



Sixteen New Priests

Bishop Kearney holds up his hands to invoke Holy Spirit on sixteen young priests at Saturday morning ordination rite in Sacred Heart Cathedral. Monsignor Wilfred Craugh and Rev. William Hart of St. Bernard's Seminary rest their hands on heads of the new priests as

part of rite. After the ceremony, the Bishop and new priests posed for photographs in Cathedral yard. Assignments of the young priests to their first parish duties will be announced later this month.

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Vatican Continues Birth Control Study

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Special Correspondent

Rome —(RNS)— A new phase of the post-Vatican II examination of the Roman Catholic Church's position on birth control got under way here when 75 members of the papal commission on the population problem gathered for a plenary session in the Pontifical Spanish College.

Authoritative commission sources denied that any decision was necessarily imminent.

The commission, whose formal title is the Pontifical Commission for the Study of Problems of the Family, Population and Birth Control, since Easter has conducted a series of discussions by experts in all related fields—theology, medicine, philosophy, social welfare and economics. Its members include cardinals, bishops, theologians and lay and clerical specialists.

The commission met, coincidentally, in the wake of an appeal for liberalization of the Catholic Church's teaching on birth control, submitted by a group of 600 Catholic intellectuals from Europe and the Americas.

Addressed to "the Magisterium of the Church," it argued that the Church's present doctrine that partial or total abstinence from sexual relations is the only licit means for limiting offspring can no longer be justified theologically or physically.

Furthermore, the document contended, "it is becoming more and more obvious that in these matters, it is impossible to lay down or maintain moral directives which are too particularized on the technical or physical levels without provoking a major crisis of conscience and endangering the permanency and eminent dignity of the Christian message."

The commission session was scheduled to last until June 15. It was the first full session since March 7, when Pope Paul VI created a directive body of bishops headed by Alfred Cardinal Ottaviani as president, with two other Princes of the Church as vice-presidents—John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, England, and Julius Cardinal Döpfner, Archbishop of Munich, Germany.

It is anticipated that this smaller body will meet soon after the plenary sessions for the formulation of the commission's final conclusions that will be presented to the Pope. Commission sources, however, declined to commit themselves on any deadline.

It was asserted here that the program to date remains based on the norms announced at a press conference on April 28. At that time, Father Henri de Riedmatten, a Swiss Dominican who is secretary general of the

commission, said that while the commission was trying to move as rapidly as possible as the subject permitted, setting a predetermined deadline for itself would only arouse expectations which would not be realized.

The opening discussions of the commission's plenary session were conducted in secret with Cardinal Heenan presiding. On the day he arrived here from London, a pastoral letter was read in Britain's Catholic churches saying the Pope would make a pronouncement on the birth control issue soon after the conclusion of the commission meeting.

However, according to authoritative Vatican sources, the papal decision would be delayed until much later in the year, probably in September. Earlier, it had been expected to be announced on June 20.

Father de Riedmatten expressed caution regarding any early action by the Pope. It is now known authoritatively that the first session of the special 16-member episcopal body created by the Pope to examine the entire work of the general commission has been scheduled for June 22 or 23 in Rome.

This, according to Father de Riedmatten, renders a papal declaration on the birth control issue on June 29 improbable, if not impossible.



A Gift for Punctual Prelate

Bishop Kearney and Father Charles Lavery admire and get chuckle out of the gift given Bishop Casey, the punctual prelate of Paterson. St. John Fisher College gave him a watch for his coming to speak at College's graduation rite. Text of his talk is on page four.

Pope Warns Pastors

'Pietistic' Methods Alienate People

Vatican City —(RNS)— Pope Paul VI cautioned that pastoral methods that are excessively "devotional" or "pietistic" tend to drive people from religion instead of drawing them closer to their faith.

Addressing a group of members of the Cursillos de Cristiandad movement, the Pope declared:

"The overly sentimental, almost exclusively pietistic and devotional temperament of some pastoral methods has

caused a grave drop in the practice of religion by men and women, by children and adults."

Asserting that religion "with its values still contains its full power of attraction and interest for men, young and old," the pontiff said the Christian vocation "is not for the talkative and the timid, for those who are drawn to half-measures and who submit to opportunism and low compromises."

"The complete and perfect man," he continued, "the strong man sure of himself, the man capable of working and loving, is always a good student for the lessons of Christ."

Pastoral methods, the Pope said, become outdated in the ever changing world and must be renewed for more effectiveness, because the "threat of disaster hangs over humanity at this present time due to its progress."

