



ASTRONAUTS James A. McDivitt (left) and Edward H. White II in a practice session before their (June 3) space flight.

Missioner Gives Report On Castro's Influence

Aurora, Ill. — (NC) — A fresh viewpoint on the way Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro exercises among Latin Americans was disclosed here by a priest-educator who spent the last five years in the Dominican Republic.

Father Joseph M. Blanch, M.S.C., 36, spoke particularly of the Castro influence apparent in the Dominican Republic, but indicated the influence has spread among other Latin Americans.

"There are two very strong and very contrary feelings," Father Blanch said. "Simply, there are those who are against him and those who are sympathetic. I think age has something to say. The young people are very sympathet-

ic toward Castro; the others, those over 30 are against him."

The Sacred Heart missionary said the sympathy for Castro is not identified with communism.

"These sympathetic attitudes do not take into account Castro's point of view, whether he is a communist or not, but are spontaneous reactions to what he is doing or claims to be doing.

"CASTRO is awakening in the people a desire for social reform. They think he is doing something for the Cubans; that he has done something to reform the economic structure of Cuba and is working for the poor class," the Spanish-born missionary said.

On the other hand, Father Blanch continued, the people "think of Americans more as capitalists who want to take advantage of the natural resources of the Dominican Republic."

He said their information about the United States is meager. The Voice of America radio program comes on the air late at night and seldom is heard by many of the people, while little information about the U.S. appears in the Spanish-language magazines and newspapers.

Belmont Abbey Picks Leaders

BELMONT — In the election of student leaders held recently on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, five Catholic students were honored.

James Roy King, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. R. King of Greensboro, was elected president of Delta Epsilon Sigma national honor fraternity, the Gamma Iota Chapter.

Bruce Philip Wofford of Gastonia was elected day hop representative on the Student Council from the rising senior class; Robert Dennis McDonnell of Belmont, secretary of the rising junior class; Francis Joseph Sullivan of Charlotte, day hop representative on the Student Council from the rising junior class; and John Patrick Frazer of Mt. Holly, day hop representative from the rising sophomore class.

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Jersey Native Named General Of Franciscans

Rome — (NC) — A native of New Jersey has been elected the 104th minister general of the Third Order Regular Franciscans.

Father Louis J. Secondo, T.O.R., was chosen to lead the 1,500-member community during the general chapter of the order held in Rome's monastery of SS. Cosmas and Damian.

The new general was born in Jersey City, July 15, 1915, to Italian immigrant parents. He joined the order in 1937 and made his first profession two years later. After philosophy and theology studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., he did graduate studies at Catholic University and at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome.

He has held posts as novice master, as prior at the monastery of St. Bernadine of Siena in Hollidaysburg, Pa., and prior of SS. Cosmas and Damian monastery here.

In 1953 he became definitor general of the order, was procurator general in 1959, and has been professor of ascetical theology at the Pontifical Lateran University.

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Brotherhood of Christian Unity Interdenominational Community Started

Wien, Mo. — (NC) — An interdenominational monastic community devoted to prayer and work for the reunion of Christianity has been launched here by a Catholic priest and an Anglican priest.

Known as the Brotherhood of Christian Unity, the new community is "adamantly opposed in principle to any sort of doctrinal or disciplinary compromise," according to a spokesman.

"Each member of the community pledges himself to become the best possible representative of his own Christian tradition."

Membership in the community is open to members of any Christian denomination.

"We hope eventually to have Orthodox, Lutherans, Reformers and free churchmen," a statement said. "Membership is open to laity as well as to clergy.

"MEMBERSHIP IN no way compromises any Brother's loyalty and obedience to his own church. The constitution guarantees without qualification the legitimate canonical authority of the proper ecclesiastical superiors of all the brethren."

The plan for the internal conduct of the community calls for members of the same denomination to join together in the worship proper to their church, separately from other community members.

However, all members of the community will join in a regular cycle of common prayer for Christian unity. The prayer, in English, is centered on a modified form of the traditional monastic office.

PROFESSED MEMBERS are to wear the traditional Benedictine habit. The rule places great emphasis on the evangelical counsels of charity and poverty as well as on prayer and study.

The Brotherhood of Christian Unity is presently seeking candidates and support, both spiritual and financial. The community hopes eventually to sustain itself by operating a printshop and bookbindery, equipment for which was donated by Bishop Marling.

FOUNDERS OF the new group are Father Joseph W. Starman, a priest of the Catholic diocese of Jefferson City, Mo., and Father Robert P. Bollman, a priest of the Episcopal diocese of Missouri.

For the past year the two men have been living at St. Mary's Monastery in this tiny hamlet in north-central Missouri. The monastery buildings were relinquished by Franciscans in 1916. Father Starman has also been designated pastor of St. Mary's parish.

Ordained in 1963, Father Starman served for a year as a curate at St. Peter's Cathedral in Jefferson City. Father Bollman is a former chaplain at Buffalo University and former curate of St. Philip's church, Buffalo.

THE PROJECT HAS the support of Catholic Bishop Joseph M. Marling, C.P.P.S., of Jefferson City and Episcopal Bishop George L. Cadi-gan of Missouri.

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