

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## 'Conclave' Book Is 'Pure Fiction,' Priest Says

**New York (RNS)**—A new book which claims that "Marxist" cardinals in the Catholic Church favor a Communist takeover of the world and that some prelates consider the survival of the Church doubtful was labeled "frivolous and irresponsible" by a Jesuit historian here.

The Jesuit, Father Robert Graham, who is assigned to the Vatican but now visiting in the U.S. described the book by Malachi Martin, an ex-Jesuit priest and former Vatican scholar, as "pure fiction."

In the book, called The

Final Conclave (Stein & Day), Dr. Martin claims that a plan is being executed in secret by Church leaders to elect a successor to Pope Paul who will form an alliance with Communist nations, ultimately forcing a sharp confrontation between Vatican and U.S. foreign policies.

Dr. Martin, a former professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and currently a columnist for the National Review, said that these churchmen feel that a world Communist takeover is inevitable and that the Church must deal with Communist leaders to survive.

The book also purports to "reveal" that the Soviet Union will attempt to influence the next papal election; it also claims to disclose the process of electing the Pope, indicating a new location of the conclave, new procedures and the reason for heavy security.

In his assessment of the book, Graham, an American scholar who specializes in Vatican diplomatic history and has been assigned to the book says it "consists of the author's fanciful presentation of a future papal election evolving according to his own thesis."

The priest who has for many years served as a Rome correspondent for Religious News Service, said "whatever its literary merits, it is not history or even good journalism."

He said the first third of the volume consists of a rapid review and interpretation of recent Vatican events and current Church problems "that make one think of the worst kind of reporting encountered so often in European — and in particular, Italian — newspapers and slick weeklies."

"This is a frivolous and

irresponsible book, pretending to be far more than it is entitled to claim," the Jesuit stated.

"The question of the Catholic Church's present attitude toward Communism, Marxism, Euro-Communism, etc., and the possible configuration of the next conclave are certainly legitimate subjects of consideration," Father Graham admitted. "But, the allegations dramatized in the final two-thirds (of the book), about The Final Conclave, are certainly not justified by the rickety and

dubious "factual" essay that precedes it. This book trivializes great questions."

Citing the publisher's "blurb" which speaks of Church "politicking", "cynical alliances" and churchmen acting as power-brokers dealing in "human liberty," the Jesuit said the publishers "perhaps" go beyond the intentions of the author. "But it is a tipoff of the appeal it is hoped will win readers," he said.

However, Father Graham concluded, "The Last Conclave, be it repeated, is pure fiction."

## Father DeSocio To Be Ordained

"The Light of Christ" has been selected by Deacon John Anthony DeSocio as the theme of his rites of ordination to the diocesan priesthood, slated for Friday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in Fairport. Deacon DeSocio has worked as a deacon intern at that parish since June.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the ordaining prelate.

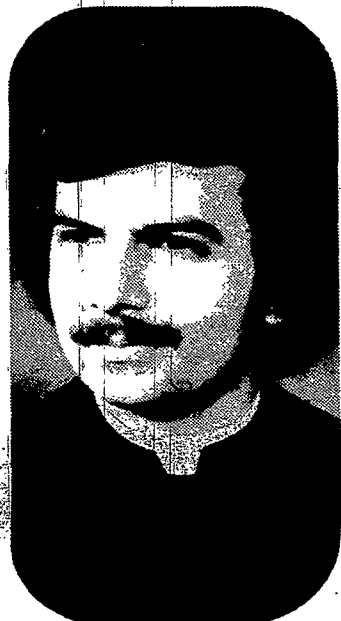
The son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter DeSocio of Billings Drive in Elmira graduated from St. Anthony's School and Notre Dame High

School there. In 1972, he graduated from St. John Fisher College, Becket Hall, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry.

He received both a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Arts in Theology from St. Bernard's Seminary.

During his years of preparation for the priesthood he has worked as a CCD teacher at St. Charles Borromeo and was a member of the staff of Camp Stella Maris.

He served at St. Augustine's Church while participating in the Field



FATHER DESOCIO

Education Placement Program and also worked at

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## Father Lum Gets Diocesan Position

Father William D. Lum, chaplain at the University of Rochester for the past three years, has been appointed co-director of the entire campus ministry in the diocese. This involves 18 colleges and universities and 25 priests, sisters and lay people in full-time and part-time jobs.