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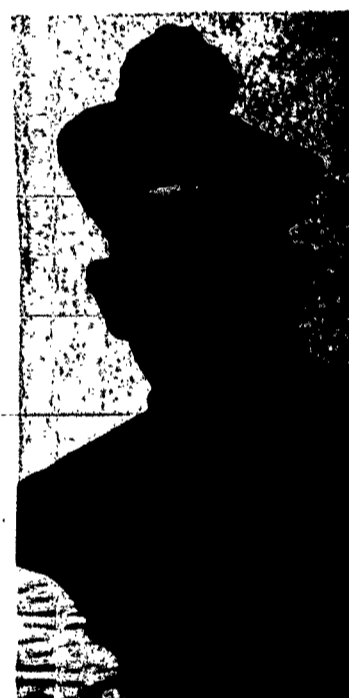
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DONALD GRAY
'rather traumatic'

"There exists," he said, "new things that undoubtedly are good and useful for man. There are, however, also changes and innovations in the modern way of life that lead to disorientation in religious life and put it in peril, leaving man in the grip of uncertainty and, at times, of anguish."

The Cursillos movement seeks the implementation of Christian principles in daily life. It was founded in 1949 at Majorca, Spain, and has spread to about 50 countries. Its leader is Benjamin Cardinal de Arriba y Castro, Archbishop of Tarragona, Spain.



A Happy Bishop

Bishop Kearney obviously delights in his June task of awarding diplomas. His schedule indicates he will preside at seventeen graduation ceremonies, give at least 2500 diplomas to high school, nursing or college graduates.

New Churches For England, Wales

London—(NC)—Nearly 1,000 Catholic churches will be built in England and Wales over the next 10 years and nearly 200 small chapels are being planned for rural areas.

At present, Catholic churches in England and Wales total about 3,500.

Clergy Need to 'Keep Pace' with Changes Called for by Council

"Priests, as all professional men, must keep pace with current developments"—in liturgy, ecumenical action and other phases of Church life, Monsignor George Cocuzzi, chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, said this week.

He made this comment in an interview about the June 20 to 23 Pastoral Workshop to be held at St. John Fisher College.

Monsignor Cocuzzi said changes in the ways of saying Mass already in effect in parish churches will produce their intended benefits best when "the spirit of the liturgy is developed by an enthusiastic exchange of ideas and methods."

The Workshop, he said, will give priests a three-day opportunity for a down-to-earth discussion on this subject.

Another topic he listed as

needing clarification is ecumenism—cooperative activities with Protestants and Jews. This subject will also be one of the Workshop's topics for study.

"Our Diocese is among the first to present such an opportunity for its priests," Monsignor Cocuzzi said. He also stated that up-dated knowledge such as will be discussed at the workshop is "a necessity" for all clergy, "not just those of any one age group."

Another spokesman for the need for an on-going instruction of the clergy is a layman, Donald P. Gray, a member of the theology department at Manhattan College. He will be one of the speakers at the Rochester Pastoral Workshop.

Following is an article he sent this week to Workshop officials explaining the need for extensive programs of information for both clergy and laity:

Most people will readily grant that education should be a continuing process of learning

which is not meant to come abruptly to an end with the conferral of a high school diploma or a college degree. However, all too often religious education does end there.

Behind such an attitude would appear to lie the supposition that religious truth is something which can be learned once and for all because religion represents simply and solely the sphere of the "eternal verities." While all the other areas of human life change at a bewilderingly rapid rate of speed, religion apparently remains unchanged amidst the general turmoil.

Those who were abreast of the theological developments since World War II were prepared for what happened, but likely the majority of Catholics were quite unprepared for the stance adopted by the Council Fathers and hence were in no real position to appreciate why such changes were felt to be necessary and even imperative at this time.

What has unfortunately occurred, it would seem, is that the people of God in many parishes have not as yet been sufficiently instructed as to the meaning of the changes. They do not really understand the rationale behind these changes and this will ultimately prove quite damaging to the whole conciliar attempt at Church renewal. It is not satisfactory just

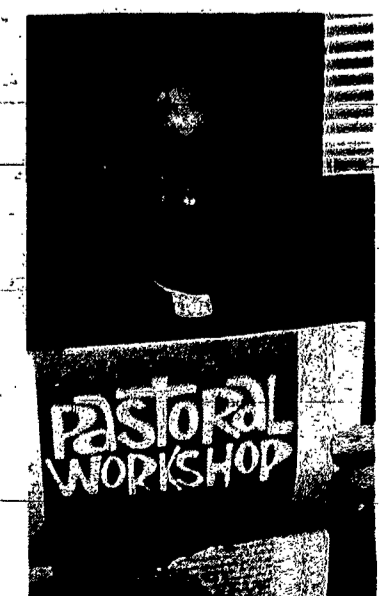
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