

TOVER OF ST.CASSIAN

Volume 10, # 1.

OCR Newsletter

Winter-Spring 2002

THE OCR HEILER PAPERS 1924-1930

In the Queens, NY, archives of the OCR Provincialate for North America, are copies of a correspondence between Bishop Vernon Herford, Regionary of Mercia & Middlesex for the Evangelical Catholic Communion of Great Britain, and Bishop Friedrich Heiler, Primate of the OCR prior to Mgr. Diederik A.J. Quatannens.

Bishop Herford, also known as Mar Jacobus, was consecrated in 1902 in India by Mar Basilius Soares, Bishop of Trichur for the Mellusians, former Syro-Chaldean Catholics. Mar Basilius had been consecrated by Mar Anthony Abd-Ishu who, in turn, was consecrated by the Patriarch of the East, Simon XVII Abraham. Bishop Herford founded that same year the Evangelical Catholic Communion and the Society of Free Catholics. The purpose of this Ecclesiola was the work of Christian Reunion. He wrote to Dr. Heiler on Sept. 14, 1924: "The Evangelical Catholic Communion is not a sect but Christians who have waked up to realize that the whole Christian Church is one and who will not behave towards it as anything but one."

In this correspondence Bp. Herford offers Dr. Heiler the Apostolic Succession which he had received in India. When our past Primate refused this offer, Bp. Herford wrote back negative rumors about Mgr Pierre Gaston Vigue of the Vilatte Succession who on Aug. 25, 1930 consecrated Friedrich Heiler.

Elisabeth Behr-Sigel in her biography of Archimandrite Lev Gillett, the French Orthodox priest and spiritual author, says many positive facts about Dr. Heiler. On p. 60, she refers to him as the German religious historian who hoped for an Evangelical Catholicism, and who spearheaded the budding ecumenical movement. Heiler was the author of *Der Katholizismus* and *Die Buddhistische Versenkung* as well as *Das Gebet in der Mystik* (p. 68). Behr-Sigel characterizes *Der Katholizismus* as a very profound, well-informed study of the essentials and non-essentials of the Catholic Faith. She quotes Lev Gillett as saying that Heiler loved the Catholic Faith.

Archimandrite Gillett, a monk of the Western European Exarchate of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, hoped like Dr. Heiler that the liturgical movement and its religious ideals would cause certain obsolete forms to break off: the Roman Catholic triumphal mentality, Jesuitism, Vatican curialism and theological casuistry. On p. 378 Behr-Sigel calls Dr. Heiler one of the founding fathers of the Ecumenical Movement along with Soderblom, Temple and Monod.

Dr. Friedrich Heiler was a Lutheran clergyman and ecumenist in Germany. He sought to accomplish Evangelical Catholicism by participating in the ecumenical movement which he saw as the dawn of a reunited universal church. He hoped Rome would be converted to this point of view. He was a High Church German Lutheran who as Bishop of the Evangelical Catholic Eucharistic Communion had co-founded The Brotherhood

of St. John and The Association of Lutheran Franciscan Tertiaries. He ordained many Lutheran pastors, transmitting his Apostolic Succession. His own consecrator Mgr. Vigue was consecrated by Bp. Giraud. For more facts about this Line, I refer you to two recent studies: MGR RENE VILATTE, Community Organizer of Religion by Serge A. Theriault, (I.C.C.C., 30 Briermoor Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1T 3G7) and A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH ON JOSEPH RENE VILATTE by Bertil Persson, (St. Ephrem, POB 7048, Solna, Sweden, S-170 07).

