

French Still Debating Archbishop's Suspension

Paris (RNS) — As the storm continued to swirl around him in a divided Catholic community in France, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre refused to break his silence from his villa retreat in a Paris region after Pope Paul deprived him of all sacerdotal functions.

The most ardent supporters of the adamant opponent of Vatican II reforms, however, have gone so far as to label the Pope "Hitler" and to hold the Vatican responsible for bringing the Roman Catholic Church to the verge of its schism.

Not since the social-political upheaval of May 1968, when students and workers rioted in the streets of the Left Bank of Paris to challenge established order, has such a crisis rocked the French Catholic Church.

Emotions have been running high among all French Catholics, whether traditionalist or progressive, ever since the Pope recently issued a decree suspending Archbishop Lefebvre and the 13 priests he had ordained at his controversial Econe seminary in Switzerland.

Former Archbishop of Dakar and of Tulle, France, and also former head of the Holy Ghost Fathers, Archbishop Lefebvre, 70, a leader of strongly conservative opinion at the Second Vatican Council, has been directing the seminary since 1970. The seminary, known as the Confraternity of Pius X, is named

after the militantly anti-modernist Pope who died in 1914.

With its 100 students and 30 teachers, the seminary, designed to train priests in accord with pre-Vatican II spirit and norms, has become a sort of spiritual Mecca for Catholic traditionalists.

The conflict between the Vatican and the intransigent prelate has been gathering momentum since 1974. On several occasions, Archbishop Lefebvre requested an audience with the Pope. He was turned down each time.

In July 1975, the pontiff, in a letter, asked the churchman to make a public act of submission to the Council (and) to the post-Council reforms. After a second letter from the Pope in September 1975, the traditionalist champion merely offered his "submission to the successor of Peter in his essential function, which is to transmit faithfully the faith."

In a recorded sermon broadcast during a traditionalist Latin mass in Paris on July 3 of this year, Archbishop Lefebvre said that "the problem of the Mass liturgy marked the essential point of difference between himself and the Pope."

Writing on the front page of France-Soir, a mass circulation Paris daily, after the Pope's disciplinary action against the archbishop, columnist Jean Dutourd likened the move to the execution in 1535 of John Fisher, the Roman Catholic

Bishop of Rochester, on the orders of King Henry VIII, because he had opposed "the Protestantization of the Church of England."

In the case of Archbishop Lefebvre, Dutourd said "one did not cut his head off, but it is not impossible that this elderly man will now die of chagrin." He criticized Pope Paul for "condemning" the prelate without giving him a hearing, while not hesitating to receive representatives of a Soviet regime "which has been persecuting Christians for 60 years."

Equally virulent was Msgr. Francois Ducaud Bourget, 79, a member of the Order of Malta, who celebrates a traditional Latin Mass every Sunday in Paris at the Salle Wagram, a hall where boxing matches and public dances are staged, on other days of the week.

"The Pope," he charged, "acted like a despot. Nothing was done legally by the Vatican. There was no trial, no inquiry, and no defense. Three times, Msgr. Lefebvre asked to see the Pope. He never obtained a reply. The fiery clergyman said the Pope's methods were 'worthy of Hitler.'"

Msgr. Bourget added, "The Vatican accuses us of heresy because we continue to celebrate mass in Latin and we refuse to face the congregation. All that conforms to the real dogma and its liturgy. We are faithful to the Church desired by Christ."

"If the Pope wants to found a new religion, he is free to do so. But the schism, it is with him that it is to be found, not with us."

However, the majority of traditionalists in France, despite their emotional distress over the affair, appear to support a less aggressive attitude. Pierre Debray, founder of the biggest traditionalist movement, Silenceux de l'Eglise (the Church of the Silent), commented that "Even if the Vatican disciplined Archbishop Lefebvre under conditions that call for reservations, a Catholic must pray that he submit in humbly accepting the verdict. Archbishop Lefebvre will save the cause he defends."

"What counts above all," Debray emphasized, "is safeguarding the unity of the Church. Those who push Archbishop Lefebvre towards schism are making a big mistake. We are loyal to our Pope and to the College of Bishops."


the priesthood makes the effectiveness of the priests the greater.

Modern hospitals are complex institutions. Their proper solicitude is both for the sick and for their kin and friends. It is a moving experience to talk with groups of anxious relatives and friends who sit anxiously and prayerfully as their loved ones are in surgery or on the critical list. One afternoon I dropped into a room of an ancient Italian grandmother and said, "Bona sera, Nana. Come star?" She replied: "Consi, cosi" which means "so, so," and this was really a courageous exaggeration. A grandson came bounding in, about 20 years old, and said, "How are you, grandma?" He took her hand gently, and tenderly kissed her on the cheek. Scenes like this reveal how much goodness there still is in the world.

