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Bishop's Fund Hits \$142,600.56 First Day Diocesan Director Expects Goal To Be Reached by Week End

Charlotte — Two thousand men made the call for the Bishop's Fund Campaign last Sunday afternoon, competing with the beautiful sunny day. Despite the invitation of nature to get to the out-of-doors, thousands of families stayed home to receive the callers and make their annual Gift to God for the major needs of the diocese.

Father Byron, diocesan director, sat at a special telephone installed in St. Gabriel's Social Center with the last of the reports before him. It was 10:30 p.m. and reports had flooded in from all parts of the state during the course of a parish supper honoring their upcoming parish feast. Asked if he thought the campaign was a success, Father Byron answered: "I thought it was tremendous. The major goal was \$100,000," he pointed out. "We passed that figure with ease. The second goal was \$50,000. We have \$42,000 towards that right now, and I feel that we will pass the goal by the end of the week when all the call-backs are in.

"This year was the crucial year," Father Byron said. "It shows that the immense suc-

cess of last year was no flash-in-the-pan, and that our people will respond to this annual need of our diocese. Success? If the Diocese of Brooklyn raised \$3,000,000 in a single afternoon it would be equivalent to what our people did today. I think that is success enough."

Asheville	\$14,115.89
East of Asheville	\$4,528.50
West of Asheville	\$2,006.00
Winston-Salem	\$10,424.00
Kings Mountain	\$5,020.00
Charlotte	\$28,540.02
Salisbury	\$3,923.42
Greensboro	\$13,430.75
Durham	\$6,841.00
Raleigh	\$10,650.60
Southern Pines	\$4,278.10
Fayetteville	\$7,139.75
Rocky Mount	\$4,362.35
Northeast Corner	\$2,011.00
Goldsboro	\$3,043.75
Washington	\$3,741.50
New Bern	\$10,642.43
Wilmington	\$7,901.50

Catholic and Lutheran Theologians Agree to Probe Doctrinal Stands

BALTIMORE — (NC) — A select group of Lutheran and Catholic theologians is to plunge almost immediately into a thoroughgoing examination of some of their two churches' basic doctrines as a result of the first official meeting between representatives of the two sides.

Churchmen appointed by the National Lutheran Council and by the U.S. Bishops' Commission for Ecumenical Affairs set up the framework for deep probing aimed at getting to the heart of just where Catholic and Lutheran theology agree and where they differ in their interpretations of the Nicene Creed, which both churches profess in common.

THE INITIAL confrontation here on March 16 brought together five Lutheran and five Catholic clergymen for nearly six hours of talks — including a luncheon given for them by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore — to determine how to begin "dialogue-in-depth discussions."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Auxiliary Bishop T. Austin Murphy of Baltimore, chairman of the Catholic bishops' subcommission for dialogue with Lutherans, and the Rev. Dr. Paul C. Empe of New York, executive director of the National Lutheran Council, said in a joint statement that the first "high theological level" talks will take place in Baltimore early in July.

Each group is shortly to appoint seven representatives, primarily

theologians and church scholars, for the July meeting and two on each side are to collaborate in writing "position papers" defining their church's interpretation of the Nicene Creed.

The discussions presumably will center on the meaning of the original Greek of this creed, which is a development of the one formulated at the first ecumenical council, at Nicaea in Asia Minor, in 325 A.D. The Anglican Communion proposed in 1888 that the Nicene Creed should be a basis for Christian reunion.

PARTICIPANTS in the initial meeting here were, on the Lutheran side, the Rev. George F. Harkins of New York, president of the National Lutheran Council; Dr. Empe; the Rev. Dr. Warren A. Quanbeck, professor of systematic theology at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; the Rev. Dr. George A. Lindbeck, associate professor of historical theology at

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Renovated Abbey Cathedral To Be Consecrated Sunday

The newly reconstructed, renovated and redecorated Belmont Abbey Cathedral will be solemnly consecrated by the Right Reverend Walter A. Coggin, O.S.B., the Abbot-Ordinary of Belmont Abbey,

Laetare Sunday, March 28th. The renovation of the Cathedral has been in progress since last July.

Dedication & Consecration

The Cathedral was built in 1893 and was then only blessed by the late Bishop Leo Haid, O.S.B. The blessing of a church is merely withdrawing it from profane uses and designating it for religious functions. Most church buildings never advance beyond this stage.

Canon Law requires that, in addition, Cathedrals should, as soon as possible, receive solemn Consecration, whereby they are dedicated exclusively and perpetually to the divine service of God. While any priest can be authorized to bless a church, only a Bishop

or Abbot, like Abbot Walter, can perform the Consecration.

The Ceremony

No one is allowed inside the building at the beginning of the rite. All assemble in front of the main door. The Abbot, using especially blessed Gregorian Water, sprinkles the entire exterior of the church. This and all other parts of the rite are accompanied by the singing of appropriate psalms. After the exterior sprinkling, the clergy and people enter through the main door, while the Litanies of the Saints are sung. Then the Abbot sprinkles the interior walls, the pavement, and the altar. He next washes the five crosses that have been chiseled on the altar-table. Ashes are spread in the nave in the form of a large "St. Andrew's Cross (X)." In one arm of the cross the Abbot traces the Greek alphabet; in the other, the Latin alphabet. These rites indicate the purification and taking possession of the building in God's name and the function of preaching the Gospel to all men, whatever their native tongue may be.

The clergy now leave the church and proceed to a nearby chapel where the relics to be buried in the altar are reposing. No Mass may be celebrated on any altar, unless this altar is provided with the relics of two martyrs. This requirement maintains the ancient relationship to the catacombs. The relics are escorted to the church and are then placed in the "sepulcher" cut into the top of the stone altar. The sepulcher is sealed by a small slab that is firmly cemented.

