

Survey Reveals Desire for 'Communication'

Detroit — (RNS) — Lack of communication between the bishop and his priests and laity and between the clergy and parishioners emerged as the dominant findings of a survey conducted in the Detroit Catholic archdiocese.

Conducted at the direction of Archbishop John Dearden of Detroit, the survey brought responses from 61 per cent of the archdiocese's 750 priests.

It dealt with clergy attitudes toward the hierarchy, parishioners, assistants, secretaries and even housekeepers.

A chancery summary said "there is undoubtedly a strong desire on the part of the priests that rapport between themselves and the archbishop must be improved. This is indicated by the fact that 90.1 per cent (of those answering) accepted this as an identifiable problem."

There were some 200 individual suggestions on how relations between the archbishop and priests might be improved.

'Many Bonds' Link Catholics, Anglicans

New Orleans — (NC) — Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans said here that Anglicanism and Catholicism share "many bonds of fellowship" in doctrines and beliefs which must be applied to daily life.

Speaking at the 128th annual convention of the Louisiana diocese of the Episcopal Church, Archbishop Hannan said the bonds of collaboration and fellowship between the two churches existed long before the Vatican Council.

He noted that the council's ecumenism decree states that "the Anglican community occupies a special place" in relation to the Roman See. That fellowship, he added, has been sealed by the shedding of blood by the Uganda Martyrs of the last century—Anglican and Catholic laymen who "died in a common testimony to their Christian beliefs."

These common bonds, he continued, "present, as does every doctrine of our faith, a special duty—a singular opportunity. Our duty is to apply our lives these doctrines, especially the mystery of the Incarnation. We strive to realize the potential in that awesome phrase of St. Paul: 'I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me.'"

'A Miracle' For Unity

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI said "almost a miracle of the Lord" is required to bring about Christian union, "but perhaps the hour is near" and "this is the reason why prayer is vitally important."

The pontiff spoke to a throng of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Before leading in the recitation of the noonday Angelus, he referred to the Chair of Unity Octave (Jan. 18-25) during which Catholics everywhere were being urged to pray that "all may be one."

"Today," he said, "we must pray in the spirit of the Week we are observing so that all Christians will join together into the one visible church of Christ. As you know, this problem of the union of Christians within the unity of the church is of great importance and relevance."

"We must face up to it, even if we meet many difficulties. More than ever Divine help is needed; really, almost a miracle from Our Lord is required. But perhaps the hour is near. This is the reason why prayer is vitally important. We must pray that the truth of the faith will radiate its divine light, so powerful to attract and convince."

Women's Voice At Cathedral

Portland — (RNS) — Women spoke from the lectern of St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral here for the first time in its history during an ecumenical service attended by some 1,200 Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox.

Special permission for the two women to participate in the service and use the lectern was granted by Archbishop Edward D. Howard of Portland.

The suggestions took into consideration that it is difficult for any one man to be on personal terms with 750 priests, much less with the more than 1 million parishioners in the archdiocese.

"The common denominator among all the solutions offered," said the chancery, "seems to revolve around the problem of accessibility to the archbishop. The survey seems to make clear that somehow a way must be found to make possible contact between the archbishop and the priests."

Among suggestions for better bishop-priest contacts were: wider membership on the Archdiocesan Board of Consultors to include clergy from outside the metropolitan area in the eight-county archdiocese; establish a "personnel committee" of priests apart from the chancery office to which a pastor could bring specific problems; and have priests meet with the archbishop when he visits a parish for liturgical functions.

Three of every five priests urged that the archbishop celebrate Sunday Mass on a regularly scheduled basis at parish churches, and that he hold informal meetings with parishioners after visiting parishes for Confirmation rites.

One of every two priests replied—proposed—that there should be less formality at

meetings with bishops, such as the elimination of the kissing of the episcopal ring.

The chancery cited a "strong agreement" among the clergy that the archbishop "does not meet enough with the laity at the human, personal level."

Also proposed was that the archbishop "make great use of the mass media for more direct and better communication with the laity."

Concerning contacts between priests and parishioners, the report said: "The general attitude in a good number of written responses indicates a resentment to the attitude, evidently not uncommon, of a pastor who looks upon the parish as his parish and so sets himself apart from the laity by this very attitude."

Because of this attitude, any criticism on the part of the laity is most unwelcome. Necessary for good communication with the laity is a real openness and approachableness on the part of the priest. This can lead to an honest dialogue in which the priest is willing to listen to their real problems."

The survey showed that about 50 per cent of the clergy answering felt the priest and his parish should get involved "in the problems of the community and that the facilities of the parish be used to help foster the good of the community."

If the priest has the attitude that the parish is "his," and that the rectory is his "castle," and that "everyone is to be used to achieve the pastor's goals," the report warned, "he will find it difficult to establish rapport with all who live around him."

Regarding rectory housekeepers, the chancery said: "There seems to be no question but that in many rectories the housekeeper has been permitted to assume an exaggerated importance in her own eyes and to the pastor also, with the assistance being relegated to a role in parish affairs and in the rectory itself that is less in importance and responsibility than hers."

