

Many Spaniards Said Becoming 'Impassioned' Workers for Unity

Paris — A Protestant Brother noted here that when a Spanish Christian discovers what ecumenism represents, "he is truly an impassioned worker for unity."

Friar Robert Giscard of France's Taize monastery, charged with broadening and maintaining ecumenical contacts between Spanish Protestants and Catholics, made the remark in an interview with La Croix, French Catholic daily newspaper.

Friar Robert observed that "thanks to the Council, there has really arisen, in the last two years a realization of what is represented by the existence of other Christians, and on a world scale, not merely that of Spain."

The Taize Brother noted the ecumenical problem in Spain is different from that in other countries. Spanish Protestants, he added, are in a "tiny minority." He said that while there are large sectors

of anti-clerical "and perhaps dechristianized by now," the nation plainly bears the mark of the Catholic faith and way of life.

Discussing Spain's yet-to-be passed Protestant statute, which would insure religious freedom, Friar Robert noted the Spanish Cabinet is awaiting results of the Vatican Council's voting on its document on religious liberty. He expressed disappointment over the failure of the statute to be enacted, but remarked:

"Perhaps that is a good thing. It is not enough to make a law; the law must also be adopted in a certain state of mind."

"I think that this delay of a year is allowing many Spaniards, who were not prepared for it, to get used to the idea of religious freedom."

"Moreover, many studies on the subject are now appearing in the Spanish press, and in particular the Catholic press. There have been some very striking declarations, particularly by the Cardinal of Seville. All this acts as a positive preparation for the future adoption of the statute."

Friar Robert explained a "de facto" freedom does exist in Spain. Toleration of non-Catholic worship is evident "as long as no public demonstrations take place in the streets."

The Taize Brother pointed out that Spain "is by no means the closed country that it was for a certain number of years, for all sorts of reasons, not necessarily religious, but rather political reasons."

"Spain is truly a country that is opening up, as is well known, with the movement of circulation in both directions. Not only are the Spaniards coming into the other countries of Europe, as students or emigrant workers; there are also many Europeans who go to Spain as tourists. This two-way intermingling gives plenty of opportunities to understand one another. The other thing needed is the will."

Friar Robert observed that many Spanish Catholics are "grievously wounded" by the criticisms of their Catholic brethren in France, Germany, or other European countries. But, he added, "It is only fair to recognize the increasing vitality of the renovation movements, the truly joyful signs of sanctity, which are to be found in Catholic Spain."



Procession Despite Ban

Corpus Christi processions persist in Yugoslavia, where the aged cross-bearer leads the faithful around the courtyard of the church. All street processions, formerly popular, are forbidden in most parts of that country.

Remember Nazi Concentration Camps, British Cardinal Advises

London — Cardinal John Heenan of Westminster said here those tempted to commit the sin of racial hatred should remember the Nazi concentration camps at Belsen and Auschwitz.

The Nazi death factories are "what pride of race did in our own day — in a nation professedly more Christian

than our own," the Cardinal said in a sermon.

"Persecution, like peace, is indivisible. If today we hound the Negro or the Indian from his home, tomorrow we shall burn the Jewish synagogue. Then we shall rapidly return to political and religious intolerance of all kinds," the head of the Catholic Hierarchy of England added.

Pilots meet Pope

African Missions Get New Plane

Rome — Pope Paul VI granted an audience to Max Conrad, noted "flying grandfather," and his Marianist Brother co-pilot prior to their leaving on the last leg of a 9,000-mile flight from the U.S. to deliver a new plane to the African missions.

The single-engine Cessna 206 belongs to the newly organized United Missionary Air Training and Transport (U.M.A.T.T.)

During their short stay in Rome, the Pope granted an audience to Conrad and Brother Michael Stimac, S.M., and blessed the new organization on behalf of the Kenya and east Africa missions.

The organization is largely the realization of a dream which began when Brother Stimac launched a new air acclimatization program while teaching at an African mission school several years ago. With the support of the University of Dayton (Ohio), Marianists and several businessmen, it grew into the interfaith U.M.A.T.T. program, which already has two planes

in service at Dayton university's mission institute program, three small planes scheduled for service in Africa by September and a fourth — a twin-engine plane — for service in South America next year.

U.M.A.T.T. will send planes to needy missions on request, particularly those in large, sparsely-populated areas. Its services, including a year's maintenance, have the backing of 250 industrial concerns, including a large segment of the U.S. aircraft industry, Brother Stimac said.

