



CWC Scholarship Fund Event

Members of the Catholic Womens Club invite their friends to a luncheon fashion show April 20 at the Rochester Club. The annual party is a money-raiser for a scholarship fund that helps several girls to attend area Catholic high schools. Planners shown above are Mrs. Philip Harmon, seated, and, from the left, Mrs. John DiGaetano, Mrs. Joseph Bianco, Mrs. William Kramer and Mrs. Peter De Lucia. Reservations should be made by April 17 through the CWC office, 275-9173.

Bishop Kirima

New Bishop Studied At St. John Fisher

One of two native Kenyan priests who were named bishops by Pope Paul on

March 18 studied at St. John Fisher College. Father Nicodemus Kirima, rector of

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Nairobi, has been appointed bishop of Mombasa, succeeding Irish-born Bishop Eugene J. Butler who is retiring at 77.

Bishop Kirima was the first of five Kenyans to study at St. John Fisher under the sponsorship of Irish Archbishop John J. McCarthy of Nairobi, who preferred his priests to be educated in the United States rather than in Europe. Bishop Raphael Ndingi of Nakuru also studied at Fisher, graduating in 1969.

The new bishop of Mombasa also is chairman of the National Priests Association in Kenya.

Also on March 18, the Pope named Father Zachaeus Okoth, bishop of Kisumu and created two new dioceses in Kenya.

Bishop Okoth replaces Bishop Philip Sulumeti, 40, who has been named to head one of the two new dioceses, Kakamega. Bishop Sulumeti visited the Rochester diocese last year, staying with Fathers John and Thomas Reddington.

March 25, marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. When the hierarchy was established in those East African nations in 1953, there were only two indigenous Catholic bishops in charge of dioceses. Now, 50 dioceses are headed by locally-born ordinaries.

According to statistics recently released through DIA, the Catholic African news agency based in Kinshasa, there are now 2,455,000 Catholics in Kenya, in a population of 12.5 million. In addition to the 11 dioceses now in Kenya, there is the archdiocese of Nairobi, also headed by a Kenyan, Cardinal Maurice Otunga.

D.C. TRIP PLANNED

St. Andrew's Rosary Society will sponsor a trip to Washington, D.C. from May 18 to 20. Reservations must be made by April 21.

Information may be obtained from Dolores Burns at 467-9250, Virginia Hauck at 467-2871, or Mary Manuel at 467-4600.

The Church 1978



Fr. Andrew Greeley

The recent denunciation of Hans Kung by the German hierarchy is the nadir of postconciliar reaction. One has the chilling impression as one reads this extraordinary document that the German hierarchy, led by Kung's theological rival Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, is now caught in the same mind-set that produced the persecution of Teilhard de Chardin and the harassment of any scholar who dared to express himself in categories other than the most ancient and the most rigid. One can only wonder whether the Vatican Council II ever happened.

When I was in Rome during the synod last fall, it became clear that a christological witchhunt was brewing. Even the sensible and moderate people in Rome were greatly concerned about some of the theological rubbish being written around the world on the subject of Jesus of Nazareth. Heresy is still possible in the Church; it is still possible to write of Jesus in such a way that one cuts oneself off completely from the Christian tradition. When a theologian does this, ecclesiastical authorities have no choice but to point out that, based on the obvious meaning of what he has written, the offending theologian is no longer speaking in the Christian tradition.

But the temper of Rome last fall seemed to me to be much more impatient and sweeping. It was time to stop all speculation, not merely foolish and irresponsible speculation. Things are getting out of control, I heard over and over — as though Rome has

the power in the modern world to control things by its own unilateral decisions. The principal danger of a Roman review of the present state of christology is that those doing the review will not be able to distinguish between the lunatic christologies and the sensible ones, and will in their nervous anxiety close off all attempts to reinterpret Jesus for the modern world. In the case of Hans Kung there is the additional danger that old adversaries, envious of Kung's continued popularity and influence, will use the christological review as one more occasion to attempt to do him in, and in the process hurt their own and the Church's credibility far more than they ever can hurt Kung's effectiveness.

The German bishops' document on Kung is embarrassing. He is faulted not for what he says about Christ but for what he does not say — as peculiar an approach to criticism as one could possibly imagine. One must, apparently, go through the embarrassing process of taking loyalty oaths to orthodoxy — on all points — whenever one wishes to speak to any aspect of Christianity. The assumption seems to be that if somebody does not explicitly profess a doctrine, then he doesn't believe it.

How successful Kung's attempt to restate the traditional Catholic doctrine has been remains to be seen. But if even the most careful and responsible attempts to rearticulate Christian belief in the divinity and humanity of Jesus are to be dismissed as heretical simply because they go beyond the restatement of the terminology of the Council of Chalcedon, then in fact it becomes impossible for the Church to explain Jesus of Nazareth to the modern world. The simple truth is that the Chalcedon vocabulary is largely meaningless to the modern world, and to tell contemporary humans that Jesus is one person and two natures is to tell modern man nothing at all about Jesus.

'Cancer Mass' Set At Corpus Christi

The message of hope and trust in God's help in the fight against cancer will be celebrated by a special liturgy at Corpus Christi Church, Main and Prince Streets, on Sunday, April 9.

The 11 a.m. Mass will mark the second annual special service at the church on the American Cancer Society's "Cancer Sunday," the culmination of the week-long "Daffodil Festival."

Daffodils are the society's "flowers of hope," and thousands of the spring flowers will be distributed throughout the county by volunteers.

Father Joseph W. Dailey, former administrator of Corpus Christi, will give the homily at the special liturgy at the church. American Cancer Society spokesmen also will take part and the altar will be decorated with fresh daffodils. A coffee hour will follow.

"More than 50 churches are participating this year in some way in the recognition of Cancer Sunday," said Mrs. Mary McConville, general chairman of the Daffodil Festival.

"Special liturgies of hope, carefully chosen readings, church decorations and appropriate banners are being used. The funds raised by the donations given for the flowers are used to further the American Cancer Society's vital programs of research, education and service. Even more important is spreading the

VIGIL RITES

Father Howard Keon CSB will preside at Mass and conduct an evening vigil of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Thursday, April 6, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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