2 Nations Ask Laymen Deacons

Brazil — (NC) — The bishops of Brazil and Chile have become the first in the world to petition the Holy See for the use of ordained married deacons. Agnelo Cardinal Rossi of Sao Paulo, Brazil, disclosed the petitions here. He said the Holy See has not given approval yet, but that in anticipation of it, laymen already are being trained as deacons in Brazil.

Another prelate prominent in efforts to re-establish the Church's order of deacons told newsmen he fully expects more petitions to the Holy See because of the potential of deacons.

"There will be some failures, but more outright successes as we begin," predicted Bishop Alfred E. Mendez, C.S.C., a native of Chicago who is Bishop of Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

Bishop Mendez heads the new Society of St. Stephen which will support the training of married deacons. The Vatican Council's Constitution of the Church authorized national bishops' conferences, acting with papal approval, to approve deacons.

Cardinal Rossi and Bishop Mendez held press conferences at the third national conference of the Catholic Inter-American Cooperation Program.

In addition to the value seen in permanent deacons, CICOP sessions also discussed benefits coming from existing programs of training laymen as religion teachers and the use of Sisters to direct parishes where no priests are available.

Lay deacons would be used in priest-short Latin America to perform a variety of services, such as distributing Communion, opening the local church and leading prayer services, baptizing babies, witnessing

1,500,000 Fatima — (RNS) — More than 1,500,000 pilgrims visited the famous Marian shrine here last year.



Bringing The Bible to Life

Webster Groves, Mo. — (RNS) — These youngsters, members of the Webster College Experimental School, act out a scene from the Old Testament in one of the religion classes open to Catholic Protestant and Jewish children. The experimental school operated by the Catholic college, started a Campus School of Religion on a voluntary basis and 95 per cent of the students are attending the religion classes which stress learning by acting out the Old Testament. The school of religion is headed by Mrs. Dorothy Dixon of the faculty of Eden Seminary (United Church of Christ), and Sister Pacelli Micotto.

Dutch Press Praises Prelate For Frankness on Clergy

Eindhoven — (RNS) — Dutch Catholic newspapers have hailed the action of a bishop who announced the resignation of two parish priests, one of whom hopes to marry.

Bishop Bekkers told the congregation: "You will understand that my coming here must have serious reasons. . . . When I say the matter concerned causes me great worry, I also understand that it has done so for you."

Two priests from your midst have decided to leave because the priestly office had become an impossible task for them."

After describing the hard work in the parish of both priests, Bishop Bekkers said:

"It is always sad when a priest decides to resign his office."

"I ask of you that their resignations may not be the occasion for reproaches. . . . or rash judgments. . . . and certainly not for condemnation."

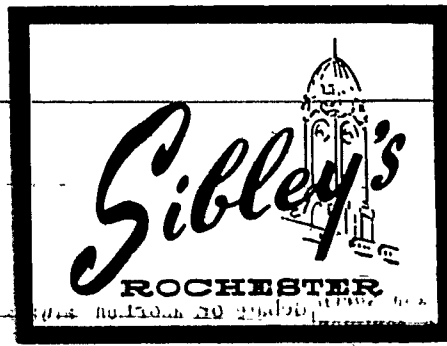
Latin to Stay in Monasteries

Vatican City — (NC) — The Holy See has issued a decree reinforcing the use of Latin in the worship of clerical religious communities on grounds of providing for "opportune uniformity."

The decree establishing laws for use of vernacular languages in the Mass and community recitation of the Divine Office was made public less than a week after publication of a similar order requiring the use of Latin in the Mass in seminaries.

