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## Cardinal Heenan

# Religion Has No Sign Of A Future

London — (RNS) — A grim outlook for religion in Britain was painted by John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster. Roman Catholic Primate of England and Wales, when he appealed to editors of religious journals to "present the truth, just the truth."

"Religion at the moment shows no sign of a future in this country," he declared solemnly at the end of a luncheon address which began with sparkling wit and ended with grim tones. On leaving the gathering he entrained for Manchester where he presided over a Christian unity rally and became the first cardinal in this country to preach in a synagogue.

Cardinal Heenan addressed the annual luncheon here of the Religious Weekly Press Group, a body of editors of religious journals and newspapers, Christian and Jewish, which functions under the aegis of the Council of Christians and Jews.

He told the editors that a "very, very small proportion" of the community in Britain are now believers. The older generation did not believe, but "goes through the motions" of believing, he said. Some of the older generation believed in God only as they believed in ghosts, in the sense that they had never seen ghosts.

"Their children are beginning to think it smart to say they are unbelievers. You, then, know, as I know," he went on, "that religion is going to

survive only if those who are responsible for teaching it are careful to present the truth, just the truth, that we shall not be ready to say or publish anything which we could not really defend.

"Neutrality towards religion is a feature of the modern age. Tomorrow, neutrality will pass on to hostility. If the Humanists are worth their salt at all, they should be able to work on a generation which is anarchic. . . they should be able to convert that generation into an antagonistic, militant force against religion.

"And then . . . people like me are going to rely much more on people like you."

(It was announced recently that membership of the British Humanist Association has grown from "nil" to 4,000 since 1963 and that it is stepping up its activities.)

Cardinal Heenan went on to pay tribute to Britain's present-day religious press, saying it was infinitely better than that of 25 years ago. In those days, he said, religious newspapers were not only propaganda sheets but deliberately drew attention to any misunderstanding which befell any other denomination.

"News today," he said, "is very, very rarely slanted, whereas in many of the secular papers there is a policy of slanting news . . . so that is the first and greatest improvement in the religious press today, that it is not slavishly propagandish and is not abusive to those with whom it disagrees.

### R.I.P.

Mr. Bernard F. McGuirk, the father of Rev. John McGuirk of Wrightsville Beach died in Baltimore, Md., at the age of 85. He is survived by one daughter and two sons.

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## NEWS IN FOCUS



### 'Home Mass' Liturgy To Continue

Erie, Pa. — The Vatican warning against unauthorized liturgical experiments published Jan. 4 was not an authoritative statement but simply expressed the opinion of several members of the commission for implementing the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Liturgy, according to the secretary of the Erie diocesan liturgical commission.

Father Gerald Sigler told the Lake Shore Visitor, diocesan newspaper, that the joint statement issued by the commission and the Congregation of Rites should not affect any of the liturgical practices within the diocese.

It was aimed, he maintained, primarily at some Dutch and French practices although they were not named.

### Vatican Contributes To U.N.

United Nations —(NC)— The Holy See has renewed its yearly contributions to two United Nations agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The \$1,000 contribution to UNICEF was forwarded to its executive director, Henry R. Labouisse, by the Papal Secretary of State, Amleto Cardinal Cicognani.

The cardinal's letter stated that the Holy Father "appreciates highly the disinterested and humane motives which inspire you and your collaborators, and the precious assistance your organization has been able to give the youth of the world since the inception of UNICEF."

### Birth Control Decision Awaits Pope

Passau, Germany—(NC)—The decision on using artificial birth control methods is not to be made by the married couple, a Catholic bishop has warned here.

Bishop Simon Konrad Landersdorfer of Passau said in a pastoral letter, that couples must wait for the statement that Pope Paul VI is expected to make on the world population crisis.

The bishop recommended that couples who believe they cannot succeed with abstinence in sex relations or with the rhythm method of birth regulation should contact their parish priest and a doctor.

### Teachers Close Catholic Schools

Montreal —(NC)— More than 200,000 Catholic school children are enjoying an unexpected post-Christmas vacation here as a result of the strike of some 9,000 teachers.

