

# 2nd Session Of Ecumenical Council Nears End After Making Decisions That Affect Millions

EDITOR'S NOTE: The second session of the Ecumenical Council is drawing to a close after making decisions that will affect millions of persons. The following dispatch is the first of three, summing up the council's accomplishments, reporting on what may be expected from future sessions, and assessing

the role of Pope Paul VI.

By LOUIS CASSELS  
VATICAN CITY (UPI) — On a bright blue Roman day last week, a priest and a newsmen stood outside St. Peter's Basilica and watched 2,000 colorfully garbed bishops pour through its massive iron doors at the end of the days meeting of the

Ecumenical Council. "No matter how often you see it, it's a moving spectacle," the reporter said. "Yes," said the priest. "I can never forget that these men are making decisions that will affect hundreds of millions of people for centuries to come." He did not exaggerate. At its

first session, in the fall of 1962, the Ecumenical Council did not accomplish very much. It got bogged down in endless debate, and had to grope its way painfully to efficient procedures.

But the second session, now drawing to a close, has been tremendously fruitful. It has completed action on some projects, and initiated others, which will lead to far-reaching changes not only in the internal life of the Catholic Church but also in its relations with other religious bodies.

Since they reconvened last Sept. 29, the council fathers have: —Finished work on a lengthy liturgical reform document designed to convert Catholic laity from silent spectators into active participants in public worship. Among many other things, it authorizes use of modern languages instead of Latin in large portions of the Mass and in the administration of such sacraments as baptism and marriage. This document will be finally approved by the council and formally promulgated by the Pope at a public ceremony Friday.

—Endorsed by an overwhelming majority a theological doctrine known in council jargon as "the collegiality of bishops" which affirms that bishops have a divine right to share with the Pope in the government of the universal church. This doctrine, which has the full support of Pope Paul VI, is intended to correct the emphasis on papal supremacy which has characterized Catholic thought since the last Ecumenical Council in 1870, and to restore the much more ancient concept of the Pope as the head of the college of bishops.

—Began work on practical measures for enhancing the powers of bishops (and correspondingly reducing the vast power now exercised in the name of the Pope by the Roman Curia.) Proposals for decentralization of church government, considered by the fathers in two weeks of sharp debate, include the establishment of a "senate of bishops in Rome to which national hierarchies would send elected representatives; the granting of real legislative powers to national conferences of bishops, such as the U. S. National Catholic Welfare Conference (NCWC); and an explicit council statement that bishops possess not merely such powers as the Vatican has delegated to them, but all powers of decision which have not been specifically "reserved" by the Pope. The practical effect would be to greatly reduce the number of matters that must be referred to Rome. Voting on the details of this controversial document was deferred until the next council session.

Approved the restoration of the ancient order of deacons, which goes back to the new testament, in areas where there is a serious shortage of priests. Deacons, unlike priests, may be married men. They will be ordained clergymen, and will per-

form many of the functions of priests, but will not be authorized to celebrate mass or hear confessions.

—Began debate on a document which seeks to create an entirely new climate in inter-faith relations. It recognizes the right of Protestant churches to be regarded as Christian bodies in which the Holy Spirit is authentically at work. It calls on Catholics, from bishops to laity, to do all in their power to "remove obstacles" to Christian reunion and to achieve greater mutual love and understanding with the "separated brethren." It puts the Catholic Church officially on record, for the first time, in favor of religious liberty for all. And it strikes a blow at one of the historic roots of anti-Semitism by declaring that the Jews must not be made scapegoats for the crucifixion of Christ, since the guilt for that "crime" rests upon all mankind. This document on "ecumenism" (ecclesiastical slang for the movement toward Christian unity) was the last to be taken up at this session, and voting on its provisions doubtless will await the next session.

These are only the highlights of the work accomplished by the council fathers this fall. Many other things might be mentioned — their overwhelmingly favorable reception of a document which emphasizes the importance of the laity as Christ's ambassadors to the real world; approval of a decree upholding freedom of the press and calling for higher moral standards in all media of mass communications; their decision, by a very close vote, to devote a single modest chapter rather than a whole lengthy document to exposition of Catholic beliefs about the Virgin Mary.

But even a partial listing of the second session's accomplishments should make clear that the Ecumenical Council is no longer bogged down in talk. It has begun to move, and it seems to be moving with a might determination toward the goals of reform, renewal and reunion which fired the heart of Pope John XXIII when he called the council into being.

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## Basin Briefs

**BONANZA**  
MR. AND MRS. BUD STEVENSON and Mary Ann spent several days at Reno with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Ferguson, and helped her father celebrate his birthday on Nov. 17. Mrs. Juanita Stevenson has returned home from visiting her two daughters and their families in Oakland.

**ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH GUILD** will meet next for the Christmas party on Dec. 12 at the home of Donna Gift. There will be a gift exchange and those with children are to bring them a gift. Each member is asked to bring material to make something for next year's bazaar. The meeting will be at 2 p.m.

**BONANZA LIBRARY** will be the scene of an election on Dec. 7 from 2 to 7 p.m. to elect a member to the Lost River-Bonanza Cemetery board. The term of Don Horsley will expire.

**HAROLD SMID** of Eugene is spending two weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kelleston. Joining them for the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Kelleston of Keno and Charles Kelleston of Bly.

**MR. AND MRS. DON LUCAS** accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lance of Tulelake to Denver, where the men will attend a school for managers of irrigation districts. They left Nov. 18 to be gone a week.

**JOHN AND BILL COTTEL** of Coos Bay were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. George Wu for several days.

**BONANZA PARENTS AND PATRONS CLUB** will meet in the elementary gym at 8 p.m., Dec. 4, combining the November and December meetings. There will be a panel discussion on child development.

**MR. AND MRS. LLOYD GIFT** spent several days at Grants Pass and attended a Soil Conservation meeting.

**CHERYL SMITH** has returned to home at Peetz, Colo., after several months with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Art Struve.

**MRS. RONALD HUSK** and children Jennifer, Jay and Greg of Eugene spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Givan. Other visitors at the Givan home recently were their children, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Friar and three children of Suttler and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Givan and Gordon Givan of Eugene.

**MRS. NELLIE SIMMONS** spent several days at Medford with her sister.

**JUNE NORR** has returned after several months in Arizona with her sister.

**TURS AND ARNOLD SHINDLER** of Salem spent Thursday in Langell Valley with their aunt, Mrs. Grace Blaser.



## Holiday Greetings...

All & Nine Nyback & staff at Nyback's Flower Fair again are pleased to invite you to attend their Annual Holiday Fantasy featuring brilliant locally grown Poinsettia, fragrant fresh flower displays and novel Holiday originals. Dec. 1 thru Dec. 8, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 3614 South Sixth St. and 430 Main St. Come and bring your friends with you. Everyone is welcome.

## Mill Output Shows Drop

PORTLAND (UPI) — October output at sawmills in the Pacific Northwest Douglas fir region dropped from September, it was reported today.

October output at the mills was 102,001,000 board feet weekly, compared with a September figure of 171,618,000 board feet, according to the West Coast Lumbermen's Association.

But the first 10 months of the year were ahead of 1962 figures, WCLA said, despite the summer lumber strike. Sawmill production through October totaled about 6.81 billion board feet to 6.73 billion board feet for the previous year.

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