



CAROLINA NEWS

Rev. Robert McMahon

Father Robert McMahon, pastor of the Newton Grove Parish, will conduct a series of Retreats in Venezuela, S.A. from Sept. 11 to 23. The retreatants will be American Priests and Sisters who are working in the South American missions; the majority will come from the Maryknoll, Franciscan and Edmunité Communities but many American Diocesan priests will be included. Thus far about 12 American Sisters have indicated their intention of making the retreat. Father McMahon will return to North Carolina on Sept. 26th.



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An Ecumenical Proposal

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — (RNS) — Formation of a council representing local churches and synagogues for joint action on community moral and social problems was endorsed by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministers Association's Executive Committee here.

To be known as the Charlotte Council of Churches, the proposed interreligious group would be composed largely of laymen representing Protestant, Catholic and Jewish congregations.

The proposed council would be designed to "get things done." Work of the council would include improving communications among churches and synagogues and among the well-to-do and the poor, launching of a prison ministry, and helping to solve problems of personal and social morality.

School Lunch Service

The New Hanover County School Board has agreed to allow students at St. Mary's School in Wilmington to have lunchroom service at the nearby public school. The students at the Catholic school will pay the same fee for lunch service as the public school students. The request for lunchroom service was made by Sister Mary Imelda, principal of St. Mary's school on behalf of the 200 parochial school students.

Serra Convention

Bishop Vincent S. Waters will attend the regional convention of Serra Clubs which will be held in Washington, D.C. from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2. The Serra organization is composed of business and professional men who work to foster vocations to the priesthood. Eight other Bishops are planning to attend this meeting and will offer a concelebrated Mass at the principal session.

Salisbury Men's Club

SALISBURY — "The farmer is being made the scapegoat for the rise in grocery prices" N.C. Agriculture Commissioner James A. Graham told the members of the Sacred Heart Mens club at their September meeting. Mr. Graham, a native of Rowan County, said "Much of the rise in the family grocery bill is not because of the higher cost of living, but rather because people are living higher. Americans are generally enjoying a feast of good living which 30 years ago they were unable to afford." The Commissioner added that "in the past 30 years the national per capita income had increased nearly 450 per cent. The recent increase in retail food prices reflects the cost of labor going into the processing and preparation now demanded by the present day housewife." The Commissioner pointed out that the "farmer's gross income does not rise in proportion to his increased business expenses."

The Sacred Heart Men's club is headed by E. R. Bianchi and is an active organ in Sacred Heart parish.

Cursillo

A Cursillo for men will be held at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem beginning Thursday evening Oct. 6th and finishing Sunday afternoon Oct. 9th. This retreat is open to all men in the diocese; applications can be had through the pastor or directly to Father Byron — Spiritual Director — St. Gabriel's parish, Charlotte. The Cursillo is a spiritual retreat emphasizing discussion and liturgical participation.

Green Stamps

St. John's Prep Seminary will be grateful for the receipt of Green Stamps to assist the furnishing of the new building. The recreation rooms in the new wing are attractive and appreciated but also quite bare, lacking chairs, tables and game equipment. Many desk lamps will also have to be purchased to replace those broken and worn out. The seminary operates on a limited budget and thus the items obtained by donated Green Stamps are of considerable help. Individuals as well as parish groups are asked to help the seminary with these stamps. Please forward them to: St. John Vianney Hall, 237 Victoria Rd., Asheville, N.C.

Enters Trinity College

Patricia Ann Hillman of Asheville is one of 263 Freshmen beginning studies at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hillman of Biltmore Forest and is a graduate of St. Mary's High School, Manhasset, N.Y.

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All in the Family

By NANCY WEST

Aren't most of us really interested in just two things: ourselves and other people? Abstractions just don't grip us until we see their relevance to us as people. Even God had to put on flesh to get a hearing.

If I seem to linger over the obvious it is because of an entire Monday morning spent studying two chapters of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity. I was trying to come up with some pointing fingers for the mind. Struggle, struggle. The Vatican Council's Decree is clear, scripturally based, complete, challenging. But what can be said about it? Read it, can be said about it. And? Spend your life living it, might be added.

What was really obvious after this period of study was how gladly I jumped to answer the telephone's clamor and with how much more lively interest my friend's words were heard than the Decree had been read.

Perhaps this call is a message to say that my job is not to retell the Council's utterances but to illustrate, put flesh on them. Of course Bunyan thought of this first, but Pilgrim's Progress is our aim, too. And which is more widely read—Jim Bishop or a theology text?

As you know our task as lay apostles is to bring Christ where we are, to bring His message to the world today, and to work to make Truth and reality the same. After a typical Monday lunch of two chicken wings and three stalks of broccoli, I reflect that my friend Felicia is a message on the lay apostolate, the Council emphasis on which is described by Martin Work as moving a pot simmering on the back burner to a front burner turned up high.

Felicia gives permission, and so I'll tell you about our conversation. Her main reason for calling, just an appetizer for women phoned, was to invite me for coffee with a county commission candidate. We couldn't get together on this. Wrong party. But this lay apostle is carrying out something of the Decree whether she has read it or not. By working to put a man of high principle into public office, she is working to better the temporal order.

The rest of our conversation related to an illustration of charism, the Decree's term for the gifts of the Holy Spirit we must share. Felicia shared her great skill of communicating recently when she gave a talk. In the course of the talk she also shared the crises of her life for the purpose of revealing how God had drawn her to Himself and re-oriented her life.

Through this incidence of giving, the receiving is still going on; the stone is dropped in the water and the widening circles of loving action spread from it. From giving the talk Felicia made a new friend, a nun. Today she told me this new friend had helped tremendously with a family problem. Further she said that she has been able to help another friend by directing her to this Sister. As the Decree quotes St. Peter, "according to the gift each has received, administer it to one another" and become "good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

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