

Stay in the Habit, Vatican Advice To U.S. Religious

Washington, D.C. —(RNS)— Except in special cases, Roman Catholic religious and priests should wear the prescribed habit, Roman collar or other "appropriate visible sign" to distinguish them from the "clearly secular," a Vatican congregation has informed the U.S. bishops.

In a communication to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes cited a Vatican II decree which it said regards religious garb as "a sign of consecration for those who have embraced in a public way the state of perfection of the evangelical counsels."

The congregation's directive, which appeared to be aimed to a large extent at priests and religious in the U.S., was forwarded by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate in the U.S., to Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, president of the NCCB.

The prelate pointed out that

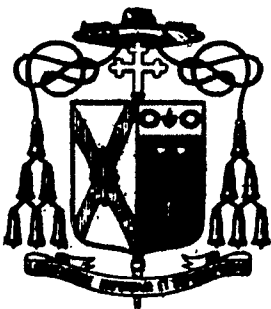
Pope Paul shares the view of the congregation on the wearing of religious garb.

Acknowledging that general chapters of religious orders may modify traditional garb according to practical requirements, the congregation's directive declared "they may not abolish it altogether" nor may they allow the individual religious to determine whether they will or will not wear it.

On the other hand, "purely secular clothes, without any recognizable exterior sign, can be permitted, for particular reasons, . . . to those Sisters to whom the use of the religious habit would constitute an impediment or obstacle in the normal exercise of (necessary) activities . . ."

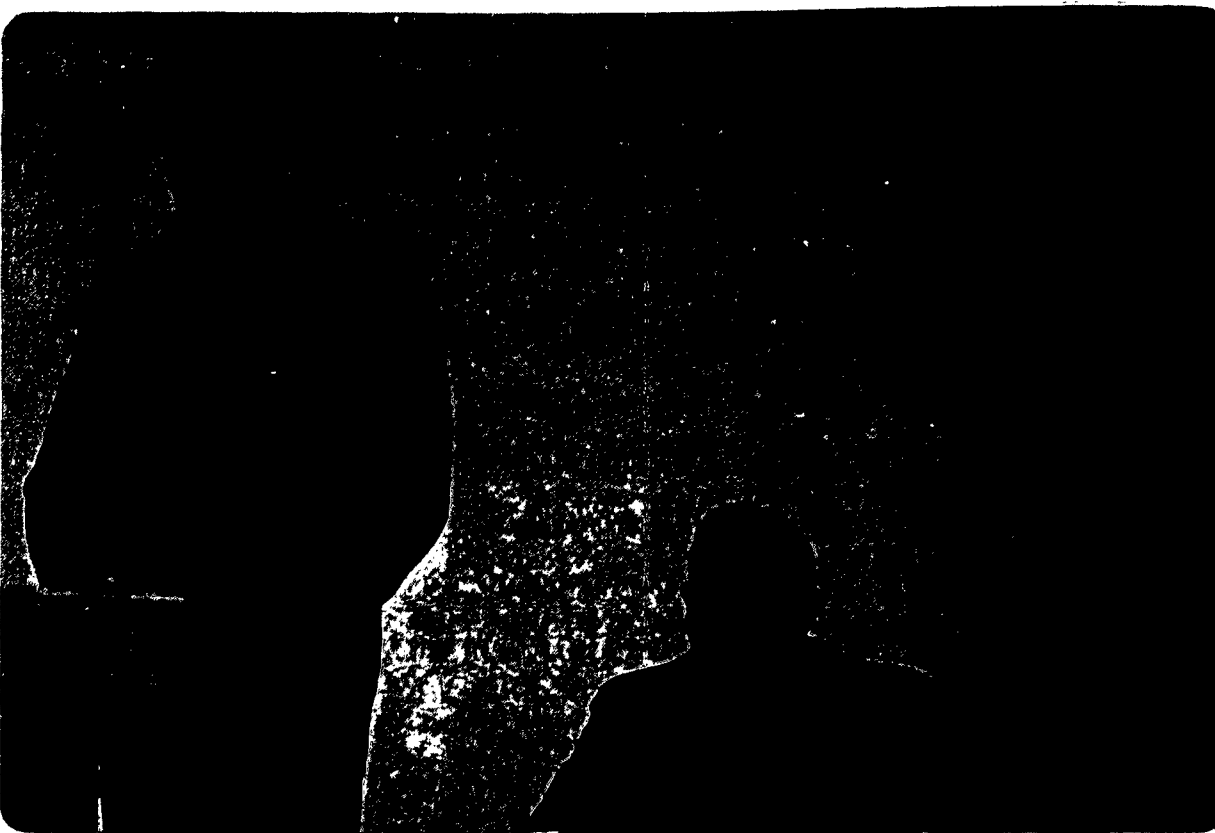
The directive stated, however, that even when secular clothes are worn, religious women should not depart from forms of "poverty, simplicity and modesty" proper to their state. "It should always be in some way different from the forms that are clearly secular."

