

Official Text of Vatican's New Statement On Religious 'Reunion' Discussions

(N.W.A. NEWS SERVICE) Rome, Feb. 25 — The following is the official English translation of the "Instruction to Local Ordinaries about the Ecumenical Movement" issued by the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office.

The Catholic Church takes an active part in "ecumenical" conferences and other assemblies of a similar character. Yet, as numerous pontifical documents show, she has, despite this fact, never ceased, nor will she ever cease, to pursue with deepest concern and promote with assiduous prayers to God every endeavor to bring about what was so close to the Heart of Christ the Lord, viz. that all who believe in Him, "may be made perfect in one." Indeed, she embraces with truly maternal affection all who return to her as the only true Church of Christ, hence any plans and enterprises, which with the consent of the ecclesiastical authority, have been undertaken and are being carried out to enlighten, convert and unite the Faithful or to impart a more thorough instruction to those already in the Church can never be sufficiently approved or given too much encouragement.

DISSENT ENCOURAGED

At this time in many parts of the world, owing partly to various external events and changes of mental attitude, but, and chiefly to the common prayers of the faithful, a desire has awakened and is growing daily in the hearts of many, who are separated from the Catholic Church, that a reunion be accomplished among all who believe in Christ the Lord. Assuredly, to the children of the true Church, this is a source of holy joy. In the Lord as well as an inducement to lend their assistance to all who are sincerely seeking the truth, by enlightening light and strength for them from God in fervent prayer.

REASON THIS SUPREME SACRED CONGREGATION, WHICH HAS NOT CHARGED WITH THE CARE OF ENLIGHTENING AND PRESERVING THE DEPOSIT OF FAITH, HAS SEEN FIT TO CALL TO MIND AND ENJOIN WHAT IS HERE SET FORTH.

BISHOPS' ROLE

The work of "reunions" belongs above all to the office and charge of the Church hierarchy. It behooves Bishops, whom the Holy Ghost hath placed to rule the Church of God, to bestow upon it their special attention. They should therefore not only carefully and efficaciously keep this movement under vigilant observation, but also prudently foster and guide it until the twofold end of assisting those who are in search of the truth and the true Church, and of shielding the faithful from the perils which readily follow in the track of the movement.

Consequently they shall first of all thoroughly acquaint themselves with what has been accomplished and is actually being done under cover of this movement in their dioceses. For this purpose let them appoint suitable priests, who, in accordance with the teaching and the Directions of the Holy See as found, for example, in the Encyclical Letter "Satis Cognitum," "Mortuorum Animas" and "Mystical Corporis Christi," shall give close attention to all that concerns the movement and make a report about it at the time and in the manner prescribed.

With special care shall they exercise their vigilance and urge the observance of the sacred canons "on previous censorship and prohibition of books" (can. 1364 ff) with regard to the publications, which are edited by Catholics, in any form whatsoever concerning this matter. The same holds good with reference to non-Catholic publications on this subject, insofar as these are intended to be edited, read or sold by Catholics.

AVOID INDIFFERENTISM

It is to be noted in this work that the Holy Office prescribes what is to be done and what is to be omitted and takes measures that the ordinances are observed by all. They will also be on their guard, lest, under some false pretense, for instance by stressing things on which we agree rather than those on which we disagree, a dangerous indifferentism be fomented particularly among those who are less thoroughly grounded in matters theological and not so well trained in their religious practice. For they must beware, lest from a spirit of "irritation" as it is called nowadays, Catholic tenets be they dogmas or questions connected therewith, in a process of comparative study and from a delusive design of attaining a certain progressive assimilation and approximation among the various professions of faith are so whittled down and somehow made to conform to a heterodox teaching as to jeopardize the purity of Catholic doctrine or obscure its clear and genuine meaning.

Furthermore Bishops will not allow recourse to a perilous mode of speaking, which on grounds false notions and raises delusive hopes that can never be fulfilled. Such would be, for example, the allegation that what is taught in the Encyclical Letters of the Roman Pontiffs about the return of dissidents to the Church, or about the constitution of the Church or about the Mystical Body of Christ need not so rigorously taken inasmuch as not all things are of faith, or what is worse still, in matters of dogma not even the Catholic Church is already in possession of the fullness of Christ and hence others are still in a position of contributing to ward its perfection. They should scrupulously take precautions and firmly insist that in rehearsing the history of the Reformation or the Reformers the faults and foibles of Catholics are not overemphasized, while the blame and defects of the Reformers are dissimulated; nor that rather accidental circumstances be placed in such a light that the main fact consisting in the defection from the Catholic Faith is allowed to dwindle from sight and mind. Finally they will take care, lest by an excessive and misleading extrinsic display and imprudence or by clamorous methods of procedure and treatment more harm than good may result in reaching the end desired.

Likewise they will diligently provide what may be serviceable for non-Catholics who are seeking to know the Catholic faith. They will appoint persons, and set up offices that non-Catholics may visit and consult, and yet more will they be intent upon making provision within easy reach the ways and means of obtaining a more ample and complete instruction in the Catholic faith and of carrying their religion into actual life, especially by means of reasonable meetings and study circles, spiritual retreats and other exercises of piety.