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NYC VISITATION OF OCR PRIMATE

On Oct. 21, '01, XIX Trinity, the international Primate of the OCR, Archbp. Persson, presided over the installation of new members. The service took place in the Lincoln Room of the NYC Hilton at 2PM. Installed as Rector for Nassau County, L.I. was Archbp. Peter Brennan, the OCR Provost. Both Fr. Lloyd U. Samuel OCR of Guyana and Bishop Paget Mack OCR of St. Croix attended their first installation ceremony. Present were both clergy and laity from the Greater NYC area. One of the guests was Archbp. George Stallings. Others were: Bp. J. A. Grenier, Bp. Ed Missick, Bp. Willard Schultz, Bp. J. J. Gouthro, Bp. & Mrs. Trujillo and Msgr. Robert J. Walsh. Also present were three delegates from the World Federation of Peace.

BLESSED FRANCIS TREGIAN THE RECUSANT

Some members of the OCR may question the wisdom of an article on a newly beatified English saint who refused to attend the services of the Anglican Church. And it follows two articles on Ecumenism. Blessed Francis was arrested and imprisoned for sheltering a Catholic priest, St. Cuthbert the Martyr, during the Reign of Her Majesty Elizabeth I.

The Recusants were Catholics who refused to stop attending the Latin Rite Mass in place of the BCP services. Seminary priests were ordained in France, who secretly entered England to celebrate the Latin Rite Mass. This was by Law an Act of Treason punishable by death. Any who worshipped at such a Mass were to be imprisoned and have all their goods confiscated by the Crown. Such a recusant was Blessed Francis Tregian, 1548-1608. He spent 30 years in jail.

So what has this to do with the previous two articles? In the first article we mentioned Roman Catholic triumphal mentality, casuistry and curialism. Does anyone recall Archbp. Marcel Lefebvre (1905-1991), Founder of the Society of St. Pius X? He was suspended and later excommunicated for insisting that Catholics continue to attend the same Latin Rite Mass that brought about the martyrdom of St. Cuthbert and the imprisonment of Blessed Francis. This ancient rite was replaced by the Novus Ordo Missae of Pope Paul VI. So why aren't Anglicans and Roman Catholics reconciled? Why still two Catholic Churches in the U.K., one with a Primate in Canterbury the ancient see and another in Westminster Cathedral completed in 1903?

This is an excellent example of what is meant by curia

lism, casuistry and the Vatican mentality. Today it isn't the BCP being condemned but the Latin Rite Mass! Mirabile dictu! Lefebvre is excommunicated for the very reason St. Cuthbert was martyred and Blessed Francis jailed for 30 years: worshipping as a Catholic with the Latin Rite Mass of St. Pius V! Caesaro-papalism is to blame; in the 16th-Century it determined the BCP wasn't valid; today it declares the old Tridentine Liturgy obsolete! That is casuistry, curialism, jesuitism and the Vatican mentality. It's what we say that's the Catholic Faith. No way!Ubique, Semper et ab Omnibus.

NEWS NOTES: Nov. 18, '01, at SS. Peter & Paul's Lutheran Church in Astoria, Queens, NY, after the Sunday Mass, the Global Aid Foundation donated medical supplies to Ecuador; present were members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano and Bishop Francis C. Spataro as well as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Fr. Pedro Bravo-Guzman, the former treasurer, Dr. Jeannette E. Cano-Landiver and the GAF Ambassador at Large, Dcn Jann Weinrich. Also in attendance was Rev. Nestor L'Heureux, Executive Director of the Queens Federation of Churches, an ecumenical council of all denominations.

CAMP SAINT CASSIAN has been donated to the Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery; the 86 acres of the Holy Orthodox Church in America, including the Church of St. Joseph of Arimathea, the old Rectory with library and publications office, and two utility buildings, a garage and former sheep barn, are for sale. For more information contact Dns Maria Babwahsingh, POB 1316, Bayonne, NJ, 07002-6316. Senior Deaconess Maria is the last living officer & trustee of this Parish, inc. in 1936 by Archbishop Nichols of the Society of Clerks Secular of St. Basil, 311 Hickory Av., Harahan, Louisiana 70123. Dr. Nichols was co-founder of the Society with Archbp. Aftimios in 1931. He died on Feb. 6, 1947 at the age of 68. He had been the religion editor of the NY World Telegram. On Sept. 12, '45 The Holy Orthodox Church In America was reincorporated by the late Archbp. James R.C. Toombs.

