

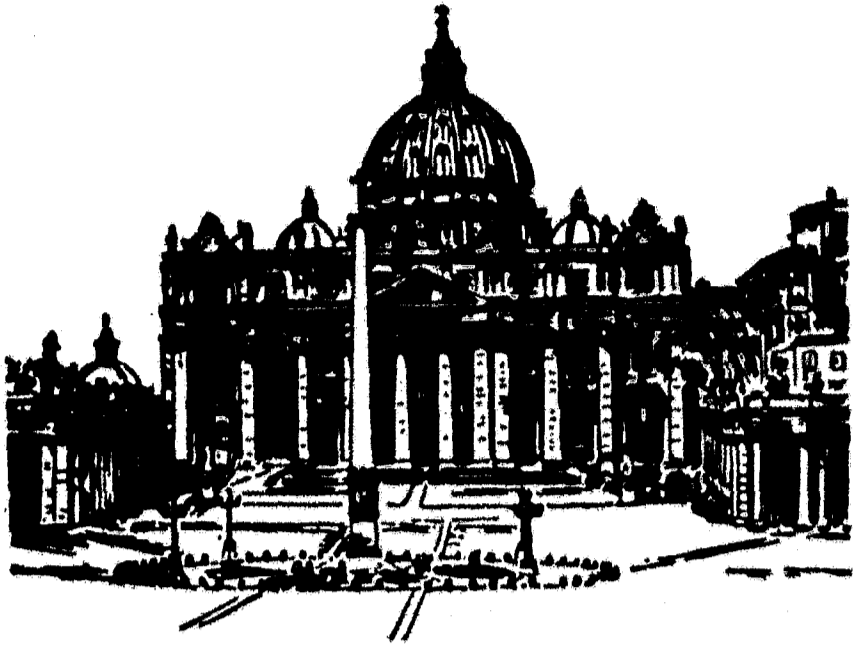
RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XLII, No. 27

Monday, November 26, 1962

Notre Dame, Ind.

KEEPING INFORMED ON THE COUNCIL



In response to the Bulletin article suggesting that students should keep abreast of what is happening in the Vatican Council (Nov. 7), a student has written asking that the Religious Bulletin regularly feature "summary analyses of important discussions by Commissions, decisions by Committees, or opinions of the genius assembled in the Eternal City." The writer makes this request on the supposition "that you, certainly having access to reports of the real social work being done in Rome" can "enlighten the student body through the R. B."

The request is flattering, but the fact is that the Religious Bulletin has no access to such reports. The Bulletin along with the whole Catholic world knows only what is carried in the press -- secular and religious newspapers and magazines.

Recently an article in the secular press mentioned the suggestion that had been made in the Council of establishing its own news service so that more adequate and more accurate coverage could be given. Some of the Fathers assembled in Rome are evidently aware of the inadequate coverage, and they have complained that even Catholic publications have not expanded and interpreted the releases.

With regard to "discussions of Commissions" -- these have been secret and no authoritative reports have been issued. "Decisions of Committees" just don't exist since decisions are made by the vote of the assembled Council. Up to the present no decisions have been reached. Even after the Council votes on a question it will rest with the Holy Father to give the final approval.

"Summary analyses" of "opinions of the genius assembled in the Eternal City" would hardly prove satisfactory for an enlightened Catholic. The bane of a truly informed and learned approach to any problem is the digest which is to popular with Americans.

Several enlightening articles have recently appeared. America for November 24 carried two "on the spot" reports, somewhat superficial but something. Two better reports from observers in Rome appeared in Commonweal for November 23. Our Sunday Visitor's feature section for November 25 has a report on the Council. An attempt to present summaries would do injustice to the articles and to the reader who earnestly wishes to be informed. The OSV Reporter makes one observation which seems apropos of our correspondent's request.

"Patience," my bishop was saying to me the other

night, "is more than a virtue. Here it's a way of life."

The bishop was speaking of the progress of the Council. As the whole world now realizes, it is moving infinitely more slowly than many anticipated. No votes have been taken. No earth-shattering decisions have been formulated. No declarations handed out to be studied and applied by the Catholic world.

"As Americans," the bishop continued, "we just don't understand the Latin mind. We want to get things moving. We want neat little formulae that will solve all our problems and then get back home and get on with the work. Italians don't think that way. The Church doesn't think that way. We have to develop patience. This Council is going to take a good, long time."

I thought of the bishop's words several times during the past days. They came to mind as I witnessed the disappointment the press corps experiences every day when there is no "news" coming out of the Council...

This isn't much to "whet our appetites" as the Bulletin correspondent requests. But, in the final analysis, there is no short cut to knowledge. The Catholic student with a real desire to be informed will give priority to the things he considers most important and find time to read whatever is available and seek out the sources which provide the greatest enlightenment.

Cartoon Caption "My Ed is SO efficient. He gets to Mass early so he can spot a good parking place. Then we leave early so we don't get involved in that awful traffic jam. Isn't that clever?"

Here at Notre Dame there is no traffic problem. Hence few arrive early. But neither is there any reason for leaving early. Or could it be the traffic problem in the lunch line for those attending 12:15 Mass? If so, the obvious remedy is to attend an earlier Mass.

K of C Movie A movie entitled Perversion for Profit will be shown at the K of C meeting this evening at 7:30 in the Council Chambers of Walsh Hall.

In Your Charity Please pray for the following. Deceased: grandmother of William Przybysz of Stanford; sister of the late Fr. William Havey, C.S.C.; wife of James E. Digan, '29; Francis A. Mekus, '26; Paul E. Krause, '36. Ill: father and mother of Vince Allen of Zahm; son of John MacCauley; Ruth McInerny, secretary to Mr. Arthur Haley; father of Sister Marilyn, C.S.C. Two special intentions. Also deceased: father of Charles Hazzard of Morrissey.