

Bishops, Laymen Exchange Views

Washington — (NC) — Seven members of the hierarchy held informal, but "very frank and very friendly," exchanges here with representatives of the National Association of Laymen, and at the end both groups expressed satisfaction with the communication achieved.

The bishops agreed they had spent an evening with laymen who are deeply committed to the Church, and the NAL members gained added insight into the complexity of the Church and the role of the bishops in this time of transition.

The two groups met at a dinner at which Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco was host. The archbishop is episcopal chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations of the United States Catholic Conference.

The NAL members pictured the independent lay organiza-

tions as a rapidly growing phenomenon in American Catholicism, and attributed the rise to a desire on the part of an increasing number of Catholics to have a more significant exercise of responsibility and initiative in the Church.

The bishops made it clear that they regarded the choice of an independent structure as perfectly legitimate for the Catholics who wished to make it.

However, they said they were particularly interested in exploring the type of relations such structures might have with the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, with the pastoral councils in the process of formation in many dioceses, and with other lay organizations that have been formally established in the Church.

IT WOULD be a serious mistake, the bishops maintained, to underestimate what the groups have accomplished in the past and what they are actually accomplishing now.

It was recognized that criticism of programs and other ecclesiastical policies might become more common in the future. It was said, however, that such criticism will be valuable only if it is carried out with responsibility and charity. To conduct it in this way, the bishops felt, would be a crucial test of responsibility for any independent lay group.

The laymen presented NAL position papers on such topics as human dignity, Christian unity, parish life, communications, education, diocesan and parish administration, liturgy, marriage, and the family to the bishops.

THEY ASKED that their views be considered by the bishops' committees that draft National Conference of Catholic Bishops policy statements in these areas. Archbishop McGucken said he thought the chairmen of the relevant committees would be quite willing to receive these expressions of NAL thinking.

Laymen and bishops seemed to concur — though challenged in some quarters — that the Church is inevitably a struggle. See Bishops, page 5A



TO LATIN AMERICA — Bishop Coleman Carroll of Miami, who will head a delegation of U.S. bishops to the second Inter-American Bishops' Meeting, Nov. 28-Dec.1, in Santiago, Chile, is seen with members of the delegation who met while the bishops were in Washington last week. Left to right: Bishop Carroll; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck, Detroit; Auxiliary Bishop John Bernardin, Atlanta (partially obscured); Auxiliary Bishop Jerome Hastrich, Madison; Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Bishop Joseph Marling, Jefferson City; Bishop Lawrence Casey, Paterson; Bishop Humberto Medeiros, Brownsville; Bishop Joseph Green, Reno; Bishop Joseph Hodges, Wheeling, and Bishop Paul Tanner, general secretary, NCCB. (NC Photos)

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Editor's Desk

The handsome 1967 Christmas postage stamp, an enlarged reproduction of last season's design of the "Madonna and Child with Angels" by painter Hans Memling is now for sale in all post offices in the U.S.

The five-cent commemorative stamp went on sale earlier this month at the post office of Bethlehem, Ga.

The stamp will be issued in panes of 50, with an initial printing of 1.2 billion.

About a third larger than last year's stamp it is produced with five inks and it is the most intricate production yet in the Bureau of Printing and Engraving's Christmas series.

WE ARE particularly satisfied with this beautiful duplication of this seasonal stamp as last year's was in our opinion too small to notice the intricate detail of the picture.

Stamp collecting has been a three-generation hobby in the Koch family. In boyhood we often leaned over our father's shoulder as he studied his collection. The Vatican State Album was a special prize and interest.

In 1954, the Marian Year of the Catholic world established by the late Pope Pius XII was the occasion of "Madonna" stamps from half the nations of the world — Spain, Australia, New Zealand. See Editor's Desk, page 6A

Given Honorary Degree

Belmont Honors Billy Graham

Belmont — Evangelist Billy Graham was presented the honorary degree doctor of humane letters at an academic convocation Tuesday at Belmont Abbey College.

Dr. Graham was presented the

degree by the Very Rev. Jude Cleary, O.S.B., president of the college, assisted by Walter L. Spear, academic dean.

Rev. Cuthbert E. Allen, O.S.B., executive vice president, read the citation which noted that Dr. Graham's "influence on society is potent and the scale of his undertakings is heroic."

The unique tribute to a Protestant evangelist by a Catholic college is but one of the interfaith activities at Belmont. The college also sponsors an Institute for Ecumenic Dialogue for clergymen of the area.

BELMONT ABBEY is a liberal arts college conducted by the Benedictine monk-teachers of Belmont Abbey. It is the only Catholic college in the Southeast within a radius of 500 miles, from Washington to Alabama and from Kentucky to southern Florida.

With an enrollment of 850 students, coed in the junior and senior divisions, the college has a faculty that is divided half and half between religious and lay people, including Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists.

The Belmont Abbey College citation conferring the honorary degree on Dr. Graham follows:

"WHEN TIME has sifted the 20th century, and most of us have receded into statistics, there will remain visible to the

eye of history a relatively few men whose individual minds and wills have significantly shaped for good the events of our world.

"In this small company — the company of Picasso and Einstein, of Schweitzer, Churchill, and John XXIII — will certainly be found the figure of William Franklin Graham; for his influence on society is potent, and the scale of his undertakings is heroic.

"His evangelizing crusades, which have been held in almost every one of the United States See Billy Graham, page 5A

Bishops Ask Viet Talks

Washington — (NC) — The bishops of the United States appealed here for the government to strive even harder for negotiation looking to the ending of the war in Vietnam.

A statement adopted at a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops said the bishops "acknowledge gratefully the repeated efforts of our government to negotiate a termination of conflict. Despite the rebuffs to these efforts, our government is urged to continue with even greater determination and action in the cause of negotiation."

"We wish it understood," the bishops continued, "that we are not pleading for peace at any price — we are pleading and praying for that peace recently described by Pope Paul as never to be separated from justice for nations nor from freedom for citizens and people."

Fall Vocation Rallies Scheduled

Greensboro — A request that priests, sisters and brothers of the diocese join him in promoting the Fall Vocation Rally for boys and girls to be held throughout the state on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 26, was made by Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin, to the clergy and religious of the diocese. The Bishop is director of vocations.

"The rallies are directed to our young people in the sixth through ninth grades," Bishop McLaughlin said. He cited the good results of the four-year activities of the diocesan voca-

tion program. "Project Mercy, held at Sacred Heart Convent at Belmont, has already seen young women enrolled as postulantes there. Our summer vocation encampment attracted over 100 boys this year, and Father Wall reports that students at St. John's became interested and aware of the life of a seminarian through this diocesan program."

FATHER JOHN WALL, director of St. John's Hall, prep collegiate resident hall at Asheville, and Sister Jean Marie, directress of the Novitiate of the

Sister of Mercy at Belmont, said that 336 young people attended the rallies held at various parishes throughout the diocese last spring.

"It was a record turnout," said Father Wall, "and all were made aware of the possibility of a religious vocation through these rallies."

The priest said that students from St. John's Hall would speak at some of the rally meetings on the 26th, which will begin at 3 p.m.

THE VOCATION rallies will See Vocation, page 5A



INTERFAITH LUNCHEON AIDS REFUGEES — In Lowell, Mass., Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox clergymen shared a hunger luncheon of soup and crackers and cheerfully paid \$5.00 per plate to help feed a refugee family for two weeks, at the rate bread is rationed to refugees of the Arab-Israeli war zone. The week-long community effort included church collections, window displays and a city-wide tag-day. A clergyman serves at the hunger luncheon. (NC Photos)