

Papal Gems For Auction

United Nations — (RNS) — A diamond cross and ring given by Pope Paul VI to the United Nations to help fight world poverty went on public display here in the lobby of the General Assembly building.

Several thousand visitors to the U.N. headquarters admired the gems before they will go on public display at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, in New York City, where they will be auctioned to the highest bidder on Nov. 1st.

Pope Paul sent the diamond-studded cross and ring to Secretary General U Thant last year in appreciation for the U.N. hospitality the Pontiff received during his visit here on Oct. 4, 1965. He offered the gifts as a demonstration of his esteem for the United Nations.

As a result, U Thant has decided that the proceeds from the sale will be distributed in equal parts to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; and the Freedom from Hunger Campaign of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).



Sacred Heart Family of Year

Kansas City, Mo. — (RNS) — The "Sacred Heart Family of 1967" meets the Apostolic Delegate to the U.S. and the diocesan bishop, Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, third from left in back row, and Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of Kansas City-St. Joseph, fifth from left in same row, are shown as they congratulated the George Kopp, Jr., family. The Koppes were honored as family of the year by the National Sacred Heart Congress. They attend Visitation parish in Kansas City.

'Guests' Keep 'Ground Rules'

By HAROLD SCHACHERN
Special Correspondent

Vatican City — (RNS) — "We Americans will stick to the ground rules of the Synod," Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh said here.

The bishop's statement, at a press conference in the Vatican Press office, indicated that, despite requests to the contrary, the American bishops (including Bishop Sheen of Rochester) will not introduce such controversial topics as birth control and clerical celibacy to the agenda of the Synod.

"We are guests here and will continue to act like guests," Bishop Wright said.

The "ground rules" limit discussion to items on a pre-arranged agenda which was sent to the bishops, but there has been continued speculation that birth control and other topics would be introduced from the floor.

Bishop Wright also defended such Synod rules as those requiring secrecy and the exclusion of "penit" (theological advisers, such as were admitted to the Second Vatican Council) from Synod sessions.

His remarks came after the bishops of the Synod had begun preliminary discussions on the reform of seminaries to help combat the drop in priestly vocations.

In the voting for an eight-man commission to synthesize and interpret the bishops' recent discussion on doctrinal matters, no bishop in the first

ballot received the required simple majority of the members voting. A second ballot will be taken with the top eight voters being elected.

Detroit's Archbishop John F. Dearden is mentioned as the American most likely to be named.

Archbishop Denis Hurley of Durban, in one of the opening addresses on seminaries, said applicants for the priesthood should go through two stages of education.

In the first, he said, they should emphasize liturgy, literature and philosophy, besides an "introduction to the mystery of Christ," and that during this period they should engage in group study with future deacons, laity and nuns. They should then receive a year of internship in a parish, following which they would enter their second stage of theological and philosophical study.

Bishop Wright, in his discussion with newsmen, defended the secrecy of the Synod, stating that bishops, with serious crises of belief facing them, "have the right now and then to sit down and discuss them in private."

He also defended the exclusion of theologians from the sessions, maintaining that the Synod's primary functions were to discover "what we can offer the supreme shepherd in the way of advice and to determine what we, the bishops, need from the theologians."

"In defense of several of the bishops," he said, "I must say there are some theologians in

the Synod. A couple got in by mistake, but they are there."

He said the bishops in their Synod speeches have been painting the theological portrait of the Synod with a very large brush.

"There is a consensus among 90 per cent of the bishops on two points," he said, "but these two points are very broad.

"The more detailed work must be done by this special commission we are in the act of electing, and from it must come the depth, development and possible approaches to solutions."

"The Church has solved problems such as those facing us in the past, and we shall do so

again with the help of God, for God is not dead."

Bishop Wright said a hallmark of the Synod is a "sober concern" for the Church and its peoples, but that "nobody is pushing the panic button."

"It is on these specific questions—what are the points calling for most concern, what are the reasons for confidence, what are the particular remedies for the precise problems afflicting the Church—that the special commission must work."

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CONSTITUTIONAL COMMENT

By Dr. Francis P. Kilcoyne
President, Brooklyn College

One gets the definite impression that much of the adverse comment about the proposed New York State Constitution is based on misinformation or lack of information. This is unfortunate to many governmental experts because they see the new Constitution on balance as a significant and progressive social document that deserves the support and "yes" vote of every citizen going to the polls on November 7. And there is general agreement that the proposed charter represents a vast improvement over the existing charter that has been showing its age the past twenty years or more.

Actually, the new Constitution can rightly be called "a bill of rights for the poor" because it seeks — in a forward-looking way — to reach out and meet the needs of the poor and the disadvantaged of the State. In tune with the times, it specifically shows the way for the Empire State to solve many of its serious problems in the areas of human rights, housing and urban development, and health and welfare.

Running through the new Constitution like a musical theme is the principle of cooperation between the State and private agencies. This is expected to open a new era of social progress in New York State.

The delegates to the summer-long Constitutional Convention did a particularly masterful job in framing the provisions relating to schools and colleges. The new education article provides for the continuing cooperation of public and non-public education under the Board of Regents to meet the State's educational needs, while preserving and guaranteeing the traditional separation of Church and State through the federal First Amendment. It will allow — and encourage — the future development of our non-public schools, side by side with the State's public schools.

