

## Age-Old Terms Still Needed

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul told pilgrims here that the "supernatural character of the truth requires respect for the terminology in which it was announced."

This rule is "reaffirmed today," he said, amid "our well-meant if not always successful attempts to express the new theology conforming to the mentality of today."

Addressing his weekly general audience, the Pope discussed his recent visit to Turkey and the early ecumenical councils which had taken place in the Middle East: Nicaea, 321, A.D.; Constantinople, 431 A.D., and Chalcedon, 451 A.D.

"These were not the only ecumenical councils that were held in the East," he said, "but they are the most worthy of reverence. They gave to the Church, after the first centuries of a persecuted and almost clandestine life, the recognition of its constitutional structure; they established authoritatively the fundamental teachings of our Faith on the Holy Trinity, on Jesus Christ, on the Madonna and in this way they gave Christianity its basic dogma."

"The definitions worked out by the councils must remain unchangeable in content and in the formulae that express it," he said.

These councils, he said "offered religious language its first unequivocal and unchangeable ex-

pressions." He cited them, together with Scriptures, as an "undisputed and supreme authority" of the "indisputable and authoritative teaching" of the Church.

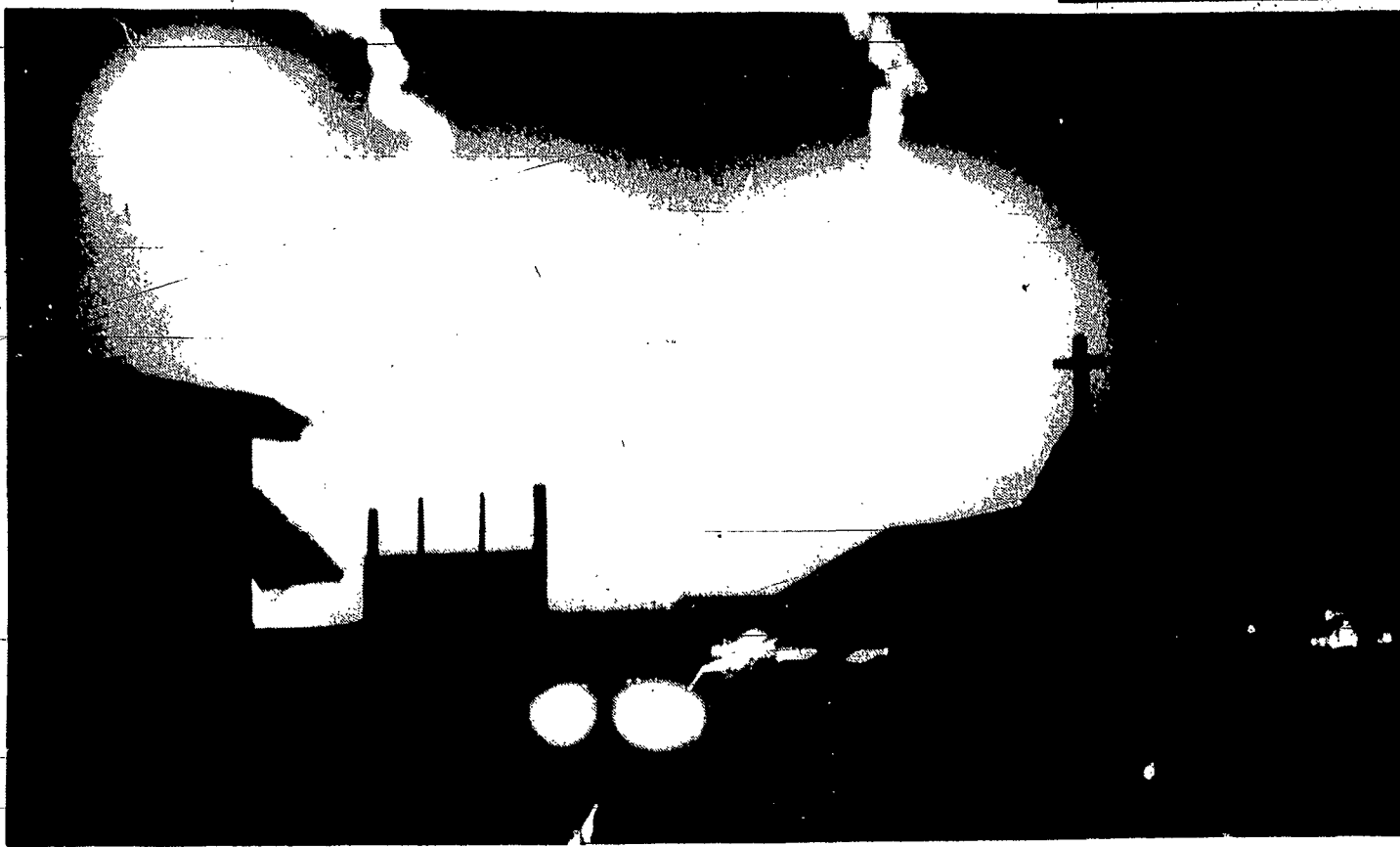
The Pope noted that believers are expected to "Ponder the truth revealed" and to "progress toward the formation of a theology that can be called scientific."

