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# The Proposed New State Constitution To Preserve and Perfect Our Heritage

American Catholics are just about unanimously agreed that their Church should stay out of politics.

But that doesn't mean that Catholics can ignore their duties as citizens.

We are now at an important moment in the history of our State and as citizens we have a serious responsibility — not to gain some sectarian advantage but to decide what's best for the State and for all the children in all the schools of our State.

Voters this coming Tuesday, November 7th, will decide yes or no whether New York State is to have a new constitution.

The men we elected to the highest offices in our State—Governor Rockefeller, a Republican, and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a Democrat—have told us it's a good constitution, better than the one we have, and they advise us to vote yes for it.

Typical of other bi-partisan support for the new constitution is a similar recommendation from Monroe County Manager Gordon Howe, a Republican, and Rochester Mayor Frank Lamb, a Democrat, to vote yes for the new constitution.

Last autumn we elected the men we thought best qualified to write a new constitution for our State so it can cope with the challenges and the problems of the final decades of this twentieth century. These men spent long hours forging a constitution for the future and they presented it to us with their overwhelming approval.

All these are reputable men. I have confidence in their competence.

Other men, however, with their own

special interests, have tried to scare us with their predictions of all kinds of dire consequences if the new constitution is approved. These people have a right to their opinions, of course, but it would be a great pity if their advice to hang on to an out-moded system were to prevail.

Each generation has to take another step forward.

Voters a generation ago brought us up to our present position—and we are grateful for the heritage that is now ours in this Empire State.

The children of today now look to us to see if we will keep pace with the opportunities ahead of us — to see if we will preserve and perfect the heritage given us.

This issue of the Courier has numerous items to help you inform yourself on this important subject. There is a summary of the new constitution in graphic outline form on page four. There is a special tabloid section you can slip out for separate, easy reading. Turn to page 12 and you'll see it there on the facing page.

I myself have tried to keep an open mind on the subject. I have listened to those who are against the constitution and I have read all I could on both sides of the question. I have also prayed that God would guide me in coming to a decision.

After all is said and read, I think the basic question is quite simply this — "What's best for the future of our State and for fairness for all the children of our State?" I have decided that I'll answer that question by voting yes for the new constitution.

—Father Henry A. Atwell



**Our American Declaration of Independence says, 'All men are created equal.' That includes children too. Isn't it time we erased once and for all the remnants of an era which gave advantages to some children but not to others?**

## The Catholic **COURIER** Journal

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### Sermons This Sunday On New Constitution

Sermons in churches of the Rochester Diocese this Sunday will be about the proposed new state constitution.

Monsignor Dennis W. Hickey, Bishop Sheen's Vicar General, said in a letter to pastors that "most of our people are awaiting clarification of the issues from their responsible leaders."

He said many of the Protestant Churches "have already been active in this field" and he provided the pastors a suggested sermon to help the people see "the whole problem and the significance of the new constitution."

Monsignor Hickey emphasized in his letter, "We cannot tell our people how to vote. We have an obligation, however, to aid them in coming to a decision by explanation, motivation and prayer."

### 'We Wish to Seek To Restore Lost Unity'

Geneva — (RNS) — The president of the Lutheran World Federation announced here the receipt of a letter expressing the "heartiest greetings" of a Vatican leader on the LWF's combined observance of its 20th anniversary and the 450th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

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Dr. Frederick A. Schlotz, also president of the American Lutheran Church, released the text of the letter from Augustin Cardinal Bea, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity.

The letter made specific reference to events scheduled for Lund, Sweden, at the end of October. The Lutheran World Federation is marking both anniversaries there since the LWF was formed in Lund in 1947.

"With all of you, we deeply regret that 450 years ago the unity of Western Christianity was broken," Cardinal Bea said to those who will be gathered at Lund. "We do not wish to blame each other for this terrible schism; rather, together we wish to seek ways of restoring the lost unity."

He called attention to the "new fellowship" among Lutherans and Roman Catholics which has developed through Lutheran representation at the Second Vatican Council and as a result of Lutheran-Catholic theological discussions.

A third session of a joint study commission is set for late November in Zurich, Switzerland. Cardinal Bea said Catholics "welcome very much" the continuation of the dialogues.

"We are firmly convinced that in this way the most important of the questions which have stood between us since the days of the Reformation are being considered," the letter stated.

### Bishop Sheen, Just Back from Rome

## 'My First Thought -- Thankfulness'

My dear People of God,

I have just arrived from Rome and my first thought on returning to the diocese is thankfulness. I asked you, before I left, to be kind to my first and deepest love — the Missionary Church in the poor areas of the world. And were you generous! Our Mission collection, up to this point, has exceeded by 46 per cent the collection of last year!

At a time when some are losing their faith, you were concerning yourselves with giving it to others; at a time when some would use their money for themselves, you opened your hands to Africa, Asia and the poor of the world.

As Our Lord has been called "The Man for Others," you may properly be called "The People for Others."