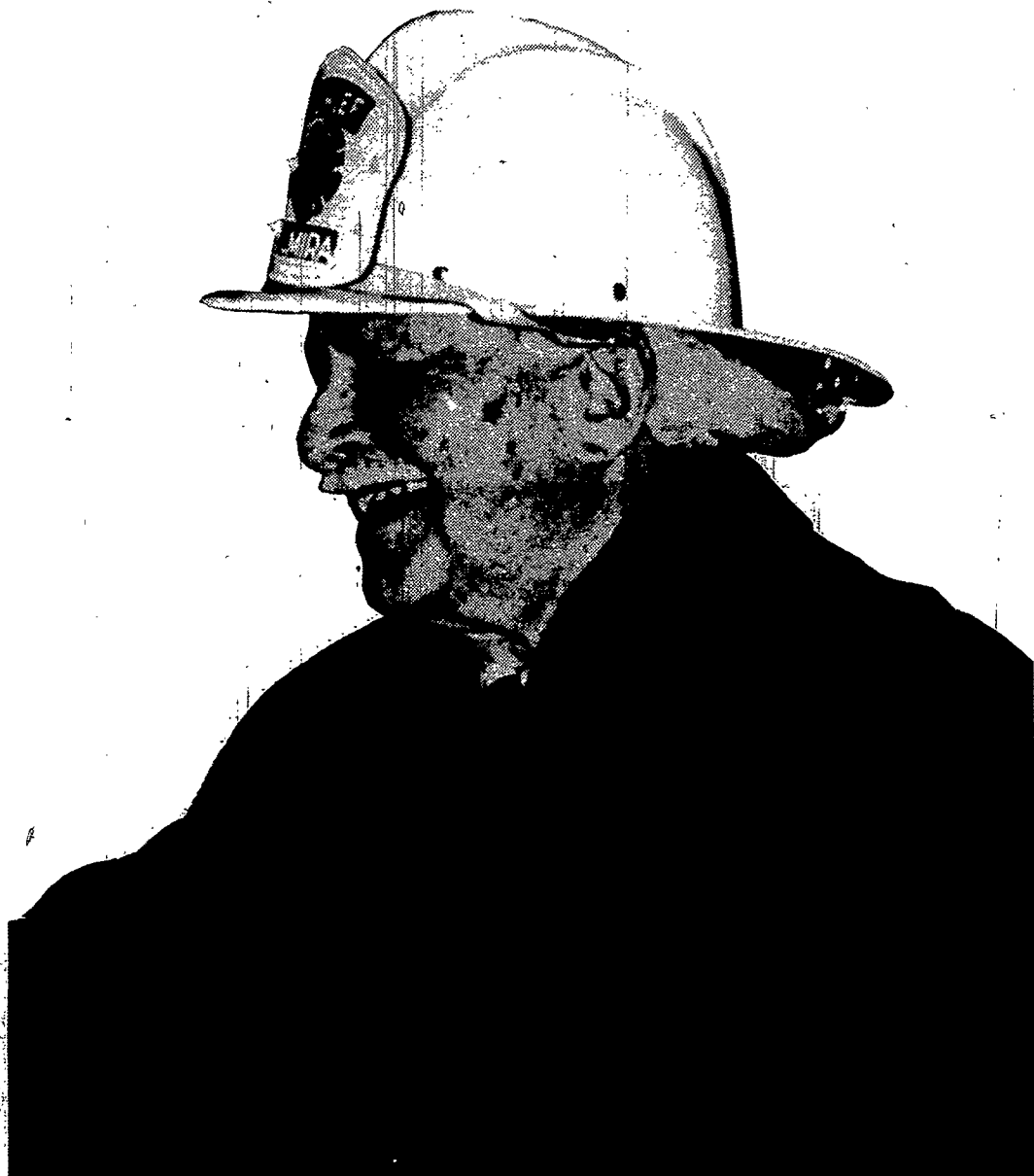
Father Lum will serve with Father Gerald Appelby, the Pastoral Office announced last week. Father Appelby, formerly was the sole director of the campus enterprise, but in the recent

restructuring of diocesan agencies he became director of Special Ministries. This division encompasses campus ministry.

The new campus co-director was ordained to the priesthood June 7, 1969, in Sacred Heart Cathedral. He is from that parish and attended its school and the diocesan seminaries. He has served at St. Margaret Mary and St. Louis parishes, and, during his diaconate, at Immaculate Conception and St. Monica's.



FATHER LUM



Another Hat

Arthur Fiedler, celebrated Boston Pops conductor, was in Elmira recently to conduct a concert. A long-time devotee of firefighting, the 83-year-old Fiedler spent the afternoon before the performance touring the American LaFrance fire truck plant. Fiedler was named an honorary member of St. Joseph's Burn Team and an honorary Elmira fire chief.

## Prelate Reports on Missions

By JOHN DASH

The man who succeeded Archbishop Fulton Sheen as national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith noted with some misgiving last week that a mere 9 per cent of each dollar donated to the world wide mission effort in this country is reserved for administrative and education costs.

"Ninety-one cents of each dollar is given directly to the missions," Bishop Edward T. O'Meara noted last week at a press conference at St. Bernard's Seminary, prior to a Mission Day address at the school.

That percentage, while boasted of by other fund-raisers, is a source of some disquiet to the bishop, who acknowledges that he has been challenged to spend more on the society's local educational efforts.

He notes that of the money disbursed to the missions, more than 42 per cent goes to Africa, about 38 per cent to Asia. Ten per cent is spent in the American missions, eight in Oceania and two in Europe, especially in the Scandinavian countries.

Fielding reporters' questions on news reports

linking missionaries with espionage activities, the bishop declared that "In my 22 years with the missions, I have never encountered a specific incidence of such activity. There must have been some of it, but "never in another country as agents of our government."

The bishop said that the mission thrust of his office operates in a "totally different sphere" from the political conditions in the mission country itself. He reminds missionaries that they are "outsiders" in their mission land, and that they are "only guests" in foreign countries.

His concern "doesn't approach (internal problems) from a political basis," he said. Not that he doesn't approve of such an approach, but that "there are many other agencies" who engage in such activity.

Bishop O'Meara views his role as "a catalyst for the mission interest and motivation" in this country. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith in this country distributed more than \$23 million to the missions last year. The bishop noted that there are more than 50 million Catholics in the U.S.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Bishop O'Meara, right, discusses African missions with Father Joseph Reinhart, director of the diocesan Missions Office, left, and Father James K. Duah-Agyeman, center, during his visit to Rochester last week.