"But equally necessary," he said, "is the recognition of the supernatural character of the truth, which does not permit of re-formulation but requires a text that respects the terminology in which it was announced."

"The East sets us an example of loyalty to the inherited doctrine," Pope Paul said, "and reminds us of the rules, which is also our own and often reaffirmed today in our well-meant if not always successful attempts to express the new theology conforming to the mentality of today — the rule of the First Vatican Council which hopes for progress in the intelligence, science and wisdom of Church doctrine as long as it remains true to itself."

He said that his journey to Turkey was intended "to make clear the fact that the faith of the Councils is still ours."

Such an affirmation, he said, should form a solid base for studies leading to Christian reunion.



**GI's Chapel In War Zone**

Dong Ha, So. Vietnam — (RNS) — A Marine chapel is silhouetted in the night as flares provide light for helicopter operations in Vietnam. The chapel is part of the Marine Aircraft Group-16 complex at Dong Ha.

## Dutch Catechism Under Scrutiny

Vatican City — (RNS) — According to unconfirmed reports circulated here, a new commission of six cardinals has been appointed by Pope Paul VI to study the "Dutch Catechism," scheduled for distribution this Fall in Italian, English, German, French, Spanish and Portuguese editions.

The reports said that the publication of these editions would be either blocked entirely or postponed until the new commission has passed judgment on the book.

(In New York, a representative of the book's American publisher, Herder and Herder, vice-president Werner M. Linz, branded the reports as "a cock-and-bull story." He said that the book would be published on schedule, that it already had an imprimatur and that it had already been approved by a papal commission.)

The existence of the new commission has not been confirmed by official Vatican sources. According to unofficial reports here, however, members of the Roman Curia have "encountered" in some 200 pages 13 serious affirmations contrary to the Faith and 48 minor errors."

According to the same reports, the German edition is ready in print with the imprimatur of the Bishop of Freiburg.

The reports say that the cate-

## Majority Reported Favor Rite Changes

Munich — (NC) — The overwhelming majority of the faithful throughout the world has accepted the liturgical reforms decreed by the Second Vatican Council, a German moral theologian said here in an article reporting on international "traditionalist" activities.

Jesuit Father Hans Bernhard Meyer, in an article in the Jesuit monthly, Stimmen der Zeit, said traditionalists represent a very small minority in the Church. He declared that only those unfamiliar with liturgical history and unconcerned about the needs of the Church as a whole oppose revisions in matters of form.

Father Meyer added that it is "in keeping with God's will that the Church, too, submit to change" and that "if this involves breaks and crises they should be recognized as opportunities for the Church to become more spotless."

chism was the subject of secret discussions between three Vatican reports, a message forbidding the publication of the translations has been sent to the publishing house at its headquarters in can representatives and three Dutch theologians at a small town near Varese on the Swiss Italian border.

Among the subjects which the Vatican representatives reportedly found not affirmed with sufficient firmness or in sufficiently traditional terms were: the virginity of Mary, original sin, the nature of angels and the doctrine of transubstantiation.

The reports say that the subject of the catechism will be considered by the Synod of Bishops which opens in Rome at the end of September.

(Other reports, originating in France, said that Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, are among the six cardinals of the papal commission.)

(The French sources say that the Synod will be the scene of a showdown between conservative and liberal bishops, with the catechism's contents used as "ammunition" by conservatives under point one on the Synod's agenda. The first point of discussion at the Synod is scheduled to be "dangers which the Faith encounters from an exaggeration of human and worldly values.")

## 'Grave' Book Stays on Sale

Utrecht — (RNS) — Ambo Books, publishers of a controversial and best-selling theological book, have refused to stop distribution of the volume, despite a request from its author, Father Robert Adolfs.

The Grave of the Church is now in its third edition and has just been published in England. Father Adolfs, the prior of the Augustinian abbey at Eindhoven, said he had requested withdrawal of the book from circulation on the orders of his religious superiors in Rome.

His book warns that the Roman Catholic Church will "dig her own grave" if she remains "an out-dated power structure." It presents this as the view of "many people, in particular young people who are already looking ahead to the 21st Century."

A spokesman for Ambo Books said they refused to stop distribution of the book because "we live in a free country and have nothing to do with what someone in Rome thinks."

"Our people are asking for the book," he said.