Hospital personnel make, or break a hospital. An efficiency without warmth and heart is like being married to a mechanical computer. Such is hardly a satisfactory marriage. But a hospital where the gamut of people who compose that great body which we call The Hospital has heart and compassion as well as skill and efficiency is a benediction.

Like most institutions today, hospitals seem to affect a florid terminology to pander to fantasy. There is some humor in terminology elegance. For many days I was tip-toeing cautiously past small rooms marked "Environmental Services." In my innocence I thought some important experiments were going on within. One day a door opened, and behold! there was a small closet with mops and pails, soaps and sloop sink with hose. I do not think common names like meat and potatoes, mops and pails, cleaning and housekeeping, are demeaning terms, but think they are things and concepts and services which are most honorable, and worthy of their pristine categorization. So the Lord bless our American Hospitals which give efficient and skillful services, but give them with a great heart. God bless all who serve within them.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE




Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

A couple of months ago Father James Schwartz, the chaplain at Rochester General Hospital, met me in the lounge of the hospital. The lounge is a waiting room, not a convivial pub. He said: "I'm looking for a supply for two weeks, July 30 thru August 13. Could you cover for me?" "I'd be glad to." Since my assignment as an assistant in Webster has little involvement in the parish work, I have become a kind of a bung for any Church barrel which needs a hole to be plugged. There is hardly a priestly work which I have not had experience in, and God has given me the grace of adaptability. I am always happy to be useful when needed.

What of General Hospital? It has 650 beds which are nearly always full. Nearly half the patients registered are Catholics. Father Dan Torney became the first full-time Catholic chaplain there, and pioneered in the secular hospital chaplaincy. Father Schwartz is his successor. He has a recent doctorate in Ministry from Colgate, and is also skilled in counselling. Best of all he is a kind, conscientious, devout priest, sensitive to the supernatural needs of the patients' prayer, Sacraments, Mass, doctrine. And he is generous in his service to the people.

It is an edification to me as I help out in many places to find that our priests are generally held in high esteem by the people, and consequently the people hold the priesthood in high esteem. The goodness of priests brings honor to the priesthood, and the honor of

IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

Comeback-of-the-year awards rarely are on the line for 23-year-old former champions of the world. But that's what's waiting for the onetime golden boy of tennis.

At 21 Jimmy Connors devastated all opponents. He won everything in sight, and in record time also he managed to alienate most of the people in the top echelon of the sport growing faster in popularity than anything else in fun and games.

He got rid of the manager who made him a 21-year-old millionaire. Former Rochesterian Bill Riordan now is suing. Connors also got rid of his fiancée, Chrissie Evert, and after a long run of trial and error he landed with the new Miss World.

Connors also got rid of a flock of titles, at Forest Hills, at Wimbledon, and elsewhere. He lost a lot of friends including Arthur Ashe. Connors brought lawsuits against Ashe, who beat him at Wimbledon, and he also started suits against various tennis organizations.

Suddenly the once-arrogant Connors elected to play for the U.S. in Davis Cup competition. And just as suddenly, the other players who avoided him in dressing rooms now

are buddy-buddy and saying he's coming all the way back.

Connors and Ashe were not speaking to each other, except through their respective attorneys. Until they got together recently in a newspaper-sponsored tournament in Washington, D.C., and went to the doubles finals before losing to the world's top-seeded team of Brian Gottfried and Paul Ramirez.

The same Connors who was called "unpatriotic" by Ashe now is agreeing they should represent the U.S. in future Davis Cup play. The lawsuits that separated Connors and Ashe have been dropped. Now they are calling them — sorry, but I read it — the Dynamic Duo.


Corny or not, it's a pleasant reversal in a world of spoiled athletes who tend to talk to no one without agents. Welcome Back, Connors, Forest Hills, watch out.

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Seminar Set On Alcoholism

An alcoholism seminar will be held at St. Joseph's Hospital Thursday, Aug. 19, at 12:15 p.m. in the doctors' meeting room.

Alfred C. Pucci, CSW, psychiatric social worker at the Elmira Psychiatric Center and group therapist for STARS, will be speaking on "STARS Intakes."

J. Frank Stark, CSW, program coordinator, Stark will speak on "Family Therapy."

For further information St. Joseph's Hospital, Social Work Department, Southern Tier Alcoholism Rehabilitation Service (STARS), should be contacted.

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