

Will Pope Change Method Of Papal Election?

Vatican City —(RNS)— Despite an official "no comment," unofficial Vatican sources insist that Pope Paul VI is planning a reform to insure that election of future Popes will have a "wider" and "more democratic" basis.

Reports that the Pope is studying a draft document that will change ancient procedures for electing the head of the Roman Catholic Church have appeared in a number of Italian newspapers, including the Corriere della Sera of Milan and Il Messaggero of Rome.

Asked about the reports, Federico Alessandrini, the Vatican press officer, said: "The Vatican press office is authorized to say, concerning certain hypotheses, affirmations and details published in some newspapers about a reform of the conclave (of papal electors), that responsible (Vatican) circles know only what they have seen in the publications concerned."

Vatican sources said this was the ecclesiastical equivalent of "no comment." According to

the unofficial Vatican sources referred to in Italian newspapers, Pope Paul is working on a revision of a fifth draft of the document, reportedly entitled, "Praedecessoribus Nos tris" (To Our Predecessors). Newspapers said the fifth draft was to have been published at the close of the recent Synod of Bishops, but that "considerable opposition" had been expressed by some high-ranking members of the Roman Curia.

Since 1179, Popes have been elected by cardinals alone in secret conclave. All Popes since Urban VI (1378) have been cardinals, and since Adrian VI (1522) all have been Italians. At present only 94 prelates, all cardinals below the age of 80, are eligible to vote for the next Pope.

Unofficial Vatican sources quoted indirectly by the newspapers said that the next conclave — which would meet after the death of Pope Paul — would be open to delegates of the world's 93 Bishops' Conferences and include laymen and priests.

Vatican Fires Commission Without Comment on its Work

Vatican City —(RNS)— The Vatican has dissolved a commission which submitted new guidelines for the distribution of funds for catechism teaching in the missions, Religious News Service has learned.

A source close to the scene said the Vatican so far has taken "no action on the wide-sweeping recommendations for changes" and expressed "great doubt that they ever will or else they would not have so abruptly dismissed the commission."

The commission was headed by Bishop Jean Van Cauwelaert, a long-time missionary in the (Belgian) Congo, now rector of the College of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rome.

The bishop was described as "hopping mad" when he learned by letter, recently, that his commission had been dissolved. The letter was sent by Cardinal Agnelo Rossi, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Bishop Van Cauwelaert and his commission submitted their report last summer at a general meeting of the catechetical directors who come under the jurisdiction of the congregation.

"The directors generally agreed with the commission's recommendations, but some of the big people on top apparently didn't like it," said one Vatican official.

"The commission found that under a long-existing system, money for catechetical work was too often distributed on the

Volunteers Sought
Citing a full calendar of Bloodmobile visits to factories, campuses and towns in the area, the Red Cross asked this week for more volunteers to help in the blood units.

Each volunteer is trained to fill all the non-medical jobs involved, such as temperature taking, registration of donors and assisting staff nurses. Interviews will be held at 80 Prince St. next Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 10-12, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Interview appointments may be made through 275-9800.

Courier-Journal

Priests Told: 'Friendship With Christ Your Goal'

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI told 33 newly-ordained American priests of the North American College in Rome that all their prayers, studies and preparations had been for one purpose — "friendship with Christ."

The group, accompanied by their parents and the college faculty, was received in special audience. The young men were ordained in St. Peter's Basilica on Dec. 18.

The pontiff said: "You have received a great gift. At the Last Supper, our Lord said to His apostles, 'I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I have heard from my Father.' These words have very appropriately been associated with ordination to the priesthood.

"All of your prayers, your studies, all of your preparations have been for that one purpose — friendship with Christ. He has offered you an intimate knowledge of Himself. He has invited you to a profound love. That knowledge and that love have now culminated in the great privilege which He granted you to share His ministerial priesthood.

"Again, at the Last Supper, in His priestly prayer, our Lord said to his Father, 'As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent (my disciples) into the world.'

