

## THE CHURCH HERE AND THERE

### United States

*Important measures taken by American Catholic Hierarchy.* The American Catholic Hierarchy in its last annual conference issued several declarations which caused great sensation among the general public. Among these were: issuance of a vigorous call to all men of goodwill to work as one in fighting racial discrimination in housing projects, education and other spheres of life, as against reason and christian teaching; agreement to abolish abstinence from eating meat on Friday; and declaration of their moral support to the basic commitment of the country regarding the Vietnam war, but at the same time reminding "the duty to seek for alternative solution" to the situation.

Another decision, perhaps the most important, was the use of English at the Canon of the mass. It was also agreed upon to seek the approval of the Holy See for the use of English, instead of Latin, in the rites of ordination to the priesthood and consecration of bishops; to allow priests to read the Canon in a high voice; and to use various modern versions of the Bible including the recent revised edition common to Protestant Churches and the Bible of Jerusalem version, in the reading of the Bible during mass, etc.

### Capetown, South Africa

*Thirty three Anglican bishops united with apostolate of Catholic bishops.* Thirty three Anglican bishops signed a meaningful document to join the apostolate against racial discrimination. The signatories, after praising the collective stand of Catholic bishops in a pastoral letter directed to the government, united themselves to use all possible means and resources to guarantee each man "the freedom of association, advancement of human person, stability of family life, free access to labor and total participation in the government of the country." "If the Anglican church and other churches of South Africa", the document pointed out, "have not totally involved themselves in fighting racial discrimination", now the thirty three Anglican pastors affirm that "we have to exhort all Christians of our country to a meaningful patriotism making known to all the terms of Vatican Council II that racial discrimination is against the Will of God."

### Czechoslovakia

*Priests returned to their parishes.* Several priests prohibited from exercising the pastoral ministry during the past years were allowed to return to

their respective parishes. Notwithstanding this opening towards religious freedom, which was noted by neutral observers, the number of priests was very low due to continuous harassment from the government. There are only 77 seminarians this year as compared to 1,500 in 1948.

### England

*Anglican Assembly studying administrative reforms.* The Anglican Assembly of England called a meeting to study the reformation of its administrative organization. An Anglican committee, named by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and composed of 746 members, proposed a general synod of 43 diocesan bishops, 200 from the clergy and an equal number of laymen, to give the latter a bigger participation in the administrative affairs of the church. The synod will deal on measures subjected for approval to the Parliament, to pass canonical laws and opinions on moral issues. Doctrinal matters will be submitted to the Assemblies of Canterbury and York which will be composed of clerics. A diocesan synod will be established in each diocese.

### Vatican

The Czechoslovakian government believes in the possibility of an agreement with the Holy See, in the near future, to settle some issue which the Church has pending in the said country. This was disclosed by Josef Plojhar, Minister of Health and Religious Affairs. Several times, during the past years, there were negotia-

tions and dialogues between the Vatican and Prague. This news gathered from reliable sources, received credibility during the recent visit of Cardinal Koenig to this country. Cardinal Beran, Archbishop of Prague and now residing at Rome, referred several times in his public statements to the possibility of this agreement, though quite difficult at the moment as was learned from several observers both in Rome and Czechoslovakia.

### Yugoslavia

*A personal message of Marshal Tito to the Pope.* Mr. Cvrnje named by his government Representative to the Holy See arrived recently. As learned before, the Holy See and Yugoslavian government reached an agreement in which several issues, among them the exchange of representatives was ironed out. Monsignor Cagna, who worked hard for this agreement, was named by His Holiness, representative of the Holy See to Belgrade at the same time exercising the office of Apostolic Delegate to Yugoslavia. It was also known that Mr. Cvrnje was the bearer of Marshal Tito's personal message to His Holiness Pope Paul VI.

### Manila

*Pope Paul names two new bishops.* Two new Filipino bishops have been named by Pope Paul VI, according to a report received from the Vatican. The new bishops are Msgr. Bienvenido Lopez of Manila, who was named auxiliary bishop to Rufino Cardinal Santos, Archbishop of Manila while Msgr. Manuel Salvador

was appointed Auxiliary bishop to Msgr. Julio Rosales, Archbishop of Cebu.

Bishop-elect Bienvenido Lopez was assistant chancellor and private secretary to Cardinal Santos. He was also national director of the Family Rosary Crusade. Born in Bustos, Bulacan, of a deeply pious family on March 22, 1924, the young Lopez started his seminary training at San Jose Seminary. After his ordination to the priesthood on March 29, 1952, was assigned assistant parish priest in Imus, Cavite. On August the same year, he was sent to Rome to take up post graduate courses in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University where he obtained a doctorate degree in Canon Law on June, 1955.

Bishop-elect Manuel Salvador was born in Dalaguete, Cebu, on January 7, 1925. He studied in the archdiocesan San Carlos Seminary in Cebu. When he showed remarkable talent in his studies, he was sent to the Central Seminary of Santo Tomas University for his philosophy and theology in 1946 where he graduated "summa cum laude" with licentiate in philosophy and theology. Immediately after his ordination to the priesthood on March 21, 1953, he was sent to the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas in Urbe (Angelicum) Rome where he obtained a doctorate degree in Canon Law. At the time of the papal appointment, he was Vicar General, Diocesan Consul-tor and Parish priest of San Nicolas Church in Cebu City.

*Convention of Vocation Directors.* Participation in general sessions and group discussions were the highlights of the three day Convention of the Vocation Directors' held last Dec 9-12, at the Loyola Retreat House, Angono, Rizal. The theme "Strengthening and Enriching Vocation Promotions Program for the Priesthood and Religious Life" was discussed. Present were Vocation Directors, Rectors of Seminaries, and Masters of Novices of different religious orders and congregations and diocesan priests. The convention had an aspect of a dialogue among priests and religious; between priests and parents; and between priests and the youths. The dialogue-atmosphere of the convention brought about mutual understanding among recruiters and enabled them to put up a common front "Priests and Religious for our Mother Church."

*Suggestions for the revision of canon law.* The fifth annual discussion meeting of the Technical Committee on Religious, Apostolic and Clerical formation was held Dec. 15 at the University of Santo Tomas. Suggestions for the revision of articles of canon law applicable to the novitiate were discussed. The result of the discussion will be the specific recommendations for revision that can be forwarded to Rome to assist the Episcopal Committee now working at the task of such a revision. Sixteen Masters of Novices of different religious orders and congregations attended.