Seven pilots from religious orders, and a Protestant man and wife team have been trained so far.

Conrad, who holds four world records for private airplane flights after 45,000 flying hours in 37 years, was asked to donate his services for the start of the U.M.A.T.T. program to encourage missionaries in Africa, Brother Stimac added.

The two left Rome after Conrad made a solo flight across the Atlantic. Conrad will fly the aircraft over mission routes in Kenya and other parts of east Africa to initiate U.M.A.T.T. services.

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Friends of the Deaf

After President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a law authorizing the establishment of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, sponsored by Rep. Hugh L. Carey (at left) of Brooklyn, he shook hands with Monsignor John P. Hourihan (at right), chairman of the special education department, Seton Hall university, South Orange, N.J., while Father Thomas F. Cribben of Brooklyn, chaplain of the International Deaf association, awaits his turn.

School Aid Bills Target Of Criticism

Lansing, Mich. — Much of the opposition to two Senate-passed bills to provide auxiliary state health, safety, and welfare service to non-public and public school children on an equal basis was termed "unrealistic" by the leader of a group strongly supporting the legislation.

Stuart D. Hubbell, president of Citizens for Educational Freedom, said, "The main question here is whether or not the state has a responsibility to make public welfare benefits,

such as speech therapy and immunizations equally available to all children regardless of where they go to school."

A barrage of public school criticism was arrayed in the House Education committee against the two measures.

Ernest R. Britten, superintendent of schools in Midland, Mich., and representing the Michigan Association of School Administrators, voiced the strongest opposition of the more than 10 persons testifying against the legislation.

Britten told the committee that providing services in non-public facilities would amount to a "legally enforced invasion of the academic independence of the non-public schools."

He also charged that the bills represented a "toe in the door" approach to accomplish ends "favoring minorities for self-seeking reasons" and that this would foster segregation. "There are types of segregation other than the color of skin," Britten said.

300,000 Hear Doctrine Reaffirmed

By Michael Wilson
Register Rome Correspondent

Bareheaded in the evening breeze, Pope Paul VI reaffirmed unalterable Catholic doctrine before a crowd of 300,000 persons jamming the city's "Square of Miracles" on his brief visit to Pisa in northern Italy last week.

He came by air to this Communist stronghold in Tuscany to offer Mass on an outdoor altar erected against the backdrop of the famed leaning tower, the Cathedral, and the baptistry built of black and white marble.

The occasion was the 17th National Eucharistic Congress. Observers noted the special fervor with which

Pope Paul stressed the real Presence of Christ in the Eucharistic sacrifice, accenting the Congress theme: God Is With Us.

His Holiness said that the congress had special significance, being held in the midst of the Ecumenical Council.

There has recently arisen a tendency to question certain basic aspects of the Catholic religion, or at least indications that there could possibly be modifications which might lead to a rapprochement with certain non-Catholic Christian beliefs.

The Pope made it clear from the first words of his homily that there would be no change in the Catholic

Church's dogmas and no quibbling about their meaning.

"We came to this Congress to adopt as our own the testimony which this Congress made its program: God is with us."

The Eucharist is not merely symbolic or figurative, nor but a sign of Christ's manner of showing His affection, nor one of His acts towards partakers of His supper, the Pope said, but it contains Him, Christ — living and real, testifying to His presence while He lives in eternal glory.

His Holiness said that in enunciating the Church's teaching on the mystery of the Eucharist, he enunciated other fundamental truths linked to it, but equally founded on reality.

As Pope Paul was being escorted through the sea of people to the episcopal palace, the crowd surged around him, almost knocking over the stalwart policemen.

The Pope merely smiled, and an aide remarked: "Nothing like the Damascus Gate, in Jerusalem." (The crowds had been equally enthusiastic on Pope Paul's famous visit to the Holy Land.)

Driving from the Pisa airport past a line of Italian Air Force and Army personnel, the Pope abandoned his wide-armed gesture of greeting, and gave them the wartime thumbs-up sign, and bestowed his blessing on them.

The Pisa municipal flag of red, with a white cross, flew from all balcony windows and even atop the leaning tower.

His Holiness spoke of this landmark during his homily, noting that Galileo dropped stones from it to test theories of gravity.

The Church of that day had condemned the Italian scientist for proclaiming that the

sun, not the earth, was the center of the universe. Pope Paul stressed the need to rehabilitate Galileo officially in Church records — a work begun in the Ecumenical Council.

The dense crowds from nearby cities and resorts de-

layed the Pope's return schedule 45 minutes, but he flew back in company with some Rome seminarians, arriving 9:30 p.m., after a seven-hour, 400-mile trip.

