A SACRED MOMENT — The Prince of the Church, His Eminence Laurian Cardinal Rugambwa, Bishop of Bukoba, Tanganyika, East Africa, leaves altar at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, at 1723 Race St., with Archbishop John J. Krol, where he offered evenning Mass for over 5,000 people. Cardinal Rugambwa, who visited Philadelphia last Tuesday and Wednesday, also offered Mass Wednesday at the Church of St. Ignatius, 43rd and Wallace Sts. (Mosley photo)

MORE FINGERS IN THE PIE

3rd group enters battle for Daddy Grace's cash

By RALPH MATTHEWS

"Button, button, who's got the button!"

This chant from a childhood playground game best describes the situation revolving around the mystery of just who really has a rightful claim to the millions left by the late Bishop Manuel (Sweet Daddy) Grace when a third faction entered the legal battle this week.

The bizarre struggle was brought to light during the past several weeks when the AFRO began a series of articles trying to track down the whereabouts of more than $22 million accredited to the cult of the colorful evangelist who died last year.

As a result of the article each succeeding week brings to light a new group of claimants to the vast fortune available to those who can establish their right to administer the funds if they can ever be dislodged from the banks where they are frozen by legal red tape.

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THREE GROUPS are now in the forefront of the power struggle.

Group No. 1 is headed by Bishop Walter McCulloh of Washington, D.C. who was elected to office by a council of elders following the death of Daddy Grace.

Group No. 2 also of Washington, D.C., is headed by Bishop J. W. McClure, who claims he and his faction are the rightful successors and contends that the session which elected McCullih was unconstitutional and the electors were handpicked and controlled by the New York financial syndicate which controlled Daddy Grace's realty operation in Manhattan.

Group No. 3 is headed by Enoch Walker and his associates who claim that he was one of the original founders along with Daddy Grace and, as such, is the only survivor of the original corporation and holds title to the charter of incorporation.

Each group is engaged in checkmating the other through legal maneuvering which keeps them constantly battling in the courts of Washington and New Jersey.

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THERE ARE still two other groups which are silent but powerful. One is the great mass of zealous members, spread from New Bedford to Florida and as far west as California, who seem to manifest no interest whatever in who controls the money so long as they are permitted to gather in the far flung House of Prayer and pray, sing and express themselves in the spiritual exuberance which attracted millions to the cult.

One of these members summed the matter up succinctly for the AFRO last week when asked what faction she preferred.

"I am not concerned with which side wins," she said "we are just watching and praying for Daddy, himself to come back and straighten things out. He promised he would rise again."

THE FIFTH and perhaps the most powerful group of all is also silent and prefers to remain completely anonymous and keep as far away from the limelight as possible.

These are the financiers who recently arranged the sale of Daddy Grace's Ely Dorado Apartments, (the largest apartment house in the world) through the sale of which eight shareholders are alleged to have become millionaires over night. All of them are white.

It is this transaction which gives the third faction of Negroes banding together in the Daddy Grace cult, which claims that the McCulloh group allowed themselves to be used as pawns in a colossal fraud.

Here is how the plan worked, according to spokesmen for the group. On November 4, 1959, Charles Manuel (Grace, acting as Bishop and trustee for the United House of Prayer for All People of the Church on the Rock of the Apostolic Faith drew up a contract with Eldorado Estates, Inc. authorizing them to sell the properties on Riverside Drive and Central Park West.

But the evangelist died without properly signing the contract and the transaction was held up in the courts until they could present a bonafide agreement.

To accomplish this purpose, the McClure faction claims, an assembly of elders was called in Washington who certified that they were the constituted authority of the church and attached their names to documents by which the agreement was completed and the courts authorized the sale to take place.

This was done in violation of the constitution of the body which called for representation of two delegates and an elder fom each congregation. This would have required an assembly of several hundred from the entire membership. Only eight of the elders participated in the transaction, it is charged at a meeting from whichmost of the leaders were excluded.

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McClure, who is represented in the District Courts by Attorney King David and supported by members Henry Petty and Paul Kelly and others, seeks to have the entire activities of the McCulloh faction voided by the court and a new assembly called encompassing the whole Church.

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IN THE MEANTIME the Walker faction in Philadelphia is battling with their backs to the wall due to a simple mistake by which they failed to include certain important words in their papers of incorporation. The words Church on the Rock of the Apostolic Faith were not included in their petition.

In a statement to the AFRO this week Attorney Carlyle Tucker, who represents the McCulloh group in the Philadelphia Area, declared that on March 3, 1960, Edward Patten, Secretary of State for New Jersey rejected a petition of incorporation to James Elwood Walker, a member of the Walker group on the grounds that it was an infringement on a corporation previously recognized.

The letter said in part:

"It appears that a certificate of Incorporation was accepted for filing April 22, 1960 for the United House Of Prayer For All People, Inc. This was done inadvertently as there was in existence at that time a corporation under the title, The United House Of Prayer For All People of the Church On The Rock of the Apostolic Faith.

Moonight Cruise, sponsored by St. Mary's Church, Pier 1, Pratt Street at 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 27

Mayor J. Harold Grady will represent the City of Baltimore at ground-breaking ceremony for the new $3,290,000 Lutheran Medical Center at 11 a.m.

June 30

An important deadline for many disabled workers with long standing disabilities. They should contact the local social security office either at 3107 Greenmount Ave. or 217 East Fayette St.

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The Eighth Annual Holy Name Baseball Night will pit the Orioles against the Detroit Tigers in a night game at the Stadium.

JULY 1

Snack Shop festival on lawn at Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Gilmor and Riggs.

JULY 4

"Fireworks on the Fourth" at Memorial Stadium. No additional charge to persons with tickets to "The Pride of Cleveland game. No additional admission. Fireworks (tickets (display after game) are 25 cents for children, 50 cents for adults.

JUNE2-JULY5

Call Mrs. Thomas Flannery (ID 3-1615) for information and to register for the Children's Program to be sponsored at Fellowship House on Thursday mornings during July and August