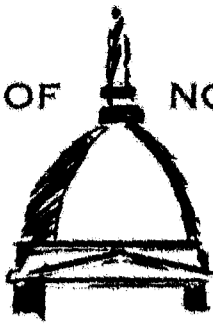
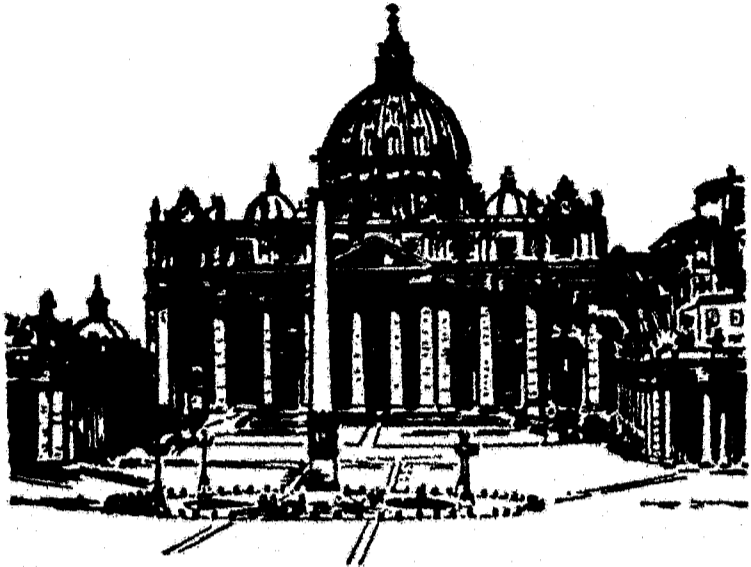


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VATICAN II RECONVENES SUNDAY

The second session of Vatican Council II convenes Sunday, September 29. Those on the scene in Rome say that there will be less brilliance to the ceremonial opening than there was to the opening of the council a year ago. This is at Pope Paul's express wish. The presumed reason is to impress the world that this is to be a resumption

rather than the start of new and separate deliberations.

There is no doubt that the Council Fathers are assembling with a more precise sense of purpose than they had a year ago. Michael Wilson, special correspondent for the Register writes that the atmosphere has changed. "Where last year the prelates of the Church met 'gropingly' and 'unsure of where they were heading,' the air is now cleared. The Council Fathers see the road and all its obstacles, as well as its enticements -- clearly delineated ahead of them.

"However, the present session is by no means 'cut and dried,' say Vatican observers. Far from it -- it means that the Church's leaders have eliminated much chaff, and are able better to study the quality of the wheat."

As the United States bishops left for the Vatican they expressed the opinion that the first session has opened the way and gave the bishops a sense of unity. It renewed the spirit of both clergy and laity, and helped sweep away much mistrust among non-Catholics.

Among the most important steps to be taken by the second session will be clarification of the role of bishops in the Church. Important steps on the liturgy and the layman's role are also forecast.

PRAYER FOR THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

Divine Spirit, grant that abundant fruit may come from this council; may the light and the strength of the Gospel be diffused more deeply and more widely throughout human society; may the Catholic religion and the diligent work of the missions flourish with increased vigor; and may the happy result be a fuller knowledge of the teaching of the Church and a salutary progress in Christian morality.

POPE JOHN XXIII

VATICAN II, FIRST SESSION, AS RYNNE SAW IT No one who wishes to be well informed concerning the present Ecumenical Council can afford to neglect Letters from Vatican City.* Written by a New Yorker contributor who calls himself Xavier Rynne, this volume is an enlightening introduction to, as well as an excellent summary of, the first session of the Council. -----
It deals with issues and personalities in a way that would be impossible except to a highly placed "insider."

Most emphatically a progressive in his approach to Church problems, Xavier Rynne states the purpose of the Council as that of rephrasing or restating the Christian message in terms comprehensible to the modern religious-minded person, of making doctrine more intelligible to contemporaries in the light of scholarship in biblical, theological, philosophical, and historical discipline.

The author is certainly out of sympathy with those churchmen who in the past have exaggerated the monarchical nature of the Church, or who have frequently exercised absolutist powers to stifle every semblance of non-conformity in theological thought. The tendencies of such men, he says, run counter to the spirit of a new age searching for a dynamic philosophy with which to explain the great expanse of movements caused by the opening up of new avenues of thought.

In these pages we hear from men who are representative of the rigid, closed ecclesiastical mind, the men who look upon themselves as alone capable of coping with the dangers to faith and morals in

the modern world. But we also hear from those who think it is time to break the stranglehold on ecclesiastical thought exercised by the "self-perpetuating clique in the Curia." The appeal of the latter is much more persuasive.