The striking teachers, who belong to one of the two Catholic teachers' unions representing the

teachers of the city of Montreal, are protesting the failure of the Montreal Catholic School Commission to settle a contract dispute which has been under negotiation since last July.

### Laity To Control Diocesan Business

Rochester, N.Y. — An administrative council to direct the business activities and financing of the Rochester diocese has been established here by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

The administrative council will be composed of three laymen — a banker, a lawyer and a certified accountant — with another layman, John Ritzenhaller, named comptroller to direct the new office in the chancery.

Bishop Sheen said he is establishing the council "so that the materialities will pass out of the hands of the clergy and into the hands of the laity who have special competency in this matter."

"In order that I might be free for pastoral activities such as teaching, preaching, visiting the poor and organizing the various organizations of the diocese into an organism," he said. "I am transferring the secular and business side of the diocesan administration to the laity."

### Protestants Speak At Retreats

San Antonio, Tex. —(NC)— At least one Protestant minister or layman will appear as a guest speaker at retreats held in the San Antonio area during the coming year, an archdiocesan committee on lay ecumenism has decided.

The ecumenical aspects of the retreat program will carry over into a "1967 Ecumenical Dialogue" scheduled for June 29 to July 1 at St. Joseph's retreat house here. Selected ministers, priests, Sisters, Brothers and laity will be speakers.

### Workers Protest Priest's Firing

Lille, France —(NC)— Several hundred workers of the Fives-Lille-Cail metal foundry here demonstrated (Jan. 16) to show their support for a Dominican worker-priest fired without notice the week before.

The workers, who walked off their jobs for an hour, claimed that the firing of Father Andre Montjardet, O.P., was an example "of the growing repression of which workers are the victims." Father Montjardet blamed the loss of his job on what he called his employers' belief that worker-priests are "subversive."

According to the factory managers, the Dominican priest lost his job because of insufficient production. The 31-year-old priest had been working at Fives-Lille-Cail for 18 months.

## OFFICIAL

The following appointments are announced by the Most Reverend Bishop through the Diocesan Chancery.

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 1967:

The Right Reverend Monsignor John F. Roueche is appointed Pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish, Belmont.

The Right Reverend Monsignor George E. Lynch is appointed Pastor of St. Stephen Parish, Sanford.

The Right Reverend Monsignor John P. Manley is appointed Vicar Forane of the Asheville Deanery.

The Right Reverend Monsignor James E. McSweeney is appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Durham.

The Reverend Michael A. Carey is appointed Vicar Forane of the Raleigh Deanery.

The Reverend Louis E. Morton is appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The Reverend Charles J. O'Connor is appointed Rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh.

The Reverend Eugene H. Livelsberger is appointed Pastor of St. Mary's parish, Wilmington and Vicar Forane of the Wilmington Deanery.

The Reverend John B. McGuirk is appointed Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Goldsboro.

The Reverend John S. Regan is appointed Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, High Point.

The Reverend Frederick A. Koch is appointed Associate Editor of the North Carolina Catholic and Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cary, with residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Raleigh.

The Reverend Raymond J. Donohue is appointed Pastor of St. Therese Parish, Wrightsville Beach.

The Reverend John H. Huston is appointed Student Chaplain, University of North Carolina with residence at St. Thomas More Parish, Chapel Hill.

The Reverend Robert L. Wilken is appointed Pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Asheville.

The Reverend Arthur L. Duncan is appointed Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Dunn and Director of the Home Missions Apostolate.

The Reverend James F. Keenan is appointed to the Chaplain's Corp, United States Army.

The Reverend Henry J. Becker is appointed Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Henderson.

The Reverend Kenneth I. Parker is appointed Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Clinton.

The Reverend William C. Frost is appointed Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Kannapolis.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Raeford is attached as a mission of St. Patrick Parish, Fayetteville.

St. Andrew Church, Red Springs is attached as a mission of St. Mary Parish, Laurinburg.

James E. McSweeney  
Chancellor