The Society of Rosicrucians Upstate N.Y.

The new address for The Society of Rosicrucians/Societas Rosicruciana In America is c/o Dns Maria Babwahsingh POB 1316, Bayonne, NJ 07002-6316; the Upstate phone has been disconnected and all mail should be sent to the NJ Box. Books & other materials may be ordered from Deaconess Maria who is the new president of the Society and administrator of the 86 acres in Schoharie Cty.

Sister L. Grosch [who has life tenancy] lives in a nursing home due to an incapacitating stroke in August of '01. She was 90 yrs old on 8/31/01, having been born in Essen, Germany in 1911. Sister Grosch was ordained deaconess on April 26, '64 by Archbishop Theodotus Rola Witowski (De Witow). She became a Neophyte member of the Society in 1955 after studying since 1949 at St. Gregory's Seminary of Biblical Research.

Lucia Albers Grosch was the successor to Mthr Serena (Gladys Miller Plummer) as both president of the Society and Igumini of the Healing Order of Deaconesses, founded by Archbishop Theodotus at See House, 321 W. 101st St., NYC, in 1954.

Lettergram From Francis C. Spataro

WHAT A SERENDIPITY !

When I was in Seminary, book row in Manhattan ran along 4th Ave. from E. 14th St. to E. 8th St; one second hand book store after another lined that broad Avenue. Today only the Strand is left on Broadway and 12th. But if you are searching for an out of print book, there is an Internet alternative to old book row: abebooks.com

Recently for \$ 20, a bargain now, I found online a very interesting book which has caused me to do some deep thinking. The title is rather long: WE CALLED IT A VACATION-CONCERNING A FOUR-MONTHS' CRUISE TO THE BAHAMAS IN A SMALL SLOOP BY THE AUTHOR AND HIS WIFE by George Remey Wadleigh, 1920-1950. While he did write the MS, his mother Mary Remey Wadleigh had the book published as an In Memoriam. George had died at the early age of 29. But what a 29 year span of life he had ! He was a hero Naval officer during WW II in the Pacific, a consummate Yachtsman, married and the father of two sons, and when cut down in his prime a US Foreign Service Officer and Vice Consul in Lisbon.

So what makes someone a remarkable man or woman as opposed to just ordinary folks? The famous Armenian philosopher G.I. Gurdjieff wrote a book, MEETINGS WITH REMARKABLE MEN. Years later it was made into a movie by Peter Brook. So what makes a human being remarkable? Is he/she a supreme egoist? Or, rather, as the great Harvard sociologist, Pitirim Sorokin, claimed the remarkable person is a supreme altruist! In the case of George Remey Wadleigh his distinguishing characteristic was SERVICE.

He yearned to serve and it drove him to excel: to serve family, country and sports. In those days sportsmen were still gentlemen with good manners and morals. Gurdjieff would have said that he was a man without parentheses, a man who lived his life to the fullest and who stood out from the crowd by the resourcefulness of his mind, restrained and tolerant towards others' weaknesses. That's what makes someone so remarkable like our forgotten Naval hero, George Remey Wadleigh the nephew of Charles Mason Remey.

A NOTE OF THANKS: we would like to say thank you to Sister Marguerita Smith, Archivist for the RC Archdiocese of NY; she mailed us a xerox copy of the 1934 Obituary of Fr. Gabriel Oussani, an eminent priest of the Chaldean Rite who was in touch with all the Chaldean clergy in the NY area. He had a PhD from John Hopkins University and from 1901- 1903 taught Semitic Languages there. He was born in Baghdad on Aug. 1, 1875 & died on June 1, 1934 at Dobbs Ferry, NY. Memory Eternal !