The journey proved him no longer the "Prisoner of the Vatican."

Religious Faith Still Strong In Russia, Scholar Says

Munich, Germany — Religious believers constitute a large percentage of the Soviet population and this percentage shows no tendency to decline, a scholar formerly from Russia has said.

Nadezhda A. Teodorovich also said that the Soviet leadership is certainly not indifferent to world opinion, which is becoming more difficult to conceal from the Soviet people and more difficult to ignore.

Miss Teodorovich had these observations in a paper written for the Institute for the Study of the U.S.S.R., a corporation of scholars who have left the Soviet Union. She worked for psychiatric institutions in the U.S.S.R. and was active in church affairs during a time of intense persecution.

Although official Soviet propaganda contends that religion is practically non-existent among the young people, Miss Teodorovich recounts a not uncommon "split" in the spiritual life of a young Russian citizen. Valya Shurtakova was known at her job in Moscow as an active,

effective Communist. At home, 25 miles from Moscow, she was an open believer and an active parishioner. Until she was badgered by the press, Valya managed to play the two different and fundamentally incompatible roles.

Miss Teodorovich says recent events in the world Communist movement have had a favorable effect upon the position of the Church and believers in the Soviet Union. Among these are the revision of the Italian and French Communists' previously inimical attitude toward religion, the exclusion of a paragraph from the rules of the Communist party of Yugoslavia on the incompatibility of party membership and religious affiliation and amnesty for political prisoners in Rumania, including Catholic priests.

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GOD LOVE YOU

Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen

A university professor, commenting on modern literature, has a chapter in his book concerning the prevailing attitude toward the clergy. He finds that there is no longer the respect in criticism that one found in Dante and in Chaucer. In such writers of our times as Sinclair Lewis, De Vries and others, a kind of bitterness and cynicism exists.



But, in one sense, this carping attitude can have some value for the Church. Previously, a priest was respected because of his status; today he is respected because of his worth and holiness and sanctity. What is regrettable is that those who write seldom come in contact with the saintly. Our office has perhaps one of the largest correspondence with priests in the United States and we are constantly edified by their letters.

This case is typical. In 1962 a priest who lives in a very poor section of this country sent \$108.06 to the Missions through The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. This sum came from sacrificing comforts. In 1963 he sent \$340, and in 1964, \$842.22. At the beginning of this year, he sent \$325. Then he was changed to a parish that was so poor some of the other parishes in the diocese were obliged to assist him. Despite this poverty he writes in his most recent note: "My salary for two months is \$150.00. This is a very poor parish, in fact, so poor that we have to be helped by others in the diocese. Pray for us! Thank you."

Another priest who was offered a "good" parish ("good" in the United States often means "rich") refused it, to take a parish among the poor of the city. More and more of our priests are resisting the present tendency in this spiritual ice-age to regard a parish as an igloo where people huddle together once a week, forgetting the cold and hunger of the igloo-less millions. May we ask our priests 1) To adopt a seminarian in the Missions who will continue their priesthood; 2) To send us Mass stipends. At this writing, we have no Mass stipends for the Missions. What is the reason? Our people are buying "Mass cards" in which they are promised a "remembrance in Mass." Undertakers are now selling these "Mass cards," and some, engaged in this traffic, have induced banks to sell them. Tell your people they are remembered in every Mass without buying an embossed certificate. But that if they wish to have a Mass said for a particular individual or intention, they must ask a priest to do this. Those who send money to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for Masses are asking the Holy Father to send their request and offering to a needy missionary priest. God Love You!

GOD LOVE YOU TO D.M. for her bracelet. "When evaluating this, the jeweler told me it was pure gold. It is old but I want you to sell it so that its weak links may strengthen the Faith of someone in mission lands."

Send us your old gold and jewelry — the bracelet or ring you no longer wear, last year's gold eyeglass frames, cuff links you never liked anyway. We will resell them and use the money to aid the Missions. Your semi-precious stones will be winning precious souls for Christ. Our address: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or to your Diocesan Director.

Catholics Assail U.S. Intervention

Santo Domingo — Officers of the nation's leading Catholic organizations have declared intervention by the U.S. and other foreign powers in the Dominican civil war as "unjustified and partisan."

They issued a statement on Dominican political problems after a meeting here of representatives of the Legion of Mary, the Young Catholic Students' organization, Young Women's Catholic Action, and other church associations. The meeting was attended by priests and advisers.

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