

New Confirmation Rites Given by Pope Paul

Vatican City—(RNS)—A new rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church embodies a change in what is known as the "matter" and "form" of the sacrament, as found in the Western Church.

The changes were expressed in an Apostolic Constitution of Pope Paul VI, promulgated Sept. 13.

Hitherto, the "matter" of the Sacrament consisted in the anointing on the forehead of the one being confirmed with chrisam (a mixture of olive oil and balsam, blessed by a bishop) and the imposition of hands by the minister.

The "form" was the formula, "I sign you with the sign of the cross and confirm you with the chrisam of salvation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

In the revised rite, according

Vatican Daily Opposes 'Hiding' Church Art

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican City daily, L'Osservatore Romano, has expressed opposition to an Italian government proposal to remove all famous works of art from churches and convents to "safer locations," to prevent their being stolen.

The government recommendation was spurred by what appears to be an alarming increase in thefts of art objects from Italian churches.

In a front page editorial in L'Osservatore, editor Raimondo Manzini said it was an "insidious idea" to want to "embalm works of art in inaccessible places and thus isolate them from the sight and joy of everybody. He advised that individual cultural organizations set up their own security measures to protect works of art without removing them from view.

Synod 'Experts' To Include Women

Catlegandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has announced that during discussions on justice at the upcoming Synod of Bishops "some lay experts" will be present, "including two particularly qualified women." He did not name the women.

Only men attended the first two Synods in 1967 and 1969. The Pope spoke of the Synod during an address to pilgrims assembled for his blessing.

"The Synod," he said, "is an important event in the life of the Church," at which "extremely large and complex questions will be discussed, to wit, the Priestly Ministry and Justice in the World."

Vatican, Hungary Hold Meetings

Vatican City — (RNS) — A Vatican press office spokesman has confirmed that two Vatican diplomats have recently held talks in Budapest with Hungarian government officials.

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to the papal document, the imposition of hands will not be considered an essential part of the "matter" of the Sacrament.

And the formula, in use in the West since the 12th Century, will be replaced by a still more ancient formula — in use in Eastern Catholic Churches since the 4th or 5th Century: "Accept the sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The new Apostolic Constitution speaks of the importance which Vatican II attached to the sacraments of "Christian initiation" — Baptism, Confirmation

and the Eucharist, and stresses that Confirmation is a "most important" link in this initiation.

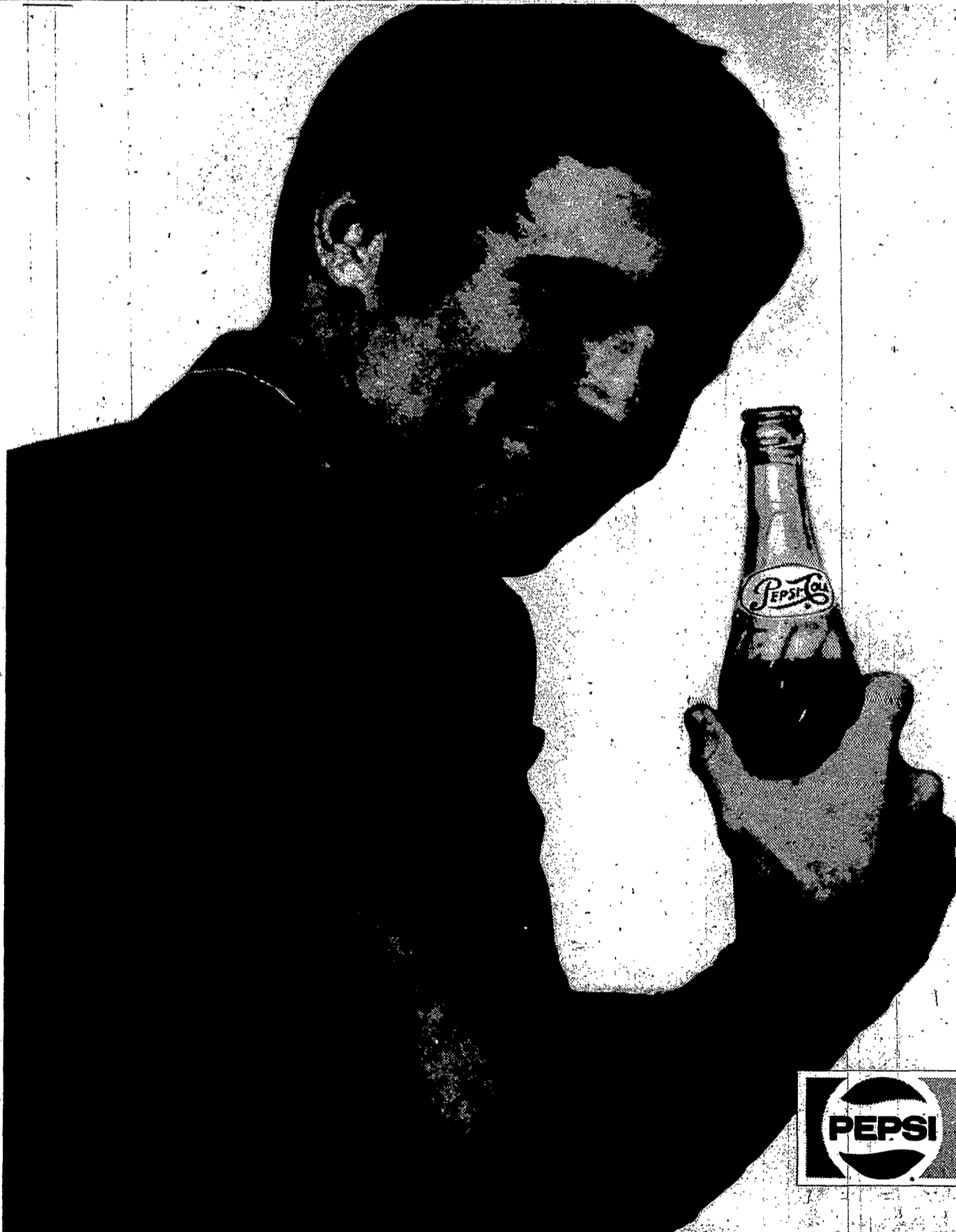
Another innovation introduced in the new Confirmation rite involves abrogation of the Church law requiring that a Confirmation sponsor not be the same person who was the subject's godparent at Baptism.

According to the Apostolic Constitution, the old rite of Confirmation may be used until the end of 1972, but from Jan. 1, 1973, only the revised rite may be employed.



Pope Visits Monastery

Pope Paul emerges from a cave near Subiaco, Italy, at a spot where St. Benedict is believed to have established the first monastery in the western world. The pontiff visited several monasteries, stopping at each to pray for the success of the Synod of Bishops which will begin Sept. 30. Subiaco is about 100 miles from Vatican City.



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