The Bishop's Public Appointments



March

- 4 — Ecumenical Service in Victor - St. John's Lutheran Church - 12:15 p.m.
- 5 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Diocesan Sisters' Council - Mercy Motherhouse - 10:30 a.m.
- 7 — Priests' Council, Becket Hall - 10:30 a.m.
- 9 — Lay chairman and chaplains, Catholic Committee on Scouting - 1:30 p.m.
- 10 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Bishop Kearney High School - 9:30 a.m.
- 12 — Celebration of Unity, Asbury First Methodist Church - 8 p.m.
- 13 — New York State Bishops' Meeting - New York City
- 15 — Clergy Conference, Bosco House - 10 a.m.
- 16 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Society for the Propagation of the Faith Regional Meeting, Sacred Heart Cathedral - 5:30 p.m.
- 17 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Corpus Christi Church - 12:05 p.m.
- 19 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, S.U.N.Y. at Geneseo - 10 and 11:30 a.m.
- 19 — Testimonial Dinner for Mr. John Temmerman, Holiday Inn - 6 p.m.
- 20 — Confirmation, St. Pius X, Chili - 7:45 p.m.
- 21 — Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Becket Hall - 4:45 p.m.
- 22-23 — New York State Bishops' Meeting - New York City
- 24 — Priesthood Ordination, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester - 7:30 p.m.
- 25 — Radio Message, W S A Y and Affiliates - 7 p.m.
- 26 — Celebration of Eucharist, Palm Sunday Celebration - Brockport Campus - 10 and 11:30 a.m.
- 27 — Ecumenical Service, Grace Episcopal Church, Utica - 12 p.m.
- 28 — Interdepartmental Staff Meeting - 1:30 p.m.
- 30 — Mass of Chrism, Sacred Heart - 11 a.m.
- 31 — Liturgy of Good Friday, Sacred Heart Cathedral - 1:30 p.m.



Bishop - Clergy Talk

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan speaks with Rochester priests in the first of many meetings he will have with the clergy to discuss diocesan goals and renewal. The Thursday, Feb. 17 meeting was held at Sacred Heart Cathedral rectory; Father William Hart, on right, acted as chairman for the priests' discussion.

Regional Coordinators Named

(Continued from Page 1)
cil formation, and Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, executive secretary.

In announcing the appointments, Bishop Hogan said, "I consider these priests key personnel in planning for renewal in the diocese. Much will depend upon them. They have my complete support."

Msgr. Mulcahy said the coordinators will begin work im-

mediately and "will shortly have three-day intensive training sessions."

The primary duty of the regional coordinators will be to lead the Church in their regions toward active participation in a diocesan synod and a diocesan pastoral council.

Each coordinator will establish a "Regional Team for Revitalization" composed of at least three persons, both re-

ligious and lay. These teams will assist parish clergy and laity in formation or reformation of parish councils.

They also will work in coordination with all diocesan departments to provide information pertinent to pastoral renewal and facilitate its application locally.

In keeping with the spirit of Vatican II, Bishop Hogan issued requests late last year that all parishes begin to establish councils or update existing ones by Pentecost of this year.

SPIRITUAL READING

LENT There is probably no more appropriate time of the year to concentrate upon Spiritual Reading than the weeks of Lent.

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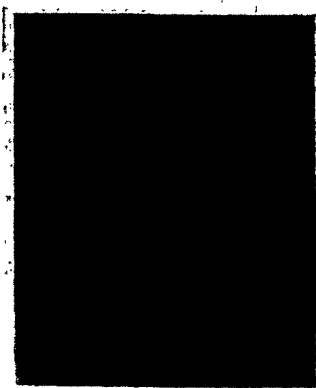
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BIBLES

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REMEMBER ST. JOSEPH

March is the month dedicated to him. We carry many items to foster devotion to this great patron: Statues, prayers, medals.



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MON. THRU SAT. 9-5-30