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Says Laity Patient in Face Of Catholic Church Turmoil

Los Angeles — (NC) — The superior general of the Maryknoll Fathers said here the laity are exhibiting tremendous patience in the face of turmoil in the Catholic Church.

"Lay persons are not enamored of the peculiar views of any particular priest," Father John McCormack said. "The laity have a deep faith in what a priest represents as a priest, despite his own views on any particular issue. People see beyond this."

"There is so much turmoil and what appear to be personal tragedies among priests that one might expect greater alienation and withdrawal on the part of the laity. But they have a tremendous forbearance and see beyond this. Somehow or other they can see beyond the controversies to the truth of Christ's words: 'I will be with you to the consummation of the world.'"

Father McCormack was interviewed at Maryknoll headquarters here in the course of a visit to the U.S. houses of his society. His views on the temper of the laity were formed by his travels, he said. He has visited Africa, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela and the Philippines this year.

The Maryknoll leader talked about the climate of change.

"We Americans, particularly, are a very pragmatic people and we face change very readily," he said. "Look at the changes in prosaic things like transporta-

tion and communications."

People recognize change and accept it, he continued. They accept changes in the liturgy that make sense; they accept the streamlining of disciplinary laws, for example, those pertaining to the Eucharistic fast.

"But what all of us shy away from are attacks on essentials, attacks on the existence of God, on love, respect and obedience

to the Pope," Father McCormack declared.

"This is what we're going through now, a time of distinguishing between accidentals and essentials. This phenomenon you find taking place all over the world."

"As human beings we require two things," Father McCormack said. "We require security psy- See Laity, page 4A"



MEDAL OF HONOR — Father (Capt.) Angleo J. Liteky, receives the emblem of the country's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, from President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House, Nov. 19. The award was made for extraordinary heroism when Chaplain Liteky repeatedly risked his life to rescue and minister to wounded and dying men of the 199th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam on Dec. 6, 1967. (NC photo by RENI)

Prelates Protest False Interpretation of Letter

Members of the American hierarchy have voiced protests over mass media reports on the U.S. bishops meeting in Washington, Nov. 11 to 15, specifically concerning the bishops' statement, "Human Life in Our Day."

The gist of the prelates' complaints is the news media gave the impression that the U.S. bishops had taken a stand in opposition to Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, reiterating the Church's opposition to use of artificial contraceptives.

Bishop Romeo J. Blanchette and Auxiliary Bishop Raymond J. Vonesh of Joliet, Ill., said in a statement:

"We were surprised upon returning from Washington that some people thought the American bishops were opposing Pope Paul's encyclical. In voting our approval, we definitely stood with the Holy Father."

Editor's Note: The entire text of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on "Human Life in Our Day" appears in the Sunday Visitor section of this issue.

Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee said news media coverage of the bishops' pastoral letter tended to concentrate on "only seven lines" of the 57-page document. He asserted freedom of conscience, discussed in the statement, meant nothing if taken out of focus.

At a press conference in Pittsburgh, Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, a principal framer of the pastoral letter, and Bishop

William G. Connare of Greensburg, Pa., agreed that "early news reports (concerning the pastoral) were so misleading as to require special clarification."

Earlier John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia and Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati deplored mass media distortions of the bishops' statement.

ARCHBISHOP COUSINS said the mass media coverage of the pastoral gave the impression that the statement left room for married couples to break the ban against contraceptives if their conscience required.

Speaking before the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, Archbishop Cousins urged Catholics to read the bishops' letter in its entirety to get the development of logic in the statement.

"It is frustrating to realize that anything we labored on so long should be seen only in part," he said.

The archbishop pointed out the bishops' letter mentioned Penance and Holy Communion together. He said: "With pastoral solicitude we urge those who have resorted to artificial contraception never to lose heart, but to continue to take full advantage of the strength which comes from the sacrament of Penance,

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Asheville Parish Marks Centennial with Renovations

Asheville — This year marks the centenary of the coming of the Catholic Church to North Carolina. Vicar Apostolic James Gibbons rode a white mule over the mountain traces to the village of Asheville in 1868 where he purchased a seven-acre tract of land from Col. N. A. Woodfin on the knoll now

known as 'Catholic Hill,' the present site of Stephens-Lee High School. Two years before, August 13, 1866, Rev. J. J. O'Connell had offered the Sacrifice of Mass on Mount Mitchell.

It took the two Fathers O'Connell two years to raise the money abroad to construct the first church, an attractive brick struc-

ture on the bluff above Valley Street. In 1870 it was dedicated in honor of St. Lawrence in deference to Fr. Lawrence O'Connell, brother to the historian of Catholicism in Georgia and the Carolinas, and himself the active missionary of North Carolina.

Circuit-riding priests administered to the few Catholics and summer visitors, but no permanent pastor was appointed to the Western Mountains until Father J. B. White in 1887 was named first pastor of St. Lawrence in Asheville. One of the earliest families in the area was the Keenan family who owned the entire Chunn's Cove area, east of town.

Within a year Father White realized that the church on Catholic Hill was too inaccessible, so he purchased the present property on the corner of Haywood and Flint Street where he built a small frame church and rectory. In 1895 Father White was succeeded by a young priest, Father Peter G. Marion who arrived in August at the Asheville depot where Father White turned over to him the church treasury, a tin box containing \$4.00 in dimes and nickels.

Ten years later Father Peter was joined by his younger brother, Father Patrick Marion, an assistant. In 1905 Raphael Guastavino, the great Spanish architect who had worked some six years on the Biltmore Mansion, offered to construct a large edifice in brick and tile with his 'cohesive' technique of construction.

By 1905 the building of the new, present structure got under way, with Raphael Guastavino, senior, overseeing the building of the oval, unsupported brick and tile dome which measures 82 by 52 feet. Raphael junior saw to the kilning of the distinctive Guastavino tile.

In 1908 when the main dome and supporting walls had been finished Raphael Guastavino, See St. Lawrence, page 7A



A CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING — The recently completed renovation of the sanctuary of St. Lawrence's Church, Asheville, includes two ambos constructed of tiles kilned by the original architect and found in the crypt of the Church. The facade of the old altar was brought forward and topped with a slab of Tennessee marble. New bells have also been installed. The photograph above was taken at Sunday Mass on November 17.

'Secret' Bishops Still Under Ban

Berlin — Despite the Czechoslovakian government's trend toward liberalization in its relations with the churches, secretly consecrated Catholic bishops will not be permitted to take over Sees in that country under existing laws, it was reported here.

Mrs. Erika Kadlecova, chief of Czechoslovakia's church affairs office, told the Prague newspaper *Lidova Demokracie*, organ of the Christian People's party, that all bishops the government regards as regularly consecrated and appointed—that is, with its permission—have been reinstalled in their Sees after having been removed from their posts by the previous Stalinist-line regime. She said that new appointments by the Holy See will be possible only with the agreement of the government.

The German Catholic news agency KNA reported that there are three secretly consecrated bishops in Czechoslovakia who are not listed in the *Annuario Pontificio*, the Vatican yearbook that lists all bishops and officials of church organizations and gives statistical information.