



**Birthday Blessing**

Pope Paul VI greets the crowd in St. Peter's Square after delivering his Sunday blessing and address Sept. 26. The pontiff, celebrating his 74th birthday, exhorted Roman Catholics to pray for the World Synod of Bishops. (RNS)

## Pope Honors Cdl. Mindszenty

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI received Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty in private audience and presented an episcopal mitre and chalice to the Primate of Hungary.

At the urging of the Pope, the 79-year-old Hungarian prelate recently left the sanctuary of the American legation in Budapest, where he had lived in asylum for the last 15 years, and came to Rome. The outspoken churchman had vowed not to leave the country without official "rehabilitation" on all counts of "high treason" on which he was convicted in 1949.

Vienna radio said that the cardinal told an Austrian correspondent he did not know whether he would take permanent residence in Vienna. Reports in the Austrian capital say that quarters are being readied for him in the ancient Hungarian Pazmaneum College.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, Cardinal Mindszenty left Vatican City to visit Saint Mary Major Basilica and his titular church of Saint Stephen Rotondo in Celio. He was received by Hungarian ecclesiastics of Rome and then visited the adjoining centuries-old Hungarian Hospice for Pilgrims.

## The Pope Himself Will Proclaim Father Kolbe's Beatification

Vatican City — (RNS)—The fact that Pope Paul VI will personally proclaim "blessed" a Polish priest who died in a Nazi concentration camp is an "unprecedented honor," according to Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, Primate of Poland.

Ordinarily, the cardinal said in a Vatican Radio broadcast, the Pope sits by in the sanctuary of St. Peter's while another church dignitary makes the beatification proclamation.

But on Oct. 17, the Polish prelate stressed, the pontiff himself will formally declare the beatification of Father Maximilian Kolbe, O.F.M., Conv.,

who was starved and then poisoned in Auschwitz after volunteering to take the place of a man condemned to death.

The Franciscan priest was arrested in 1941 on charges of aiding Jewish refugees and members of the Polish underground, and sent to Auschwitz. There he offered to take the place of a Polish soldier, a married man with two sons, who was one of 10 prisoners arbitrarily selected to die by slow starvation in reprisal for the escape of a prisoner. After the others had succumbed, the priest was murdered by an injection of poison.

## National Concerns Evident at Synod

Vatican—(RNS) — Delegates to the Synod of Bishops in Rome found themselves sharply divided on national lines about the role of celibacy in the priesthood as the Synod began its working sessions.

Belgian and French bishops stressed the need for a new theology of the priesthood; for the American bishops, Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit stressed the importance of recent sociological studies; speakers from the "Third World" said a celibate clergy was useful in their pastoral work.

After mentioning the unprecedented participation of all members of the Church in preparing for the Synod, Cardinal Dearden said, "We should not disappoint the expectations of the People of God whose suggestions are before us. At the same time all must agree that the final decision must be pronounced in the context of the good of the whole Church."

Bishops from India, Africa and Australia spoke out against demands for total relaxation of the ban on married priests, while Melchite Patriarch Maximos V. Hakim of Antioch challenged Western attitudes toward priestly celibacy.

For the Indian Episcopal Conference, Archbishop Justin Diraviam of Madurai said priests were widely respected in Asia for their celibacy,

"especially among non-Christians."

Archbishop Emanuel Nsubuga of Uganda said he favored maintaining celibacy, but "it should be regarded as a relative, rather than an absolute necessity."

Archbishop Thomas Cahill of Australia said Australian priests wanted to maintain their celibacy.

The Eastern Rite church leader Patriarch Hakim accused the Western Church of "hypocrisy" in its debate about priestly celibacy, and defended the practice of ordaining married men.

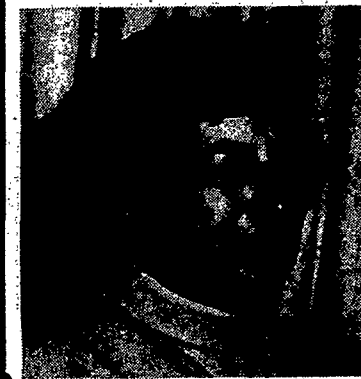
Eastern Rite Catholics, like the Eastern Orthodox Church, ordain married men, but bishops are drawn only from the ranks of the celibate clergy.

Cardinal Josef Suenens of Belgium offered a new doctrinal paper in place of the pre-synodal document of the secretariat, saying he wished the Synod would start not only from Vatican II's Decree on the Priesthood but also from the chapters on the People of God.

For the French bishops, Bishop Paul Joseph Schmitt of Metz said, "The situation is serious. It would be tragic if the Synod ended with disappointment."

Bishop Schmitt joined with Cardinal Suenens in rejecting the secretariat's paper as inadequate.

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