

# European Bishops Prepare for Synod

(Continued from Page 1)  
 themselves, that has been set as the topic of that assembly.  
 In attempting to size up the causes both for the losses of priests already ordained and for the increasing number of departures before ordination from seminaries all over the world, inquiries indicated that it is more the uncertainty about the priest's position and function, the permanency of his vocation, than celibacy or any other single issue that seems to be the main problem.

As Marc Orsolin has suggested, the problem of celibacy is merely a symptom of the real problem.

What is the nature of the Christian priesthood in today's world?

The Roman view concentrates apparently on celibacy. It was defended by Cardinal Pericle Felici in L'Osservatore Romano in January this year. Claiming that the Pope's Encyclical Sacrosancti Caelibatus and recent utterances such as the letter from Cardinal Coggiani which was sent earlier this year to all the bishops urging them to reaffirm the celibacy law are an authentic interpretation of Vatican II's decree on the priesthood, the cardinal maintained that celibacy: (1) is a sign and stimulant of priestly charity and spirituality; (2) is a means of direct attachment to Christ; (3) is a testimony of the mysterious (nuptial) union between Christ and the Church; and (4) is a lived preaching of spirituality.

To this approach, the new generation has reacted sharply. Now that

the Council has recognized faith and baptism as the means of entrance to the Church, and the Church as Christ made actual in the world through the faithful as the people of God, they see no reason for claiming for the priest a privileged function either in the order of spirituality as such, or of testimony.

The priest has a service to perform in preaching the Word, in conducting the sacraments with and for the faithful. As for a special type of charity or interior spirituality, they feel the laity frequently outdoes even the best of priests, since lay persons have so much more to suffer and worry about; and they fear that much of the spirituality specially cultivated in the Roman concept of the priesthood is a self-induced creation that results in unapproachability.

It is thus that the question of the priest's status in contemporary society has arisen, causing many priests to suffer what is tritely referred to as an identity crisis. It is thus that the identification of the law of celibacy with the nature of the priesthood has been challenged.

And it is thus that the difficulty this creates in dealing with the problem of an increasingly greater need for priests has been recognized, for it could be solved by the introduction of a married clergy in the Western Church. With the ages-old tradition of the Oriental Churches giving witness to the validity of a married clergy, the Roman insistence on universal celibacy seems to many unneeded and unnecessary.

In the last two years, small groups of priests have gradually been forming in all these Western European nations determined to confront the problems facing the priesthood head-on, honestly and effectively. In Holland, which has proved to be the leader in so many other matters facing the post-conciliar Church, a loose but tough organization, led by some highly respected pastors and parish priests, known as "Septuagint," after their bulletin, want consideration and action now. They have excellent relations with their bishops and expect Cardinal Alfrink to force both the conference at Coire and the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October to take a revolutionary look at the priesthood.

Actually the priesthood is not on the agenda of the Synod, which is to deal with the relations between the episcopal conference and the pope, as well as between the episcopal conferences themselves. But these priests feel that the priesthood is a fundamental problem that must be taken into consideration in such relations.

Developments in the Church in Europe within the next month can easily prove to be a crucial factor in determining the fate of the priest in tomorrow's world. With the priests in the United States manifesting a similar discontent and concern, the meeting at Coire should give an indication at least of the direction in which they must move if they are to take a realistic part in determining their own future.

(From THE TABLET, 6/28/69)

## Priests Back Peruvian Land Law

Lima, Peru — (NC) — The Peruvian government's agrarian reform law has received the support of the National Office for Social Information (ONIS), which is staffed by 40 priests seeking social improvement and development.

In a four-page statement, ONIS fully supported the expropriation of land to be used in agrarian reform programs, declaring that "the grave situation of injustice to large segments of the Peruvian people" gives the government "ethical justification for extreme measures in the present legislation, even confiscation of possessions and rights in the acquisition of property."

Among other things, the new legislation places all sugar cane plantations and sugar mills under governmental control.

The ONIS statement said that an agrarian reform must not seek "only an increase in production and a better exploitation of resources." Such reform, the statement added, would be inadequate without "the participation of the Peruvian farmers (campesinos) with equal status regarding rights and obligations to the life of the national community." Farmers, the statement said, "as authentic elements in the reform, must be mobilized in an orderly way."

Last September, the ONIS priests urged moral pressure "for a total revision of (Peru's) oil policies and the rescue of (the country's) northern oil deposits, according to the just interests of the country."

## 5 Parishes Form Own School Board

Seattle — (RNS) — Five Catholic parishes in the inner city here will form a central area school board, consisting predominantly of laymen, to consolidate and operate five elementary and two secondary schools.

Father Patrick S. Clark, archdiocesan superintendent of schools, said the area school board would consist of two laymen from each of the parishes, the five pastors, and two representatives of the high schools. The formation of the board was the first recommendation made by the Catholic Central Schools Study-planning council after completing a two-month, fact-finding study.

Father Clark noted that approximately 1,500 students are enrolled in the seven schools, of which some 20 per cent are non-Catholic. Their racial mix was placed by Father Clark at 40 per cent white, 37 per cent black, 18 per cent Filipino, and 5 per cent Indian, Oriental, and other ethnic groups.

## Protesters Scuffle in St. Louis Cathedral

St. Louis — (NC) — Some 30 persons scuffled in the center aisle of the St. Louis cathedral July 6 during a demonstration by three ACTION black militants, one of them wearing mock religious garb.

