

Bishop Hogan Discusses Lenten Season

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Vatican II requested a revision of the rite and formulas for the Sacrament of Penance. Although this revision has not been completed, we urge Catholics to use conscientiously those means of reconciliation presently at their disposal through the Church.

First we urge you to take advantage of the opportunity which individual confession offers for personal direction and renewal. Confession ought to provide the forum for rooting out the causes and occasions of sin, so that the penitent will come to grips with himself and deepen his relationship with his neighbor and with God. Though in the future we may expect more emphasis on communal forms of penance and a revision of the way in which we celebrate the private confessional dialogue, there will always be need for each of us to express sorrow for sin in a deeply personal way.

There is also great need to emphasize the social dimensions of sin and forgiveness. Confession in the traditional manner seems to

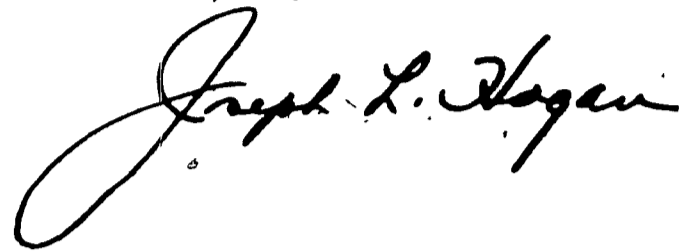
be a private matter, but this is not, in fact, the case. Christ continues his ministry of reconciliation through his people, the Church. The priest as the representative of the community and through the community the representative of Christ, reconciles sinners to the community and through the community to God. In recent years, this social dimension has been emphasized through the celebration of the communal penance services. These celebrations include readings from the scripture and the homily which proclaim the message of reconciliation. Usually, too, such services provide the opportunity for individual confession. As your Bishop, I join with the priests of your parish in urging your participation in such communal penance celebrations, especially during the Season of Lent when all Christians yearn for the paschal events of Holy Week and the renewal of their baptismal vows.

There are other forms of reconciliation: the penitential rite of Mass, the greeting of peace, reception of the Eucharist, acts of love, begging the pardon of one offended, good

works, sacramentals — all of these should be used to their best advantage.

This period of penance — Lent 1972 — should be a time of intense renewal for all of us, a season of conscious awareness of our own sinfulness and our need for conversion.

"May the God of Peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will. Through Jesus Christ may he carry out in you all that is pleasing to Him. To Christ be glory forever! Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)




Canandaigua Installation

Father William G. Charbonneau, former head of Catholic Charities, was invested last Friday as pastor of St. Mary's in Canandaigua by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who called him, "my personal representative to the people of this parish." Shown concelebrating Mass are, left to right, Father Joseph Gorman, Msgr. Donald Mulcahy, Fathers Timothy Weider and Charbonneau, Bishop Hogan, Fathers Michael Conboy, Kevin Murphy and Gerald Kenealy.

Greek Orthodox Paper Hits Liberalized Abortion

New York — Strong support in the anti-abortion fight came this week in a hard-hitting editorial stance by the official Orthodox Observer, the newspaper of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America.

"This cannot be an issue of private morality," the editorial says, "unless one wishes to argue that murder is an issue of private morality."

Noting that there are laws covering murder, it states that the idea of leaving abortion to doctors and/or mothers to decide cannot be accepted.

If the state has the right to legislate "on the question of murder, it has the right and duty to legislate on the matter of abortion," the editorial says.

The Orthodox Observer notes that: "The 20th Clergy-Laity Congress of the archdiocese went on record as condemning abortion and laws making termination of pregnancy easier as 'evil' and 'immoral.' Singled out for condemnation was a New York State law that gives a woman the right in consultation with her physician, to decide on an abortion up to the 24th week of pregnancy."

NCC Study Warm To RC Members

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John Coventry Smith, retired general secretary of the United Presbyterian Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations and one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches.

The task of putting the committee's findings into written form was carried out principally by Father Dulles. The report begins with a historical section, and then takes up various possible difficulties Catholics would face in joining the NCC.

In considering whether the Catholic Church's theology allowed it to join a body where it would stand on an equal footing with other Churches the committee found a solution in a statement adopted by the WCC Central Committee at its 1950 meeting in Toronto. The World Council agreed that membership "does not imply that each Church must regard the other member Churches as Churches in the true and full sense of the word."

The report also notes that Catholic membership in nation-

PRE CANA

Hornell — Pre-Cana Conferences have been slated for the Sundays in March at ST. IGNATIUS church.

CCD

Hornell — ST. ANN'S CCD board will meet this evening, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the library.

Courier-Journal

al councils is already a reality in several countries, and that in the U.S. several Catholic dioceses and parishes have joined regional and local councils. The Rochester diocese is a member of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry (GEM).

It suggests that the two-thirds majority now required for adoption of NCC statements should perhaps be raised to three-fourths and that the Catholic Church might be given between a fifth and a third of the voting strength, allowing it to exercise a "restraining influence" on such questions as birth control, abortion and aid to parochial schools.

Offsetting the liability that the NCC may adopt some positions that Catholics oppose, the report says, are the advantages of sharing staff work and gaining greater impact for positions on which there is agreement as well as the value that would come from ecumenical consideration of the disputed issues.

In any event, the report adds, the Catholic Church will need to continue promoting its distinctive convictions through its own agencies, as other member Churches of the NCC do, and "be on guard against allowing its own prophetic voice to be muted."

On the Council's theological basis of membership, belief in "Jesus Christ as divine Lord and Savior," the committee found no problem in what was stated. But it suggested that the lack of a balancing reference to the humanity of Jesus and the omission of any mention of the Trinity indicated a need for some revision.

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