

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Vol. XLII, No. 81

Wednesday, May 15, 1963

Notre Dame, Ind.



BELGIAN CARDINAL JOINS NOTRE DAME FAMILY

Tomorrow evening at 7:30 his Eminence Leon Joseph Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels and Primate of Belgium, will become a Notre Dame alumnus of the class of 1962. He will receive an honorary degree and deliver an address at a special academic convocation which will take place at the Grotto.

Cardinal Suenens came to the United States to speak at the United Nations headquarters on the recent papal encyclical, "Pacem in Terris." His Eminence presented to Secretary-General U Thant a copy of the encyclical signed by Pope John XXIII.

In the Second Vatican Council Cardinal Suenens was named by the Holy Father to the Commission on Diocesan Government and the Secretariat for Extraordinary Affairs. In the opinion of many members he is emerging as one of the outstanding figures of the council.

At 58 the Belgian prelate is one of the youngest members of the College of Cardinals. The honor, conferred upon him at Pope John's most recent consistory of March 19, 1962, gave recognition to an already distinguished career in the service of the Church. Ordained in 1927 Father Suenens began a career as a seminary teacher after he received doctorates in philosophy and theology and a degree in canon law -- all within two years after his ordination. He taught at the Malines minor seminary until 1940 when he became vice rector of the Catholic University at Louvain. The difficult years of World War II brought out his diplomatic abilities in dealing with faculty, students, and occupying forces. When the rector was jailed by the nazis, the whole burden of keeping the university open fell upon the young priest. The Allied liberation of Belgium came just in time as the future cardinal was among 30 hostages the Germans had slated for execution.

On November 12, 1945, Pope Pius XII elevated Monsignor Suenens to the hierarchy, designating him auxiliary to Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines. Following the Archbishop's death in August, 1961, the name of the see was changed to Malines-Brussels and on December 15, Bishop Suenens was promoted to fill the post. Three months later he became a cardinal.

Cardinal Suenens is not only a teacher and an administrator, but he is an author as well. He has written books on a number of subjects. Here at Notre Dame three of his books are available: one on the problems of

Christian marriage, Love and Control; his treatise on the Blessed Virgin (a quotation from which was used in the Religious Bulletin of last Friday), Mary the Mother of God; and his latest book, The Nun in the World.

The Grotto was selected as the site for the convocation honoring Cardinal Suenens in order that there would be room for the entire faculty and student body. No one should be deprived -- or deprive himself -- of the privilege of hearing so distinguished a member of the hierarchy and so prominent a member of the Second Vatican Council

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Notable Quotes from Cardinal Suenens --

Older adolescents are the abandoned children of our era. Formerly a Vincent de Paul or a Jean-Baptiste de la Salle collected from the streets the small children who had been materially, morally, or intellectually abandoned. Today young adults -- that is, between 16 and 25 -- are a class particularly in need of attention. They are the spiritual orphans of our time, up against the problems of life, alone, turned in on themselves, yet so anxious to be understood and to be tactfully and discreetly guided. The unpleasant exploits the papers report from everywhere in the world are the work of victims of this abandonment.

from The Nun in the World

...education in chastity is too often negative, and consists of prohibitions. Negative education, of course, is as bad as no education. Negative virtues are not virtues at all. Chastity which consists only in not doing this or that, honesty which consists only in not stealing and charity which is no more than not hurting other people or their feelings, are not chastity, honesty, or charity.

Any instruction has to be positive. Besides, it is a question of psychology; instead of being told what they cannot and may not do, young people would rather have help in developing what is best and most generous in themselves. Claudel was right when he said that youth was not made to enjoy itself, but for heroism...

from Love and Control

When we say that the fullness of Mary's graces surpasses that of all the angels and saints, we may sometimes be tempted to think of a plenitude in a manner that is too exclusively one of quantity. Grace is not like a gold piece which, when added to others, would make up a treasure more or less considerable. That is a mistaken idea. Nor is grace a reality which isolates us and shuts us up in ourselves. On the contrary, it is grace that opens us to God and makes us capable of receiving him. Created grace is inconceivable without uncreated grace; that is, without a God who gives himself and thereby introduces us into his own intimate life: a life that is in action and tends to extend itself abroad. Grace means that the living God imparts himself to us, and in Mary the degree of union with God incomparably surpasses that of all creatures put together, but in its own way it is a matter of quality and not quantity.

from Mary the Mother of God