

ADYSON

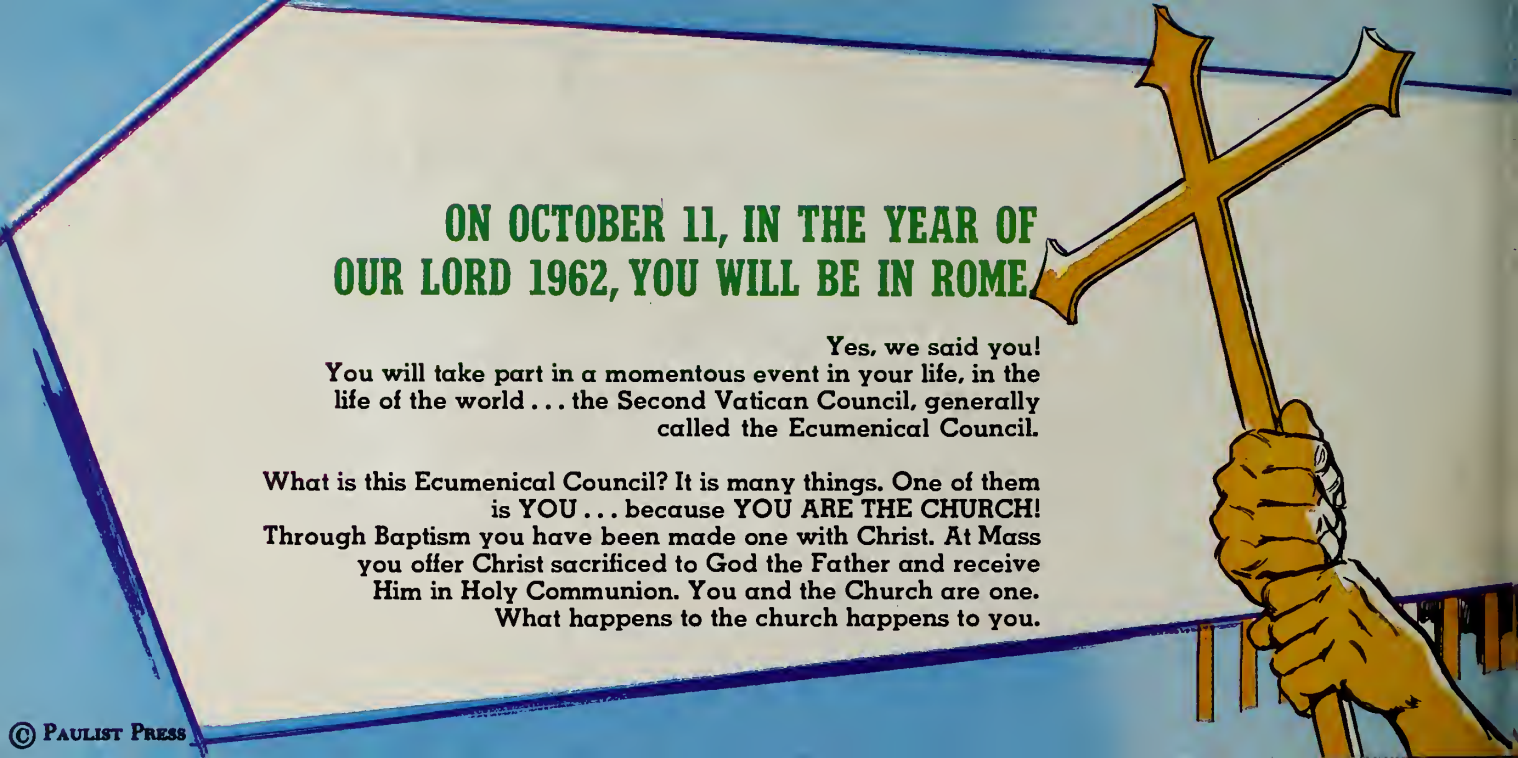
1964



ADYSON

**YOU  
AND THE  
ECUMENICAL  
COUNCIL**

**No. 1  
The Purpose—The Meaning**



**ON OCTOBER 11, IN THE YEAR OF  
OUR LORD 1962, YOU WILL BE IN ROME**

**Yes, we said you!  
You will take part in a momentous event in your life, in the  
life of the world . . . the Second Vatican Council, generally  
called the Ecumenical Council.**

