

# Nuns Updating Upsets L.A. Diocese

Courier-Journal News Summary

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who started on the road to renewal last month with a major modernization program, seem to be at odds with Cardinal James F. McIntyre, 81-year-old archbishop of Los Angeles.

And if the dispute is not settled soon, nearly 200 Immaculate Heart nuns will be finished as teachers in the Los Angeles Catholic schools at the end of the school year.

The dispute concerns the Cardinal's objections to two aspects of the nuns' renewal — conditions the Sisters want stipulated at the schools in which they teach and regulations governing the way they live.

The new educational reforms the sisters are calling for include the reduction of class size to 35 or 40 pupils, conditions enabling the principal to spend all her time in administration, enough funds to hire a lay and clerical staff and an annual written contract.

The decree also called for more training for the nun teachers. Consequently, it would be necessary for some of the order's nuns to stop teaching and return to college to obtain degrees.

Sister Anita Sasparly, head of the Immaculate Heart nuns, said that 43 of the nuns teaching in the archdiocese do not have degrees. Nearly all are in elementary schools.

The modernization decrees call for permission to wear street clothes, dropping of religious names for baptismal

names and wide latitude by each local convent in setting up its own form of government.

Cardinal McIntyre has interpreted the educational reforms as an indication that the Sisters wish to leave the schools where they are teaching, but this has been denied by Sister Anita.

The report said that the cardinal saw the reform decree as an "ultimatum" not acceptable to the archdiocese, and that he had no choice but to accept the nuns' threat to withdraw from the archdiocesan schools.

Sister Anita said that the "key issue" in the dispute "is our initiation of experimentation with a new mode of religious life as authorized by the di-

rectives of Pope Paul VI after Vatican II."

She reaffirmed the order's commitment to education and said that it had been this dedication that made the Sisters upgrade the quality of its teachers.

Since the alteration has developed it has been discussed at length in the news media. Cardinal McIntyre has called it "unfortunate" that negotiations between him and the Immaculate Heart Sisters of California have "become a topic of public discussion."

In a public statement issued in Los Angeles, Nov. 16, the archbishop of Los Angeles said, "The nature and structure of

has profound roots in canon law, as well as dogmatic, pastoral and eschatological theology. It is questionable whether such a subject can be competently discussed in the public forum—resolved by some form of popular vote.

"It is unfortunate that this subject has become a topic of public discussion, since it concerns a matter which intimately affects the private spiritual life of so many devoted religious. In all fairness to them, the exploration of the subject may best be left to the Sacred Congregation of Religious which has jurisdiction in such matters. The final decision on future steps to be taken by the Immaculate Heart Sisters resides with the Sisters themselves."

The nature and structure of

## Ecumenism In Buffalo

Buffalo — (RNS) — An Episcopal Bishop, for the first time in the United States, will be consecrated in a Roman Catholic church here.

Episcopal Bishop Coadjutor Harold B. Robinson of Western New York will be elevated to the episcopacy in a ceremony at St. Joseph's Cathedral here in January at a date still to be determined.

Bishop Lauriston L. Seafie, head of the Episcopal diocese, said that Catholic Bishop James A. McNulty of Buffalo offered the use of the cathedral so that a larger audience could attend.

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Sister Corita In Very New Look

Boston — (RNS) — Sister Mary Corita, teacher at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles, appeared at an "Evening with God—A Peace of Bread" program in Boston wearing a dress of printed material. The order in which the noted artist belongs, the Immaculate Heart Sisters, recently adopted a habit style which permits the members to whom it is suitable to their work. Sister Corita is noted for her serigraph prints which celebrate the commonplace in life.

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