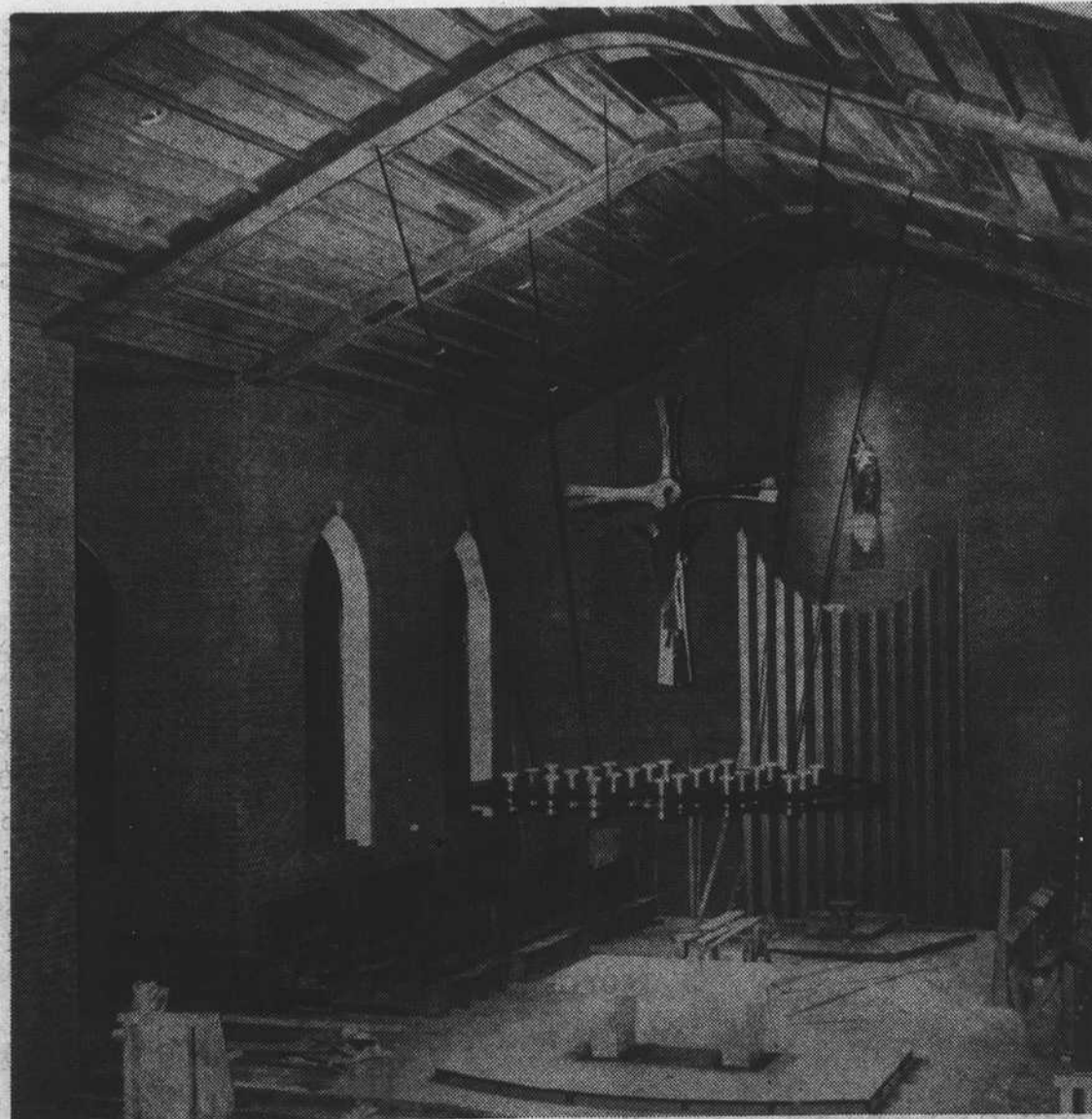
The Consecration

The actual consecration of the church and the altar follows. Twelve small stone crosses, six on each side, have been fastened to the interior walls, and a small cross has been chiseled into each jamb at the main door. The Abbot anoints each of these fourteen crosses with oil of holy chrism. He then anoints with chrism the five crosses on the altar-table, the front of the table, and the junctures of

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Cursillo Planned

The next Cursillo for men in North Carolina will be held at Notre Dame High School, Greensboro from April 22 through April 25. For information and reservations write: Cursillo, 3016 Providence Road, Charlotte, N.C.



AN EXCELLENT VIEW of the renovation being carried out at the Belmont Cathedral. The

Abbot will solemnly consecrate the Cathedral on Sunday, March 28.

Cardinal Says Faith Sustained Him

Rome —(NC)— Josef Cardinal Beran declared that only faith in the ultimate victory of the Crucified Christ sustained him during the years of his internment in Communist Czechoslovakia. The cardinal, who is Archbishop of Prague, spoke (March 19) during ceremonies in which he took possession of his titular Church of the Holy Cross on the Flaminia highway.

In perfect Italian, Cardinal Beran told an overflow congregation that the chapels of the four houses in which he was interned were dedicated to the Holy Cross. "This was for me a comfort, an invitation to confidence that Christ won in the end, and I—unworthy—with Him," said the cardinal. "This confidence will fortify me also in my activities... it will be a guarantee of the help of Christ in preserving the priests and the faithful people of my dear archdiocese of Prague."

R.I.P.

Requiem Mass was offered in Woburn, Massachusetts on Monday, March 22, for the mother of Father William Lynch, O.M.I., Pastor of St. Ann's Church, Fayetteville.