**What is this Ecumenical Council? It is many things. One of them  
is YOU . . . because YOU ARE THE CHURCH!  
Through Baptism you have been made one with Christ. At Mass  
you offer Christ sacrificed to God the Father and receive  
Him in Holy Communion. You and the Church are one.  
What happens to the church happens to you.**



Now, we know you will not attend the Council in person but you will be there in every other way. With every Catholic the world over, you will be represented there. The structure of the Church, the result of Divine Inspiration, makes it possible for you to attend the Council through your Bishop who will be there as your shepherd and representative.



It is important for you to understand what the Ecumenical Council means, why it was called, what it will try to do, how it will work. This great gathering will affect all people everywhere, Catholic and non-Catholic, Christian and non-Christian.

An Ecumenical Council is a meeting of all the Bishops with certain other leading figures of the Church. It discusses and issues decrees on problems concerning the Church. It is directed by the Pope, who must approve all its decisions.

But this is like saying a great Cathedral is a collection of stone and colored glass; that tells but half the story. The Ecumenical Council is not just a "meeting of the board" to make rules and regulations.

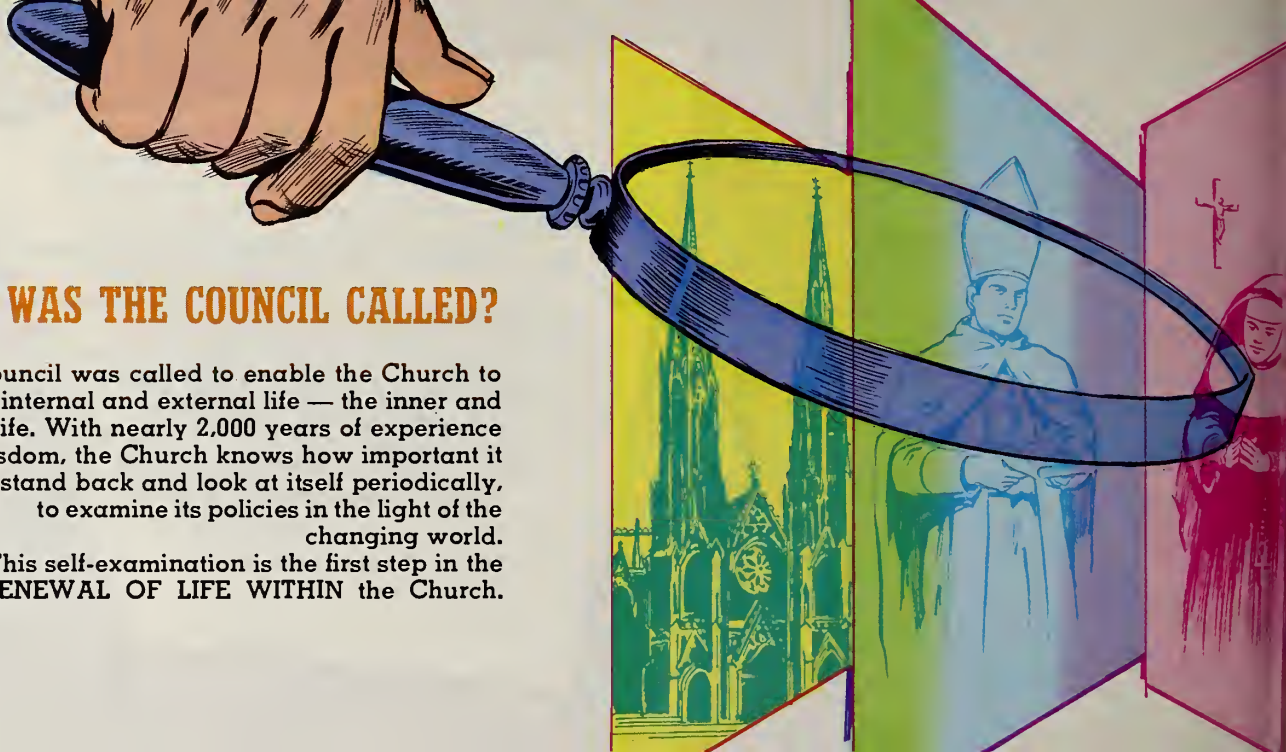




Each Bishop there will strive to carry out Christ's  
work, His Divine Plan for man.

The Ecumenical Council is like a new Pentecost  
in the Church. At the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit  
descended upon the Apostles, giving them  
strength and wisdom. Since then the Holy Spirit  
has guided their successors . . . the Bishops  
of the Church . . . YOUR Bishops.

The Council is really a time when, guided by the  
Holy Spirit, the Church gathers new light  
and new life.



## WHY WAS THE COUNCIL CALLED?

The Council was called to enable the Church to renew its internal and external life — the inner and outer — life. With nearly 2,000 years of experience and wisdom, the Church knows how important it is to stand back and look at itself periodically, to examine its policies in the light of the changing world.

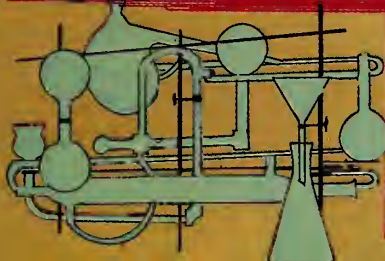
This self-examination is the first step in the **RENEWAL OF LIFE WITHIN** the Church.

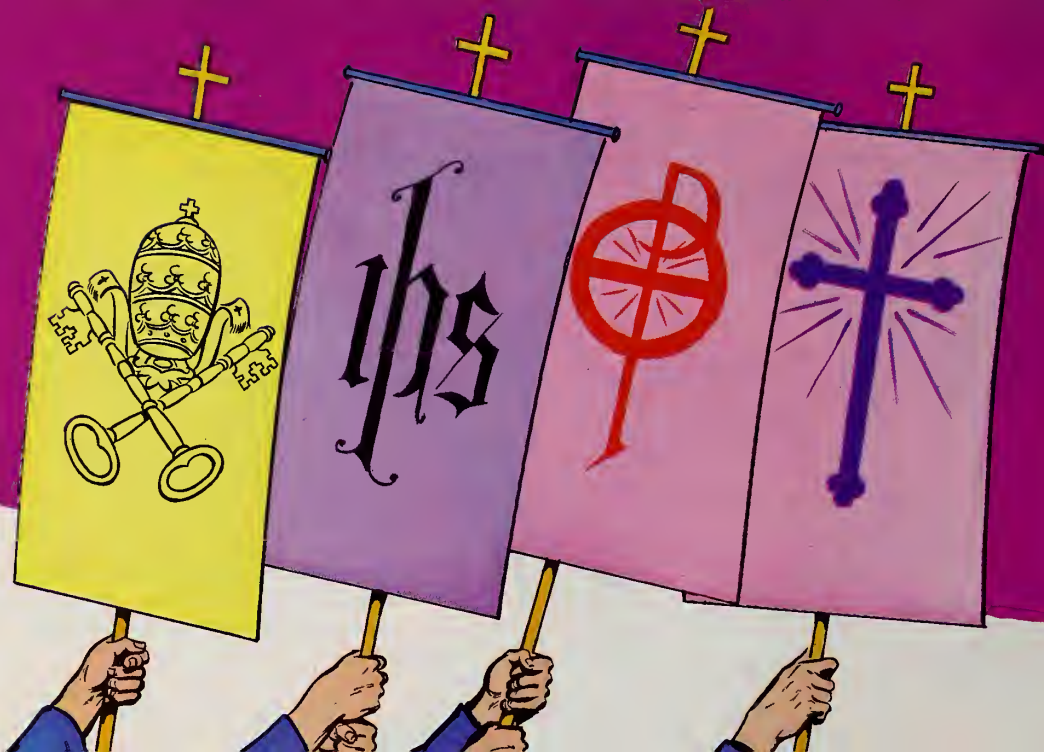


The second major aim of the Council is the external or outer work of the Church. Here the Church looks out to the world, to the problems it must solve in its mission of salvation.