Father Adolfs said that he considers the situation "a matter of bad communication between Rome and the Netherlands," because people in the two places "talk on different wavelengths."

Some weeks ago, he said, his superiors in Rome sent him a list of ten questions on doctrinal matters related to the book, with a warning that, if he did not answer the questions, he might be forbidden to write any more. He said that he had sent a letter back to Rome declaring that he is faithful to the Church's doctrine and the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

## Meeting Held

Lisbon — (NC) — Lisbon's Goncalves Cardinal Cerejeira, acting as papal legate, opened the first session of the 5th International Mariological Congress at the University of Lisbon.

The Lisbon meeting, which itself drew messages of greeting from leading Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox authorities, was a prelude to the 12th International Marian Congress at Fatima, scheduled to run from Aug. 9 to 13.

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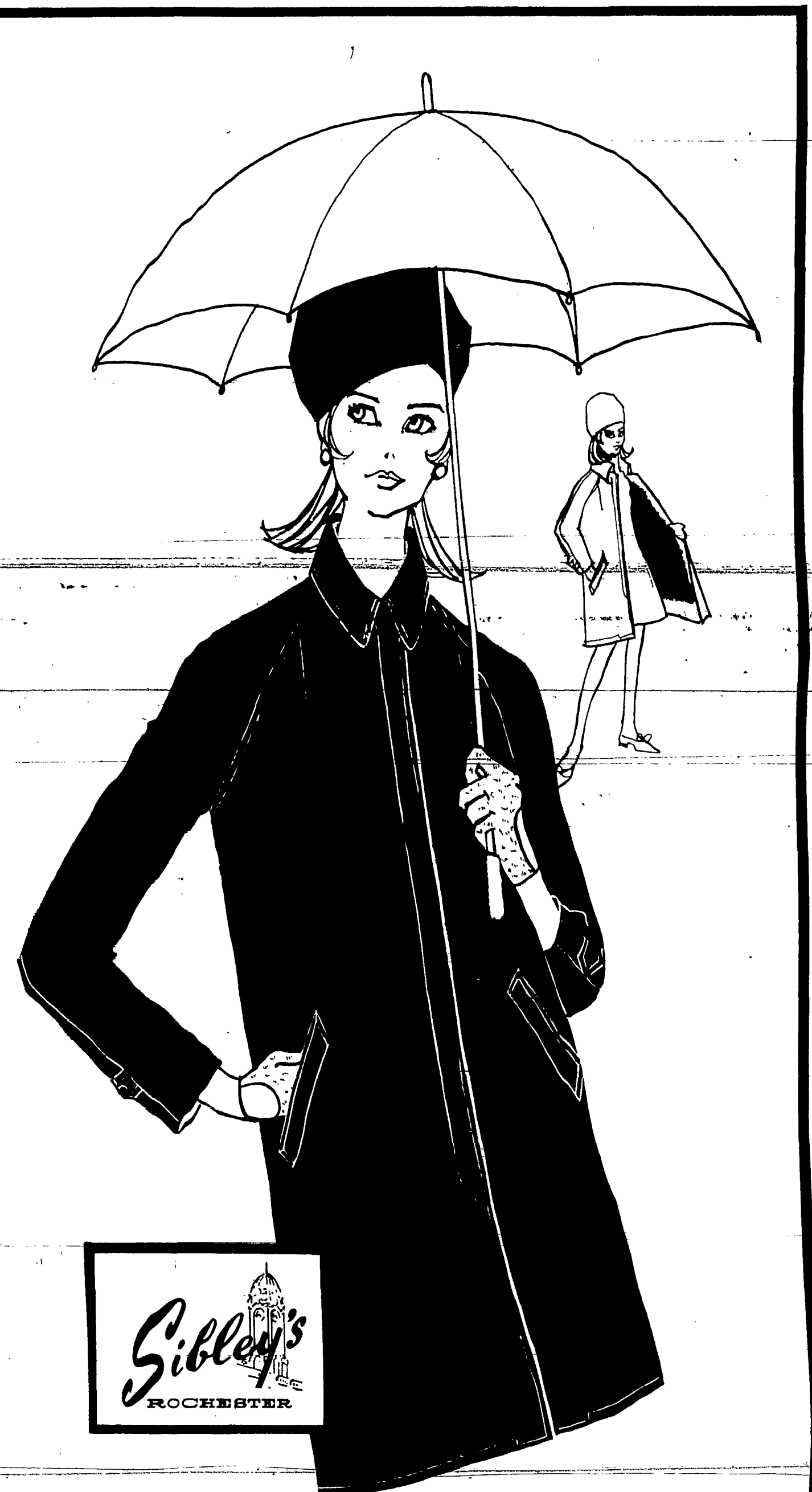
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