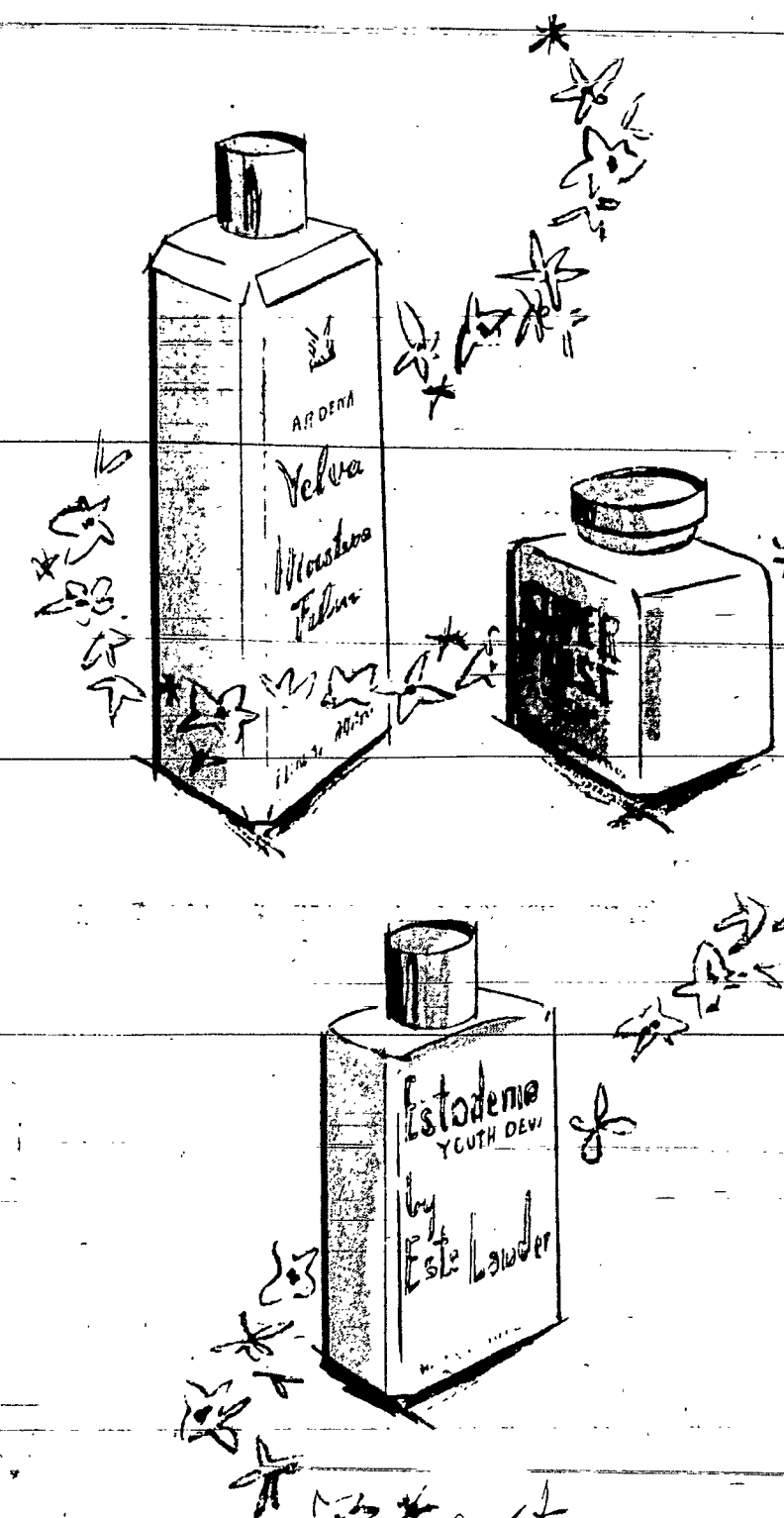
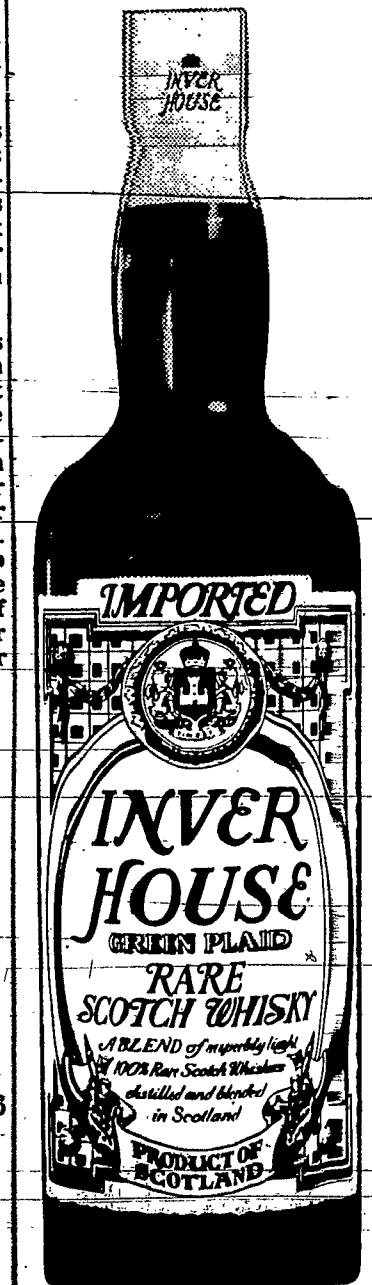
The new law for religious communities of the Western church in general provides that Latin must be used by those clerical religious bound to recitation of the Divine Office in choir. Exceptions are made for mission areas and for order priests assigned to parish work. Men Religious, not bound to community recitation of the Office, nuns, and members of lay institutes are given greater freedom in the use of their own language in worship.

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Friday, Feb. 18, 1966

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The Catholic
COURIER
Journal

Vol. 77 No. 21 Friday, February 18, 1966

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President
Published every Friday by the Rochester Catholic Press Association
MAIN OFFICE 85 Solo St. — 464-7050 — Rochester, N.Y. 14604
ELMIRA OFFICE 817 Robinson Bldg., Lake St. RE 2-5688, RE 2-3425
AUBURN OFFICE 168 E. Genesee St. AU 2-4416
Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.
Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$5.00
As required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
Canada \$5.50; Foreign Countries \$6.75