The Church knows it must find new ways to bring the Gospel principles into every activity of modern life. Too many people have lost sight of their eternal destiny. They are wholly taken up chasing material things.

The Church certainly respects the great advances of science and technology but she wants to bring to this world a Christian and supernatural view of life. She wants to make the thoughts, lives and activities of modern man one and the same with Gospel principles.





The decisions of every Ecumenical Council has affected you in both spiritual and practical ways. So will the decisions of this one.


At the Council of NICAEA, held in the year 325 at that ancient city near the Black Sea, these words of Christian Truth came to you:

"I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things  
visible and invisible..."

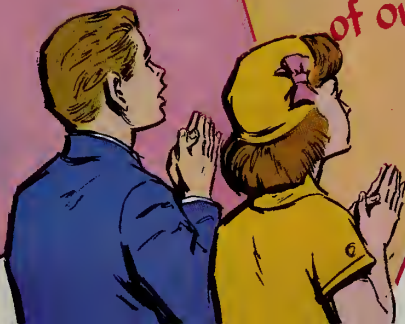
Yes, the NICENE CREED,  
which you say every Sunday  
at Mass, your heritage from  
the Council of NICAEA.



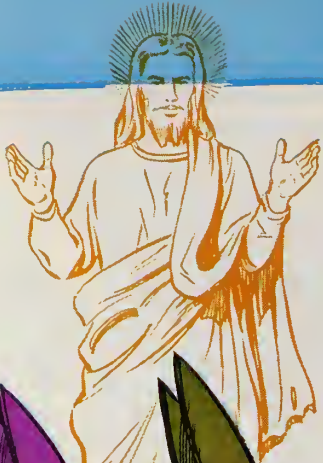
Hard by the Aegean Sea lies the city of EPHESUS. Here, where Paul challenged the idol-makers, (Acts 19:23-41), where the temple of Artemis stands, one of the world's seven wonders, another Council was held in 431. From it, these holy phrases were made yours:



Holy Mary,  
mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour  
of our death.  
Amen.



The Doctrine of the Mother of God, defined by the Council of EPHESUS, echoing down centuries into your daily lives.



## THE CITY OF TRENT

... stands on the banks of the Adige river in North Italy. From 1545 through 1565, the Council of Trent made clear the truth that man is cleansed of sin by the combination of faith in Christ AND his own good works with God's grace.

Many of the marriage laws that you use in your parish today, were established then.

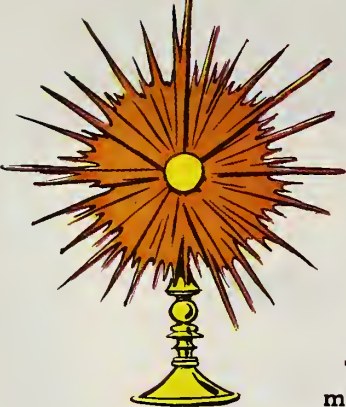


## THE COUNCIL OF TRENT

... made clear the proper way to venerate the Saints and relics as an AID to prayer; a reminder of faith.

The Council also ordered the setting up of seminaries for the training of priests in every diocese and religious order.

The Council of Trent gave you much that is now a part of your 20th century Catholic life.

