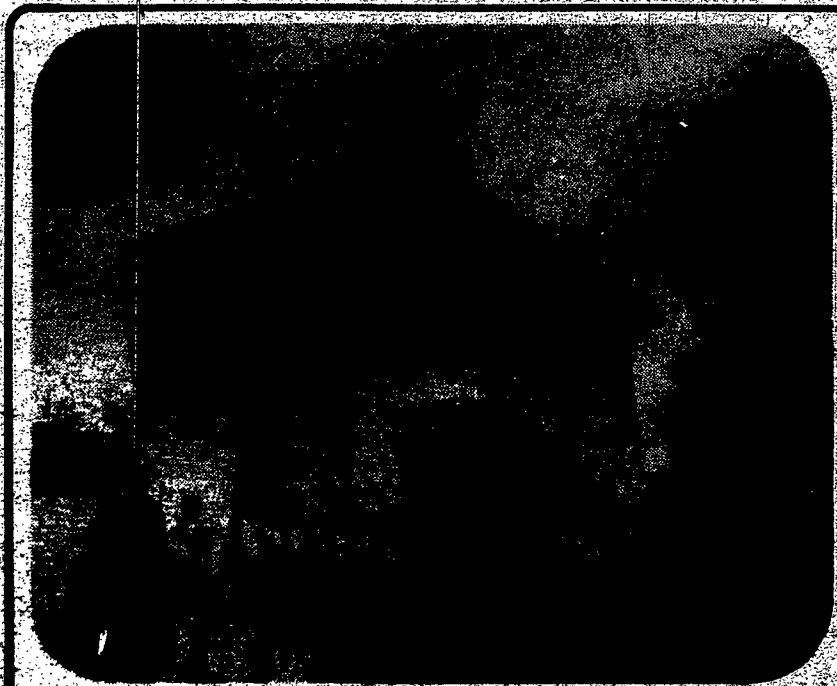
New board officers for the coming year will be Eleanor Bluhm, president; Georgia DeGregoria, vice president; Ms. Moonan, secretary; and R. Michael Fitzpatrick, treasurer.



Photo by Ben Susso

Bless This Feast

Father Joseph Beatini of Assumption in Fairport blesses the Fiera Italiana in ceremonies in Rochester's Manhattan Square Park Sunday. The festival is on all this week. Other photos Page 2.



Photos by Susan McKinney

CENTENNIAL — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was on hand to help parishioners at St. William's in Geneva celebrate the mission church's 100th anniversary Sunday. At left, the Bishop, Father Jerome Schifferli, pastor; Father Roy Hagger-

ty, pastor emeritus; and Father Richard Thibeau of Divine Word Seminary outside the church. At right Bishop Hogan greets parishioners inside church after Mass.