This partnership, the hallmark of New York's educational system from its very

beginnings, can be rightly credited with bringing our State to the forefront in scholastic achievement. Through it, provisions have been made for the needs of all of our children, regardless of race, creed, or color.

Built into the educational provisions of the proposed Constitution are many other sound reasons for voting for the new Charter on Election Day. Most important, perhaps, is the new State aid formula for public schools that is designed to get aid into areas that need it most — chiefly the cities. In addition, the assumption of the cost of welfare and Medicaid to the State level will free local funds for the educational needs of hard-pressed public school systems.

It should be noted that the elimination of Article XI, Section 3 (the so-called Blaine Amendment) actually will help the public schools, in the long run. The new Constitution will make it possible for non-public school children to receive partial State aid, thus helping keep these youngsters from being forced to transfer to public schools at full State expense. It is self-evident that neither the public school system by itself nor the non-public schools as a group can separately carry the educational burden of pre-college pupils. Both systems are essential in this area of public welfare.

There are similar broad, but firm, provisions in the new document that have been designed to make it an effective working Constitution for the legislature. On balance, the proposed Constitution will help breathe life into many branches of our government — for the benefit of all citizens, no matter what their income bracket or place of residence.

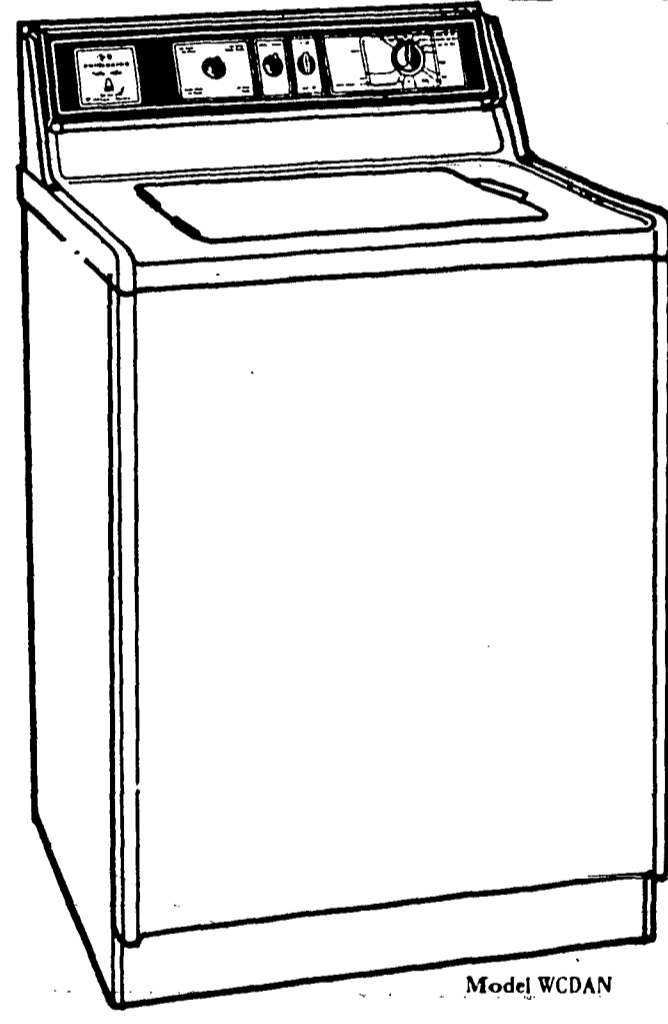
To socially-aware, socially-concerned New Yorkers, the new Constitution is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. It contains many modern-day answers to modern-day problems. And it points the way to many more.



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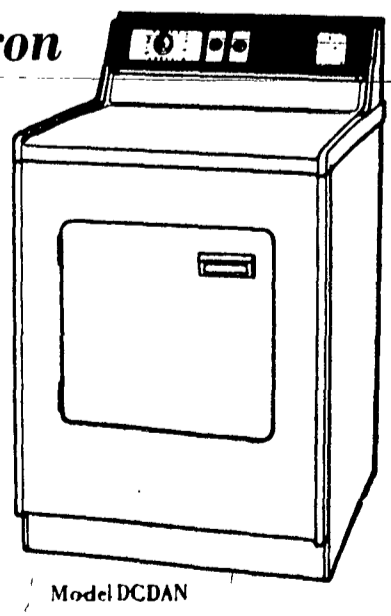
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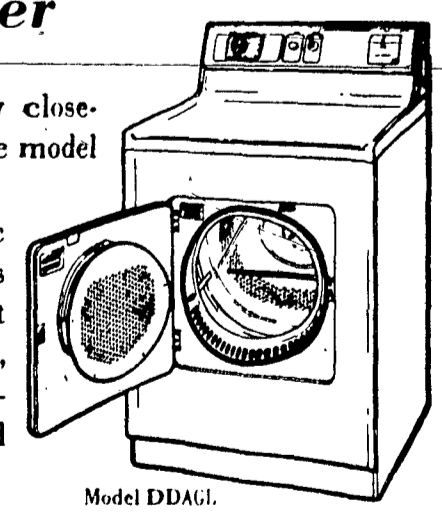
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