The author regrets, as most of the bishops from North America must have regretted, the failure of the Romans to provide translation-service for those Council members who are somewhat less than proficient in the use of Latin. Without this translation-service, large sections of the bishops were excluded from participation in the debates.

Xavier Rynne gives us a blow-by-blow account of the discussions to date, which in itself is probably a forecast of what is to come in subsequent sessions. We see Cardinal Spellman and Cardinal McIntyre constantly lining themselves up on the side of the "intransigents", while we see such men as Cardinal Ritter and Cardinal Meyer with Cardinal Leger of Montreal pleading for freedom and tolerance within the world of Catholic scholarship, defending Biblical scholars, for instance, who today are opening up new paths of intellectual investigation.

*Farrar, Straus, and Company, 1963, \$3.95.

Liturgically Speaking.....

ST. MICHAEL AND THE COUNCIL --- Sunday we celebrate the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. There is always something disconcerting about a feast of the angels. It catapults us into a world of faith remote from stadiums, classrooms, and cafeterias, into an unknown world of pure intelligences -- the world where Satan and Michael wage their gigantic struggle over human destiny. It was in this same battle that Christ dealt the definitive stroke by passing through death to glorious life to reign as King of all creation in His Church.

Though the world of angelic spirits seems far removed from us, we know through faith that we ourselves in the celebration of the Sacred Mass join with the angels in their eternal praise of God through His Incarnate Son in the Sacrament of Redemption, the Mass. The Liturgy is our daily contact with the supreme Mystery of our Faith.

In one of the meetings of the liturgical subcommission of the Council last fall a well-known conservative Cardinal of the Curia was strenuously objecting to a phrase in the prepared schema which spoke of the Mass as the place in which the work of our Redemption takes place. Another Cardinal rose to comment, "But, Your Eminence, any seminarian known that the phrase you object to is a direct quotation from the Secret of the Mass for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost." The first Cardinal sat down in a rosy blush. Surely it is difficult to conceive the great Mystery of the Eucharistic Sacrifice which is ours every day and which draws us into a whole world of supernatural realities.

Sunday begins the second session of Vatican Council II. First on the agenda is a continuation of the discussion of the Sacred Liturgy. The Liturgy stands in the foreground of the pastoral renewal in the Church today. Pope St. Pius X could affirm that active participation in the Sacred Liturgy is the primary and indispensable source of the true Christian spirit. It is in line with such thinking that we witness today the worldwide renewal of interest and study of the liturgy. Certainly Catholic students in this momentous period in the Church should make it a point to follow the Council proceedings and especially to take advantage of all the excellent literature available on the Sacred Liturgy and to make active participation in Holy Mass a part of their university life -- to enable them to maintain this living daily contact with the realities of the world of faith.

--James Sullivan, C.S.C.

Prayer from the Mass of St. Michael --- O God, Who hast constituted the services of angels and of men in a wonderful order, mercifully grant that they who always stand before Thy face ministering to Thee in heaven, may also defend our life upon earth.

DEATH CAME SUDDENLY Wednesday morning to the Rev. Thomas J. Lane, C.S.C. He died in his room in Corby Hall at the age of 57.

Father Lane, a Ph.D. in chemistry, had only last week completed a project sponsored by a government grant. Hence he had had a leave of absence during the past year from his duties in the chemistry department. He had been on the faculty in the College of Science since 1951.

The Office for the Dead was chanted for Father Lane at 5:00 yesterday afternoon, and his funeral was held from Sacred Heart Church this morning at 8:30.

In your charity please pray for the happy repose of his soul.

SATURDAY MASSES -- 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 in Sacred Heart Church. This will be the schedule on the Saturday of a game.

Every Saturday from now on there will be an afternoon Mass at 5:10. See you there after the game.

Half a Backfield -- During an interview with Rev. Edward Duff, S.J., Leon-Joseph Cardinal Suenens divulged one of the subjects that he and Pope Paul discussed at a meeting.

The Pope reminisced about his trip to the United States, exchanged memories with the Cardinal, and pointed out that both had received honorary degrees from Notre Dame.

"We are both Notre Dame men," the Pope observed.

-- As reported in the Davenport Catholic Messenger

WARNING: Don't all try to crowd into the last three Masses on Sunday -- 9:45, 11:00, and 12:15. Many visitors on campus this weekend will add to the crowds. There will be plenty of room at the 7:15 and 8:30 Masses.

IN YOUR CHARITY please pray for the following. Ill: niece of Father Leo Ward, C.S.C., badly injured in a car wreck; aunt of Melba Faucett, Memorial Library; friend of Bill Sullivan, Off-Campus. Deceased: father of Sister Lucy, C.S.J., of the Notre Dame Convent; mother of Coe A, McKenna, '42, and James F., '36; Paul A. Hartman, '25.