



Courier Staff Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Ordination in Greece

Father P. Frederick Helfrich at the altar of Holy Name Church in Greece after his ordination April 30. (See story, 1B.)

Bishop Hogan Sees Hope in Detroit Meeting

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan reported that the semiannual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, where optional celibacy and world peace were discussed, provided "a hopeful sign — it's just the beginning of an on-going discussion." The Bishops, who met in Detroit, issued no formal statements.

The bishops elected delegates for the international Synod of Bishops, which meets in Rome on Sept. 30 to consider the priesthood and issues affecting world peace and justice.

In an informal interview after his return, Bishop Hogan said, "The question of celibacy occupied a lot of our attention. The general consensus seemed to indicate there would be a continuance of the traditional discipline of celibacy. I do believe raising the issue provides us with the grace of developing a better theology of the value of the gift of celibacy."

Bishop Hogan did not feel that optional celibacy was likely to be approved by the prelates. "The bishops seemed more willing to accept married men into the priesthood than they were for accepting optional celibacy. Norms for accepting such people would be proven maturity and also the needs of the church in a particular area."

American bishops received the results of an officially commissioned study on all aspects of the priesthood only a few days before the national conference convened, said Bishop Hogan. This "exhaustive study on the conditions of the American priesthood," said Bishop

Hogan, came in at "the last moment." Its component reports, he said, "were not condemned or tossed aside as being useless, but the one that got legitimate criticism was the theological study."

That the study of the theology of the pastoral vocation received criticism, Bishop Hogan said, "was not the fault of the chairman." Father Carl Armbruster, S.J., Father Armbruster, a member of Chicago's Belarmine School of Theology, "admitted that the report was not complete," said the Bishop. Full Scriptural and scholarly documentation still had not been presented when the conference met.

Peace, the second topic on the agenda, did not seem to arouse as much controversy among the American bishops, because, as Bishop Hogan said, "By now just about everybody has recognized that the war is a pretty bad scene." The Bishop looked forward to a document from the Synod in Rome which would deal with "world racism, since America is the one being accused of racism in this war."

Bishop Hogan spoke briefly about the frustration he felt at the conference, but he emphasized that the immensity of the problems faced by the bishops, "and not the results," caused this frustration.

The Bishop stressed "the theological meaning of celibacy and its relationship to total dedication" to religious service. "Economic factors," he said, "should not be put forth as reasons for continuing celibacy."

The present agitation for op-

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Ah, Spring... Mary's Month and New Features

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May is the month of our lady and to take special note of this the Courier-Journal asked Father William Trott, spiritual director of the Legion of Mary, to write a special guest column.

Father Trott's article is on Page 3A and institutes a new feature in the Courier-Journal—a weekly comment called "Guest Columnist"—which always will appear in the spot.

The new feature will complement the column begun last week by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, "Pastoral Perspective," which will appear weekly at the top of Page 3A.

The Courier-Journal editorial also will appear on this page.

Another new feature of the Courier-Journal is being introduced with this edition—a page for, by and about high schoolers.

Reporters from various high schools in the diocese will contribute. For a look at the newest Courier "staffers" and their work turn to Page 15B.

In case you haven't noticed, the diocese is hopping with activity.

- A special report on the Hike for Hope. Page 1B.
- More than 50,000 diocesans signed letters and petitions calling for return of the rights of the unborn. Page 2B.
- A black priest makes a provocative talk at Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church. Page 6A.



St. Paul's Church in Webster was dedicated last Sunday and a photo appears on page 5A.

And something else new—a special place to have your questions on the faith answered on 4A, our "Letters to the Editor" page.