

Ordination of Married Men Still Seen Possibility

By FR. ROBERT P. KENNEDY
Special Correspondent

UNPRECEDENTED ACTION ON WORLD JUSTICE EXPECTED. SEE PAGE 6A.

Vatican City — (RNS) — You could almost say that the work on the topic of the practical aspects of the ministerial priesthood was all done by 7 p.m. on Oct. 8. However, neither the press that was getting its briefing then nor the bishops assembled in Rome for the Synod knew it.

The discussions would go on for several days and the language groups are still in progress one week later. In these groups the bishops of the Synod arrange themselves by language into 12 groups for more informal discussion.

Reports from the language groups indicate a consensus is emerging that there should be no substantial relaxation of the law of mandatory celibacy for priests in the Latin Church.

According to a Vatican Radio summary of the proceedings of the 19th plenary session of the Synod, which was devoted entirely to presentation of group reports on "practical" aspects of the ministerial priesthood, none of the groups recommended an out-and-out change in the traditional ban to allow purely optional celibacy on the part of those now priests.

The groups stressed the necessity of presenting the concept of celibacy in a more positive

and adequate manner, adapted to the modern mentality.

Nearly all the groups, however, recommended study of proposals to admit married men to the priesthood "in defined circumstances and with the permission of the Holy See."

Saying that the work on the topic was already done on the first evening is not to disparage any of the following speakers. Many made significant contributions to summing up the arguments and clarifying the issues. However, on the first night almost all the topics were aired, and the sides were drawn up.

Cardinal Juan Landazuri

Ricketts carefully plotted out one side. There are roles for both lay people exercising their share in the priesthood of Christ to perform, and roles for the ordained priest exercising his share in Christ's priesthood to perform.

These roles are many today and the ordained priest may play his role even in other professions and in politics. A second point is that because decentralization of decision-making is needed, local conferences of bishops should have much more power to decide the practical aspects of the priestly ministry.

Third, bishops and priests must work together in a better

and more organized way. The last point holds that to solve some of the problems of the shortage of priests, the possibility of ordaining married men should be considered.

Not so, said Archbishop Hyacinthe Thiandoum of Dakar, Senegal. We must retain celibacy for the priesthood in the Latin Church just as it is. Celibacy is too precious a gift. Priesthood and celibacy are intimately linked. To prove this, he cited the Decree on Priesthood from Vatican II and the encyclical of Pope Paul.

Archbishop Leo Soekoto of Djakarta, Indonesia, said if we are thinking of ordaining married men, then we have to get some rules and guidelines: The

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The Bishop Listens In

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty donned the headphones in the reading lab when he recently visited the new St. Patrick's Junior High School in Elmira. For more pictures and a story on schools in the Elmira area, please turn to the centerfold.

Bishop's Letter Salutes Teachers

My dearly beloved teachers:

When St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the Church as the body of Christ, he singled out teachers for special mention. He did this because they contribute in such a real and special way to the growth of God's children.

Paul did not have a monopoly on perceptiveness. In celebrating Teacher Recognition Day this week, all the people in our State are invited to take note of the role of teachers in our society. It risks sounding like a cliché to observe how demanding and complex a role teachers have today. The sophistication of our society, the speed of change, the mechanization of our style of life, the magnified prominence of mass media communications — all of what Alan Toffler has identified as the causes of "future shock" — have put fresh pressures on teachers as they struggle to help young people cope with life. This task is made still more difficult by the divisions that rend our society: between rich and poor, black and white, young and old, conservative and liberal.

I encourage all teachers in continued perseverance and generosity in sharing their talents with their students.

In a very personal way I salute and thank the teachers who are especially our own, because they labor in classrooms under our jurisdiction in Catholic schools and in religious education programs. If helping young people to grow in the face of the difficulties of our day is a laudable work, so much more valuable is the contribution of

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Courier-Journal

It seems to be a week for heroes.

Pope Paul VI discarded tradition to proclaim personally the beatification of Father Maximilian Kolbe. During World War II, Father Kolbe substituted himself for a man about to be executed in a Nazi concentration camp. "No greater love hath any man." See PAGE 11A.

In Washington, Mother Teresa was one of the winners of the 1971 Kennedy International Awards for "outstanding service to mankind."

The proclamation said in part, "Through her example of love and caring, she has taught nations to recognize the value of people once discarded and to help those incapacitated in mind and body to a new awareness of their human worth." PAGE 10A.

Do organized sports actually build character? A pair of psychologists think not and present their views on PAGE 10A.

And sports controversy of another sort is being generated by Doser's Top 10 in which sports columnist

John Doser ranks area high school football teams. PAGE 6B.

With American Education Week being observed Oct. 24-30, Ewald B. Nyquist, state commissioner of education, has asked all New Yorkers to make education more relevant to the present and future lives of students and to help schools provide quality education in the 1970s.

Staff writer Barbara Moynihan will tell how four Rochester Catholic elementary schools are innovating programs to be fruitful to those goals. The series begins today on PAGE 9A.