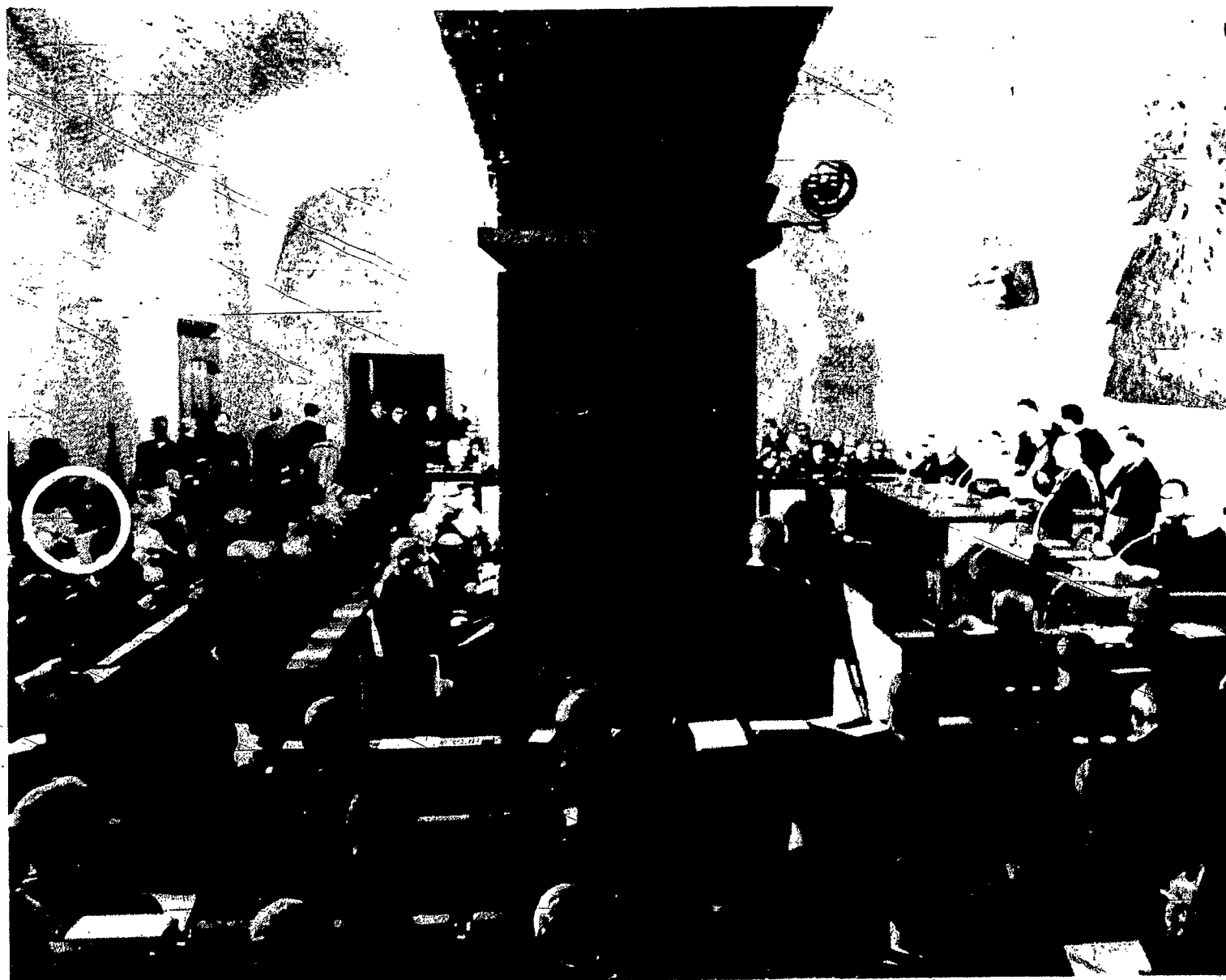
What rejoices my soul is not just HOW MUCH you gave, but WHY you gave. You gave because you loved the Poor Church in other lands. As St. Vincent de Paul wrote: "You must love the poor very much or they will hate you for giving them bread."

I am so proud of you! God will bless the diocese and our priests because of your open-handed thoughtfulness.

I love you dearly in the Compassionate Heart of Christ.

Your servant,

✠ FULTON J. SHEEN  
Bishop of Rochester



Bishop Sheen brought this picture from Rome to show you he tended to business. We circled him in his place at the left of the photo. Close to 200 bishops met each day during October for the first session of the new Synod of Bishops, a continuation of the 1962 to 1965 Vatican Council.

### Bishop Sheen Home from Eternal City

Bishop Sheen arrived home from Rome Monday.

He looked tired from his month-long meeting with 182 other bishops from around the world.

Pope Paul organized the Synod of Bishops to continue the work of the Vatican Council which ended two years ago.

The October Synod recommended that the Pope set up an advisory board of theologians from many different countries to keep tabs on doctrinal developments while leaving room for free discussion of different opinions.

The bishops also voted in favor of a new ceremony for the Mass that will pretty much simplify and standardize the Mass once and for all.

Other topics at the Synod included a more up-to-date course of study in seminaries and a less complicated canon law.

### Peace Work 'Inseparable' For Church

Bishop Sheen was one of five bishops who wrote a statement on peace for the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

All the other 177 bishops endorsed it as expressing their thoughts too.

"The bishops said working for peace is an inseparable part of the Church's task in the present strife-torn world.

"This is why we insistently ask all Christians to be workers for peace," the bishops said, "for if it is man who makes war it is still man who makes peace."

"The most powerful nations are also the ones most responsible for peace."

Today, the statement said, "it is a fact that, if the world is becoming ever more aware of the interdependence of all peoples, it remains nonetheless torn by contradictions, by conflicts and in some places even by war."

"Is what we behold with our own eyes meant to prepare for a new war?"

"We implore the heads of nations to recognize the fact that men are brothers because they have the same Father," the statement said. "The divine law of love of neighbor applies more than ever before to nations in their dealings with one another. Peace has always been the fruit of justice and love. It is a duty of everyone to spread justice and love so that peace may flourish among men."