LEADS HOLY YEAR PILGRIMS



His Holiness Pope Pius XII is shown reciting the Holy Rosary. From time to time during the Holy Year, visiting pilgrims in St. Peter's Basilica may have the privilege of participating in the recitation of the Holy Rosary, under the leadership of the Holy Father. (AP Photos)

The whole and entire body of Catholic doctrine is therefore to be proposed and explained. Nothing embraced in the Catholic truth concerning the true nature and means of justification, the constitution of the Church, the Roman Pontiff's primacy of jurisdiction and the only true Church of Christ must be passed over in silence or cloaked under ambiguous language.

Non-Catholics may certainly be told that, in returning to the Church, they will forfeit none of the good that the grace of God has hitherto wrought in their souls, but that the return will bring to its perfection and final consummation. Yet this must not be represented in such a fashion as to create in them the impression that by their return they were making a contribution to the Church of something essential that she lacked in the past. All this must be truly set forth clearly and intelligibly for the dis-

not assist at such assemblies without a special permission from the ecclesiastical authority, which should be given only to those who are known to be instructed and firm in the faith. Where no prospects of good results are apparent or if for some reason special precautions are to be taken, the faithful shall be prudently kept away and the meetings themselves shall be suspended in due time.

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CHURCH PRESCRIPTIONS

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MIXED CONVENTIONS

Mixed Conventions will not be employed, together with Catholics and non-Catholics, in recent times have come into vogue in many places. In truth these offer a deplorable occasion for spreading a knowledge of Catholic doctrine with which non-Catholics are not sufficiently conversant, on the other hand, they are dangerous from the point of view of giving rise to differences of opinion. Where some hopes of good results appear, they will be soiled and rendered improper through the presence of persons who are not fitted for such gatherings and know ability to understand and defend Catholic doctrine in a serious and competent manner.

fundamental principles of the natural law and the Christian religion against the enemies of the faith, who are bent on order or of dealing with settling questions of a similar nature.

Even in those assemblies, as in the case of the Holy Year, where the presence of Catholics is not to be approved or conceded, the faithful shall be prudently kept away and the meetings themselves shall be suspended in due time.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Local meetings, conferences and conventions, which are to be held in the places where such assemblies are to be held, shall be held in a spirit of prayer and devotion, and shall be conducted in a manner that is in accordance with the teaching of the Holy See on such matters.

At the end of each year a report shall be made to the Supreme Sacred Congregation, specifying the places where such assemblies were held and what experiences were gathered from them.

CONVOKING INTERDIACONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

Interdiacanal, national and international conferences and conventions are to be convened in a spirit of prayer and devotion, and shall be conducted in a manner that is in accordance with the teaching of the Holy See on such matters.

SACRED RITES

A special provision shall be made for the celebration of the Holy Year in the places where such assemblies are to be held.

den at all conventions and assemblies of this kind, as has already been stated, let it not be determined to open and conduct meetings with a common intention of the Lord's prayer, or with other prayer appointed by the Church's hierarchy, and let it be the work of the Holy Office to see that the Bishops and Ordinaries are duly instructed in the manner in which they should conduct such meetings.

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Grammar Comes To Life; Noun, Verb Act In Cartoons

Covington, La. — (NC) — The English language comes to life when Sister Mary Theresa Brennan teaches it to the girls of St. Scholastica's Academy here.

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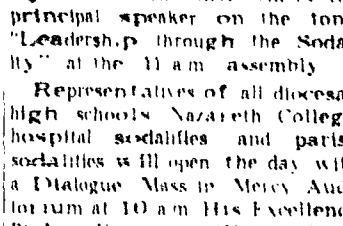
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Students Plan Sodality Meet

On Sunday, Mar. 5

A full-day diocesan Students Sodality convention will attract 350 delegates from every part of the diocese.



Representatives of all diocesan high schools, Nazareth College, hospital sodalities and parish sodalities will open the day with a Dialogue Mass in Meriv Auditorium at 10 am. His Excellency Bishop Keane will preach at the Mass and be the principal speaker at the dinner set for 12:30 pm.

Vatican Rules On 'Interfaith'

(Continued from Page 1) things on which we agree rather than those on which we disagree, a dangerous indifferentism be fomented particularly among those less thoroughly grounded in religious doctrine and practice.

As a specific example of this dangerous mode of speaking, the Holy Office mentions the allegation that the teachings in the encyclical letters of the Roman Pontiffs concerning the constitution of the Church, the return of dissidents and the Mystical Body of Christ "need not so rigorously taken in as much as not all things are of faith, or what is still worse, that in matters of dogma not even the Catholic Church is already in possession of the fullness of Christ and hence others are still in a position to contribute towards its perfection."

Egyptian Health Experts Score Euthanasia Practice

Rome (NC) — A present and former cabinet member of Egypt have declared themselves against the practice of euthanasia. Their views were published in Osservatore Romano, which quoted an Egyptian newspaper, the Sunday Progress.

Notre Dame Football Star Dies After Stunt Accident

South Bend, Ind. — Notre Dame's star football player, Bill Wenzel, died after a stunt accident during a game against the University of Michigan.

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