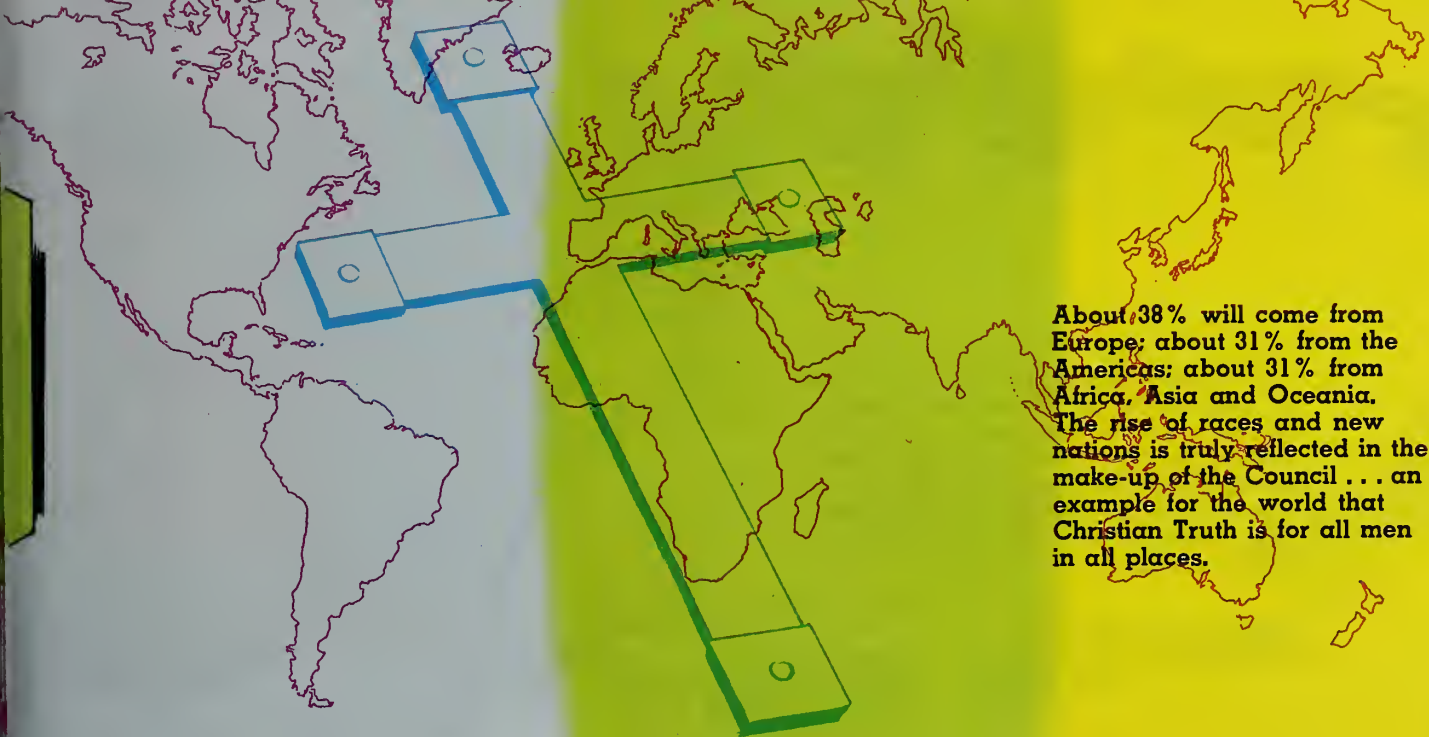


The coming Ecumenical Council will differ from ALL PREVIOUS Councils in many important ways.

One vital difference will be the attendance of Bishops of EVERY RACE AND COLOR.