"And now you are sent by Jesus Christ to bring to mankind the consolation of His mercy and the wisdom of His Gospel and the joy of His presence.

"Always remember that you are part of a fellowship of the brotherhood of priests who serve the Lord in every part of the world."

49 Get K of C Degrees

Hornell — Council 243 of the Knights of Columbus conferred degrees on 49 candidates in December. Acting on the degree team were Anthony Miller, grand knight; Dave Letson, district deputy; Father Robert MacNamara, chaplain; Jack Mahoney Jr., coordinator, and Thomas Secondo, Joseph Bulcock, Robert Kubiak, Joseph Desena, Bernard McLaughlin, Angelo Giglio, Daniel T. McCormick Jr., Stephen Meyers, Hiram Crosby, George Saylor and James Wachter.

New members are James W. Ahearn, James M. Argentieri, Richard Argentieri, Phillip Belanca, James C. Benesch, Kelly R. Berry, Thomas J. Berry and Patrick K. Berry. Also, James F. Casey, Robert C. Chapman, Angelo N. Cilano, Gerald Connors, Keith E. Cornelli, Thomas E. Cronin, Carson E. Doorley, Robert T. Egan, David J. Ganz, Thomas A. Gibbs, Joseph T. Gogol, Hugh C. Griffin, Thomas J. Haley, Joseph F. Harrington.

Joseph R. Harrington, Paul J.

Hornell Area Notes

Hornell — The parish Council met Monday evening and the Mother's Club will meet to night. Other meetings: school board, Jan. 12; band parents, Jan. 13.

Danville — The Parish Council will meet Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Wednesday, January 5, 1972

SARAH CHILD All In The Family



The first rule of gift-giving — after observing one's budget and the recipient's personal taste, of course — is always to give something you yourself like.

So I've been told. After the experiences of this most recent gift-giving season, however, I'm not so sure. I may have to alter the formula somewhat. It may be that I might have to resign myself to selecting gifts I'm only half crazy about.

On the Sunday before Christmas I started for Mass and on my way passed a new antique shop that had opened in our village. After Mass, heeding the sign that read "Sale Today Only" and glimpsing some lovely 19th Century prints in the window, I stopped in.

Shortly afterward I walked out with two decoupage wood-en plaques for my father. The craftswoman who had done the work had been skillful. The 19th Century train and the fire-fighting bucket brigade were enchanting, the colors bright and lovely.

As soon as I reached home I removed a hammered copper plate from the wall and put up the two acquisitions.

The head of the house admired them at length and said he hoped my father would like them.

"You know," I said thoughtfully, eyes riveted to the tiny figures of the prints, "Dad was never very much on art. Perhaps I should just keep these and look for something else for him. Something mechanical."

In reply I got something that

sounded like a cross between a snort and sigh of resignation.

It may have been that he remembered going through the conversation, or some similar to it, only days before, in fact every day before.

There was the green nightie with the half sleeves of lace for my mother. I had been looking for one for myself with just a bit of sleeve and sure enough once I got it home I threw it on over my slacks and sweater and PRESTO, it fit just perfectly. The color was good too.

Before that it had been the Zane Grey quartet of books for my youngest brother. I hadn't read Zane Grey in 15 years and the old familiar intrigue emanating from such titles as "Horse Heaven Hill" and "Majesty's Rancho" beckoned. Perhaps, he'd really like something else.

The antique sheet music I bought and stuck in simple black frames for my musical sister really looked marvelous. I hung the pair in the dining room and then against the orange-flowered wallpaper in the kitchen. Terrific!

Then there were the ornaments I bought to add to my married sister's collection, the nail care kit for my daughter and the toy record player for the baby.

To make a long story short I kept nothing. But it was tough and go much of the time. The moral: Shop in places that hold no magic for you. Which would leave me with a plumber's supply house and a taxidermy shop.

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