

IBERIA



Baptist Dentist at Mission

Dr. Gene A. Raney, a Texas Baptist dentist, has arrived in Onitsha, Eastern Nigeria, where he will serve for the next two years as a voluntary medical missionary at the St. Charles Borromeo Hospital — the first dentist to staff its dental clinic. The doctor, his wife, Margie, and their small son, Maxwell, first flew to Madrid, via Iberia Air Lines, for several days of sight-seeing in the Spanish capital before resuming their flight, landing in Onitsha on August 7th. Dr. Raney volunteered for mission work through the auspices of the Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York City.

Peru Bishops Agree Laymen to be Deacons

Lima, Peru—(RNS)—A key decision of Vatican II was translated into action here when the National Council of Bishops voted to restore the ancient order of deacon as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy in Peru.

Thirty-six of the 40 diocesan bishops and missionary prelates attending the sessions agreed that the diaconate not only would be invested with all the rights and duties it had in the early days of Christianity, but would be open to married men.

The only conditions, they stipulated, were that married deacons should have been married for at least ten years and have "consistently demonstrated exemplary conduct in the family life and in their individual occupations."

Moreover, the bishops said, the married deacons must "have reached a state of preparation which corresponds to the dignity of the sacred order "which they will receive."

During Vatican II, many prelates insisted that the restoration of the diaconate was vitally important in missionary areas or in countries as in Latin America, where there are acute clergy shortages.

Among the duties recommended by the Peruvian bishops as properly pertaining to the diaconate were the following:

1. The care of case work in the episcopal and parish office, where the deacons will exercise their office by preaching the Gospel and teaching the doctrine of the Church.
2. Serving as the "ordinary" ministers of the Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony. "Ordinary" here means that the deacons will exercise these functions with no restrictions or qualifications.
3. Acting as extraordinary ministers of the Word of God in remote areas. This means that they can offer the Mass up to the Credo (which comes after the Gospel) and preside at Christian burials.

Married Men To Be Deacons

Sao Salvador, Brazil—(NC)—Ning Brazilians have begun a 25-month training program that will end with their ordination as permanent married deacons.

The course includes training in theology, catechesis, preaching, and a practical introduction to the life of the Church. Candidates must have at least a secondary education, high moral caliber, proven emotional maturity, and elected by the people of these respective communities.

Only married men will be accepted for the diaconate in this program. Unmarried men who apply will be recommended for the priesthood.

Mexican Folk Mass OK'd

Cuernavaca—(NC)—Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo of Cuernavaca has given permission for sung Masses to be celebrated with contemporary Latin American music.

The permission came after the bishop himself celebrated Mass in his cathedral using the new musical setting. Drawn from various Latin American traditions, the music contains elements of Mexican, Brazilian, and Chilean folk rhythms.

John Leclerc, a French Canadian, wove the music into the Mass texts and orchestrated the final ceremony. Leclerc also used modern Latin American concert music that included portions of the Mass ordinary.

Despite mixed critical reactions, churches that have used the Mass report good pastoral results. Attendance at Mass is higher, participation much greater, and more people receive the Eucharist.



Episcopal Bishop Visits Pope Paul

Castel Gandolfo, Italy—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI receives Episcopal Bishop Walter M. Higley of Central New York and his wife at an audience in Castel Gandolfo, papal summer residence outside Rome. Bishop Higley's diocesan headquarters are in Syracuse, N.Y.

Pope Tells Pilgrims

Church in Need Of God's Mercy

Castel Gandolfo—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI admonished Catholics never to let the human faults or shortcomings of the Church weaken or diminish their love for it.

The pontiff spoke on the concept of the Church's humility during his midweek general audience at the papal summer residence here.

He began by saying that "when recalling how easy it would be for a casual visitor or a hurrying tourist to take a superficial view of the ecclesiastical world and its mission, a doubt arises in our minds concerning the good of edifying impression some of these visitors might be left with at these papal audiences, their only glimpse of the Church's center."

Pope Paul said the Church, in humility, "knows her own limits, failings, need of the mercy of God and the pardon of men. The Church Penitent does not hide her own shortcomings, but deplors them, invoking at the same time the divine pity, trusting all the more humbly in salvation."

"The Church is humble," the Pope continued, "not only in the ranks of the people, but also, above all, in the highest ranks of the hierarchy working for the services and edification of souls. The highest office of all is that of the Pope, who calls himself the servant of God and feels more than any the disproportion between the missionary mandate of Christ and his own weakness and unworthiness."

Pope Paul went on to speak of the "singular and marvelous fact of the Church's unfailing holiness and of Christ's confidence in her even when churchmen themselves are personally lacking."

"The Church's Peter," he said, "enjoys assistance from Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit that does not permit the forces of evil to prevail. Nor does the entire Church cease to be loved by Christ, even in the gravest moments of her human frailty. She ever possesses in the exercise of her pastoral function an instrumental sanctity capable of generating holiness and salvation."

The Pope concluded by giving Catholics a double admonition — to know the Church and know her better. This meant, he said, "not being content with superficial, external impressions of her human countenance, but knowing her in the truth, richness and depth of her many-sidedness, in the mystery, human and divine, of her inward being, in the holiness and need for her saving mission."

Laymen Preach

Mexico City—(NC)—Married couples mounted the steps of Mexico City pulpits to add their pleas to their archbishop's request for more priests.

The move was prompted by the desperate situation facing the archdiocese of Mexico City. The largest diocese in the world, it needs 5,400 more priests to bring its ratio of priests to people up to the minimum of one to 1,000 recommended by the Vatican. It now

Funeral Rites to be Revised

St. Louis—(RNS)—Experimentation in rites for adult funeral services will be undertaken in the St. Louis archdiocese under provisions established by the post-conciliar commission charged with implementation of the Constitution on the Liturgy.

The St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper, reported that the experimental rites will be put into practice in selected parishes here when details of the plan can be worked out by the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission.

The Review reported that it had learned that this experimentation will also be carried out in the Atlanta archdiocese.

THE READING or singing of the sequence "Dies Irae," for example, will become optional. In a funeral Mass, first and second Scripture readings may

be taken for a specific person, such as a deceased bishop or priest or lay person.

The ceremony immediately following the funeral Mass is not called "absolution," but rather it is termed "commendation and farewell."

The various prayers do not include the "Liberate me" which emphasizes the "dread day" of

death and speaks of trembling, fear and wrath.

Instead, the prayers present a Biblical view of death, a fulfillment of the great paschal mystery of Christ's own death and new life.

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All Holy Days

Bonn, Germany—(NC)—Deputies of the Bavarian Christian Social Union party (CSU) have proposed that Catholic holy days falling on weekdays be observed on the following Saturday and that those Saturdays would then be recognized by the state governments as a federal legal holiday and be protected by federal law. This action, they said, would help bring uniformity to the country's calendar of feasts.

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