

Christ Ascending

Pontiff Cautions Against Change For Change's Sake

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul has warned Catholic clergymen against bending to the pressure of change to the point where their ministry becomes "superfluous or ineffective."

The pontiff said this has happened to some priests as a result of "the assault of this pressure for something new" that has followed in the wake of Vatican II.

He conceded that the council had rightly urged the Church to keep abreast of the world, but he wondered openly in a talk to the priests of Rome whether some of the "dizzying" changes had not caused "a sense of uncertainty and a lack of confidence" among some priests

The Pope made it clear that he was not against change. He said, "While the world is changing, we are standing still,

almost canonically mummified in our crystallized montality and our traditional customs, the meaning and the value of which are not always understood either by the surrounding society or by us."

He then noted that the council had come to the Church "to give us faith in a certain renewal" and added that this could, however, bring "formidable external pressure."

Pope Paul reiterated his criticism of priests and religious who shed their religious garb in what they say is a better method of penetrating society.

He said such alterations could be dangerous and harmful and have caused some priests to become confused about their role and uncertain about "the authority of the Church."

Propagation of Faith Regional Meeting Here

In 1822, Pauline Jaricot, a French laywoman, founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The 150th anniversary of the society's founding will be the focal point of the annual regional meeting of the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies, to be held in Rochester on March 15-16.

Bishops and diocesan direc-

was ordained bishop by Pope Paul VI, is the national director for the propagation, and will be making his first visit to Rochester as a bishop. Father Vernon Gallagher from Pittsburgh, the new director for the Pontifical Association the Holy Childhood, also will attend.

The climax will be a sesqui-

This crucifix by Arnold Mahlknecht of Ortesi, Italy, is from St. John the Evangelist church, Greece, and symbolizes the Church's renewed emphasis on worship of the resurrected Christ. See the photo-spread, Pages 10-11 for a picture-story on the different types of crucifixes in the Church today.

tors from 14 dioceses in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will attend the twoday affair at the 111 East Avenue. Bishop Edward T. O'-Meara, who has recently returned form Rome, where he

centennial Mass at Sacreo Heart Cathedral at 5:39 p.m. March 16. The two national directors and ten of the attending bishops will concelbrate and the public will be welcome.

Page 1

Variety the Key Word This Week

Columnists

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Atwell			ŕ								5
Lyons			•								6
Costa											19
Child											26
Doger						•					11

Staff writer Barbara Moynehan takes a look at two disparate topics this week. Sickle cell anemia is a disease which strikes blacks and which some feel is one of our greatest medical problems. Barbara explores the subject on PAGE 7.

And in a completely unrelated vein, she researched and came up with some surprising facts about an old Lenten friend — the hot cross bun. Also on PAGE 7.

Featuros

Letters	•			•	• •		•	••	•	
Editorial									•-	4
Tabe .	• •				•		•	• •		2
										1
Vatican		÷ .			• •		•		•	2
World	••				• •		•			2
Local .		• •	•	•	• "	• •	•	• •	•	
Courier-Journal										

The recent school consolidation in Auburn has prompted our correspondent there, Mary Ann Ginnerty, to do a series on the parochial schools of that city. The first article appears today on PAGE 16 and focuses on Holy Family School.

And on PAGE 3, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan continues his series on the Sacrament of Penance, the meaning of

Wednesday, March 1, 1972

which has special significance at this season.

Another columnist, Bob Considine, continues his offbeat, color accounts of the presidential trip to Communist China on PAGE 18.