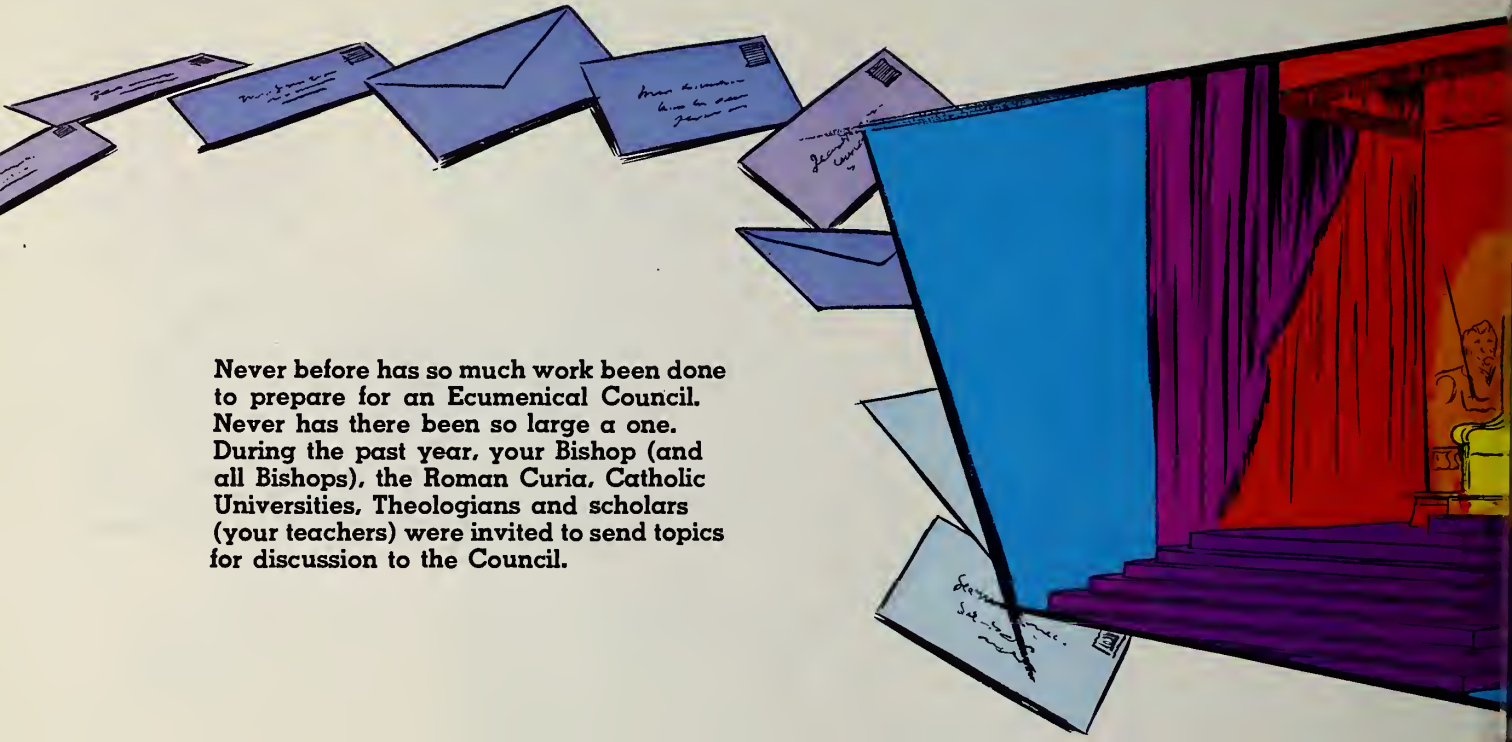
Over 2,000 Bishops will come from Africa, from Asia, from Europe, from the Americas, from Oceania.



