

Cardinal-Designate:

Terms Council's Decrees Beacons for the Future

WASHINGTON —(NC)— Three epoch-making documents promulgated by the Second Vatican Council chiefly "will influence the life of the Church for all the foreseeable future," Cardinal-designate Lawrence Shehan of Baltimore asserted here.

Preaching at the close of the Chair of Unity Octave observance in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here on the day he was elevated to the College of Cardinals, the archbishop said the three documents are the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the Constitution on the Church and the Decree of Ecumenism.

"OTHER DOCUMENTS still to be produced are indeed important, some of them necessary for implementation of the decisions contained in these three. But it is on these that the work done by the council thus far must be judged. It is chiefly these which will influence the life of the Church for all the foreseeable future," he said.

The liturgy constitution already is having profound influence on the life of the Church through simplification of sacred rites and through widespread use of the vernacular in the Mass and the sacraments, the prelate said.

The Constitution on the Church, he said, is "of even greater significance." The archbishop continued: "Here we come to the very heart of the council, to the central purpose which Pope John proclaimed in calling the council into existence—the Church's deepest reflection on her innermost nature and on her mission; the renewal of her inner life; the restoration of her original beauty."

Cardinal-designate Shehan said the council produced the Decree on Ecumenism as the first definite step toward curing the two great schisms in the history of the Church which have left wounds that even today are "a source of weakness to the Church and of scandal to the world." He said the decree shows the Church has opened all doors, "shown herself ready, in the spirit of humility and contrition, to admit that the attitude of some of her ministers and members in the past may have fallen far short of the objective Christian ideal."

"Thus, without watering down of any dogma or the sacrifice of any principles, the Church has made an earnest effort toward the ultimate restoration of that unity which is so essential to the fulfillment of God's plan and Christ's work of salvation," he said.

ARCHBISHOP SHEHAN said much of great importance remains to be done by the council. He enumerated: "The restatement of the doctrine of Revelation in terms relevant to the times and comprehensible to Protestant and Orthodox of today is essential to the restoration of Christian unity. To im-

plement the Constitution on the Church, documents on the pastoral ministry of bishops, on the role of priests, Religious and laity are still necessary.

"We in this country particularly need an authoritative statement on Catholic education. The council can hardly finish its work without examining the great problems of our times in the light of Christian moral principles. But with the promulgation on the Constitutions on the Church and the Sacred Liturgy and the Decree on Ecumenism, the foundation has been firmly laid for all that is to come, both within and outside the council," he said.



HIS EMINENCE Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, named to the College of Cardinals (Jan. 25) by Pope Paul VI, together with 26 other prelates of various countries. (NC Photo)

Site of Ancient Abbey Discovered

LONDON — (NC) — A team of archaeologists with government backing has reported that it has at last found the site of Faversham Abbey in Kent, which was completely erased during the Reformation.

The site of the medieval Benedictine abbey had long been a topic of conjecture. Two old buildings in the town of Faversham were believed to be the abbey's gatehouses and a nearby street had from time immemorial been named Abbey Street.

Now the excavators have uncovered the white stones of the abbey's foundations partly buried under an orchard and showing that the abbey, built in the year 1147, had a huge church 300 feet long by 80 feet wide which is nearly as big as the famous Gothic cathedral in the neighbouring city of Canterbury.

Hoot 'N' Hop at Cardinal Gibbons High Reported (?)

The posters read "Post-Exam Blast," and that is just what it was as exam week ended with a hoop and a holler and a hoot and a nanny. Gathering together in Fr. Price gymnasium Friday night the students participated in a program which featured guitar and vocal groups from among their own schoolmates and from nearby Broughton High School. Misty-eyed ballads and hand-clapping folk tunes soon made the audience forget their examination blues in the rocking rhythms of the balladeers. When the singing was done and the banjos disappeared into the night there was only a short pause for a Pepsi before the group turned the table and needled their flat friends into spinning a deep beat or two; for an hour more or less they sock-mopped the floor. Verily, the Hoot 'N' Hop was a smash!

More Missioners Killed in Congo

ROME — (NC) — The deaths of three more Catholic missionaries and an African priest at the hands of Congolese rebels have been reported by the Pious Society of St. Francis Xavier for the Foreign Missions of Parma, Italy.

The three Xaverian missioners, all killed on Nov. 28, were Fathers Giovanni Didone, 35, and Luigi Carrara, 32, and Brother Vittorio Faccin, 31.

Father Carrara was the first to die. He was hearing confessions at his mission at Baraka on the shore of Lake Tanganyika when a rebel officer drove up and commanded the priest to follow him. Suddenly he shot him dead.

Brother Faccin ran to the spot at the sound of shooting. He too was shot dead.

The rebel officer then drove to Fizi about 25 miles away. There he murdered Father Didone and a Congolese priest, Father Joubert.

Two other Xaverian missioners, Fathers Lorenzo Camorani and Giuseppe Veniero, were reported to be in rebel-held territory at Nakiliza.

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For A Better World

By Father Cranor F. Graves

Brother Gabriel Justice of Glenmary and I returned from giving a retreat together at Via Coeli in Minnesota, where the nights were 25 degrees below zero. And Asheville's weather seemed eager to compensate us for the trouble: mild, spring-like days to make us even gladder to be back in North Carolina!

Then we had a wonderful month-end retreat at Mount Mary. We agree that giving this Better World retreat so frequently is a great nobility: we repeat to our own advantage the meditations which the retreatants are making for the first time. We never tire of them, because the Gospel is always fresh and new.

Let me share with you some of the reactions to our Minnesota retreat; I like to share these "testimonials" of retreatants with you, because you can hear others say in their own words what the retreat meant to them.

A Christian Brother, director of his Province's Scholasticate, said:

"I found this retreat valuable in giving new insights and deeper meaning to my grasp of the Christian life, especially as regards its essentially community nature and its missionary obligations in the world today. The clear, balanced approach of the Exercises and the atmosphere of the retreat organization made the principal contributions to this growth."

A Minnesota pastor wrote:

"I wish every bishop, priest, religious could make this retreat; then the message of the Gospel would come to be realized in this world."

A curate, ordained ten years said: "This is the first time I made a seven-day retreat, but time-wise it seemed shorter to me than any other retreat I have made."

A middle-aged priest commented:

"The exercises have opened an entirely new approach to Christian Renewal, by fostering brotherly love, service to humanity, and a true Christian spirit. It is only through love for others that we prove our love for God."

A neighboring pastor who also joined us at Via Coeli retreat house for priests wrote this opinion: "The most positive approach to the reform of society I have ever encountered. It is basic, practical and indispensable for the renewal of self and the community."

The youngest priest among the retreatants had this to say: "Many retreats are like chalk-talks before a football game; good and necessary information. But in this retreat, you get in there and play."



Fr. Graves

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