The Mass disruption — the fifth consecutive demonstration in the "Black Sundays"

program of action — began when three young demonstrators walked down the main aisle of the cathedral near the end of the noon Mass.

One of them, William Mitchell, 21, wore a long black robe and a mock bishop's mitre of blue and gold cardboard and aluminum foil. He carried a small staff

and a large sign "Cárberry makes a mockery of the real church."

The trio reached the communion rail, then turned and faced the congregation in silence. After a few minutes they began to walk back down the aisle chanting "Racists, racists, racists, white Christian racists."

## Buffalo Senate To Be Revived

Buffalo — (NC) — Bishop James A. McNulty, who suspended the Buffalo diocesan Priests' Senate last May, announced that the organization will be revived — with new membership.

The bishop said the decision to continue the senate was the "majority opinion" expressed at a meeting of the diocesan board of consultors. He also said he received 217 letters in favor of continuation of the senate and added: "I am grateful to my brother priests... who have shared their thoughts with me."

In suspending the original senate last spring, Bishop McNulty charged, among other things, that it was dominated by one clique of priests in the diocese. He also said he wanted "more time to acquire new perspectives regarding the work of the senate" and time "to consider a backlog of resolutions and recommendations" submitted to it.

"The mind of the Church is crystal clear with reference to a senate of priests as a consultative group who, by their advice, would assist the bishop in the government of the diocese," Bishop McNulty said in a letter to priests announcing the senate's revival.

### NO TUITION

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — A diocesan policy of not charging tuition in elementary schools, except for non-parishioners, was announced by Father Patrick Sorohan, chancellor of the Columbus Diocese. He said the reason is "to establish the principle that the support of Catholic elementary education is the obligation of all parishioners."

## Hats Still On in Church

At the request of the Pastoral Office, we reprint the following news-story from Rome which first appeared in the Courier-Journal in May:—

Reports that the age-old custom that women's heads be covered in Church had been repealed as part of the recent revision of the Mass were flatly denied by Father Eugenio, Secretary of the new Congregation for Divine Worship.

The misunderstanding, Father Eugenio explained, arose at a press conference held on May 2 to explain the new Order of the Mass and the regulations for its celebration. A woman reporter asked if women are required to cover their heads in church and was told there was nothing in the new regulations about women's head-dress. Father Eugenio explained that the custom of women wearing a

head-dress in church goes back to St. Paul. "Of course there is nothing in the new regulations about women covering their heads at Mass," he said, "but there never was."

It is Canon 1262 of the Code of Canon Law that prescribes that men at divine services be bare-headed and women have their heads covered.

In the U.S., general custom of women wearing a head-covering in church is ascribed as strongly to the dictates of manners-experts such as Emily Post and Amy Vanderbilt as to church tradition and canon law.

Although toleration of the uncovered female head in some parish churches has grown there has been no official change in the canon law nor the spirit of the liturgical custom.

## Britain Assailed For Nigeria Role

London — (NC) — John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster said the British people are "thoroughly ashamed" of their country's part in the Nigerian civil war.

"The moral issue to this country is that in the eyes of the world we are known to be supplying arms to one side," he declared in a British Broadcasting Corporation interview.

"It's not for me to criticize the reasons why this is happening," he said. "Nevertheless we are helping the federal government in its attempt to starve into submission the unfortunate Biafrans... I think that peo-

ple in this country feel generally ashamed."

The cardinal said, "The greatest possible effort should be made to obtain permission for food to be taken into Biafra."

"There are no protests in the country at large, no mass demonstrations or marches. I think the reason is that the communist element — Russia in particular — is backing Nigeria in her attempt to destroy Biafra and therefore no one on the left is going to organize a demonstration. It is a great misfortune for the Biafrans that Russia is on Nigeria's side."

## Statement of Condition

As of July 1, 1969

### ASSETS:

First Mortgage Loans	\$25,525,723.92
This includes mostly loans on homes in the Chemung Valley area. Equal monthly payments are made by the borrower until the property is debt-free.	
Property Improvement Loans	270,604.48
Loans made under Home Modernization loan plans, all repayable in 5 years or less.	
Other Loans	130,940.42
Made to members who use their passbooks as security.	
Student Loans	214,894.72
Loans made to college students for educational expenses under provisions of the New York State Higher Education Assistance program.	
Real Estate Owned	34,293.58
Shares in Savings and Loan Bank and Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank of New York	322,700.00
As members of these organizations we are privileged to use their credit facilities and numerous other services.	
Office Building and Equipment	445,535.47
Cash on Hand and in Banks	319,452.24
Government Bonds	1,581,016.45
Prepaid Expenses	199,650.78
<b>Our Total Assets</b>	<b>\$29,044,812.06</b>

### LIABILITIES:

Savings Accounts	\$25,890,675.57
This includes the savings of individuals, families, partnerships, corporations, civic and social organizations. Savings are insured up to \$15,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.	
Loans in Process	420,285.19
These loans have been made and the funds set aside for disbursement. Most of these loans are for the construction or modernization of homes in the Chemung Valley area.	
Other Liabilities	171,084.37
Deferred Credits	118,517.95
Interest paid in advance by borrowers and other unearned income.	
Reserves	2,444,248.98
Each three months, a portion of our earnings is set aside to strengthen the association and further assure the safety of savers' and investors' accounts.	
<b>Our Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$29,044,812.06</b>

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