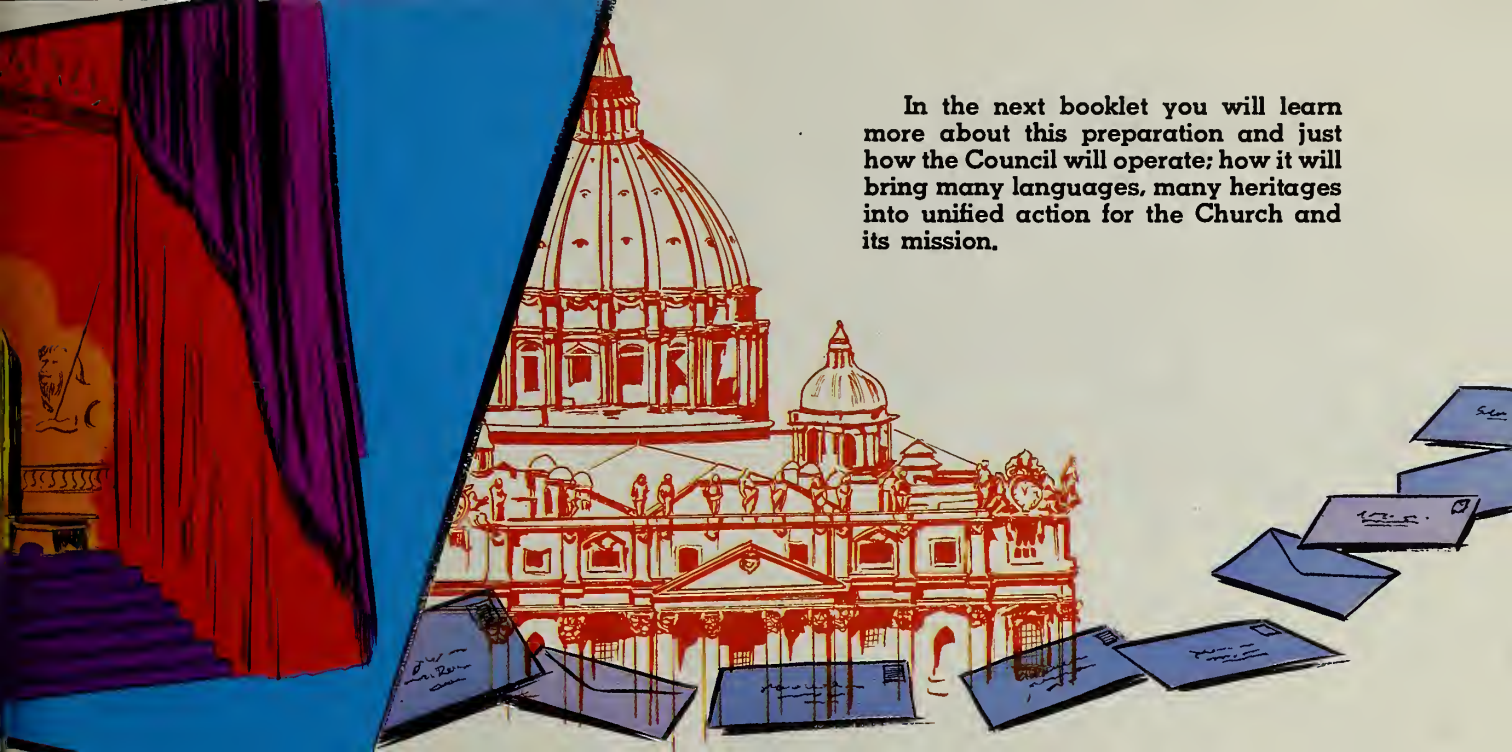


**About 38% will come from Europe; about 31% from the Americas; about 31% from Africa, Asia and Oceania. The rise of races and new nations is truly reflected in the make-up of the Council . . . an example for the world that Christian Truth is for all men in all places.**

**Never before has so much work been done to prepare for an Ecumenical Council. Never has there been so large a one. During the past year, your Bishop (and all Bishops), the Roman Curia, Catholic Universities, Theologians and scholars (your teachers) were invited to send topics for discussion to the Council.**



In the next booklet you will learn more about this preparation and just how the Council will operate; how it will bring many languages, many heritages into unified action for the Church and its mission.



**PRAYER FOR THE  
ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

*Holy Spirit of God, pour forth your gifts  
on the Ecumenical Council.*

*Renew the earth by granting a new Pente-  
cost in our time.*

*Gently guide our Holy Father and the  
Fathers of the Council so that the light and  
power of the Gospel may spread throughout  
the world and the Church may accomplish its  
mission of bringing all men to Christ. Amen.*



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Nihil Obstat  
John A. Goodwine, J.C.D.  
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