

A New Style Catholic Bishop in Offing

By FR. ROBERT A. GRAHAM
Religious News Service

Vatican City — (RNS) — The new system for choosing a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church falls considerably short of popular election, but in their own way the innovations it provides are drastic enough.

A News Analysis

Preliminary consultation is widened... the lay or clerical organizations are brought in to some degree... the kind of episcopal leadership looked for is framed in modern terms.

If, in the end, the final decision rests as it always has, in the

hands of the Pope it is fair to say that by and large a significant blow has been struck for the creation of a new-style Catholic bishop.

The new norms were sent out by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Jean Villot, under the date of March 25 but not released until May 12. They followed the motu proprio of Pope Paul of 1966 (Ecclesiae Sanctae) on the role of the episcopal conferences, among others, in the selection of episcopal candidates. Consultations and studies were begun, and at the press conference at which the document was announced, the work of canonists in the United States was mentioned as a particular instance of intensive study.

On Sept. 1, 1970, a provisional

draft was sent to the world's episcopal conferences by Cardinal Villot, in his capacity as prefect of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church, with an invitation for comments. About 50 conferences turned in suggestions.

Basically, the process remains as it was. It consists of the preparation of a list of potential suitable candidates, the narrowing down to this list to a few particular candidates and finally, only after an extended process of inquiry, the choice made by the Pope.

Theoretically, the Pope retains full liberty to follow his own judgment. In some cases, no doubt, he will use this right. In the vast majority of cases, given the complexities of varied local situations, the recommendation of the national hierarchy will prevail in fact.

On the consultation of the "needs of the diocese," the new norms state that the papal representative will ask the local authorities "for a full and careful report" on the condition and needs of the diocese. "The clergy and laity, especially through their canonically established representative bodies, may also be consulted, as well as religious."

In a significant new stress on the personal background of the candidate, the norms state: "Consideration must also be given to intellectual qualities, studies completed, social sense, spirit of dialogue and cooperation, openness to the signs of the times, praiseworthy impartiality"

While the ecclesiastical province remains the starting point, the process of selection does not end there. The voting on candidates among the bishops of an ecclesiastical province is in secret. Minutes are transmitted to the apostolic delegate. In larger countries, such as the United

States, the national conferences may create a permanent body after those of the ecclesiastical province. These measures are visibly aimed to enlarge the possibilities of choice and to bar the formation of a self-perpetuating handful of what the Vatican spokesman at the press conference called the "king makers."

These innovations probably do not go far enough for those who have been urging more "democratization." They can point out that the consultations with the clergy and laity are only for the initial stages. The consultations regard only the "needs" and not the persons. As is recalled, in the Diocese of Amsterdam, a "profile" was drawn up on the kind of bishop the clergy and faithful thought was needed. But then they went a step further and proceeded to suggest some names of their own.

This was, in the Vatican's eyes a bid to usurp the existing (and continuing) prerogative of the

Cathedral chapter to make the nominations, according to a centuries-old privilege.

The papal representative — nuncio or apostolic delegate — remains the key figure in the process of finding and choosing an episcopal candidate. This does not please some in the Netherlands, for instance, where the delegate in recent months has been criticized as operating as a screen between the Pope and the local bishops.

This protest seems a bit petulant and hardly reasonable. The recommendation of the delegate, while useful, is not likely to be more impressive on the Pope than the collective judgment of the national conference. And in any case, as was also pointed out in the press conference at the time, the right of the individual bishops and of an individual Catholic lay or clerical group to present its views directly to the Pope remains unaffected by the new norms.

Vatican Paper Urges Immediate End to War

Vatican City (RNS) — Calling for an immediate end to the fighting in Vietnam, the Vatican City's daily newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, has urged the major powers involved in the conflict to rise to the "civilized plane" of peaceful negotiations.

A strongly worded article by the journal's director, Raimondo Mancini, stressed the imperative necessity of "peaceful solutions," which "simply cannot be any longer delayed" because of reasons of "prestige or balance of power."

"Would it not be possible," asked Mancini, "to realize — and soon — that the right of each individual person prevails over political interests?"

Describing the present "phase of international relations" as "paradoxical," Mancini said: "Diplomatic relations coexist with war, and while diplomats

shake hands with one another, the people who are the subject of international antagonisms are killing one another with arms provided by the diplomats' countries."

Thus it is, he added, that these countries have recourse to a bloody conflict "which does not allow the people to express their legitimate choices in freedom and security."

"None of today's conflicts would be possible," Osservatore's director said, "if it were realized that the instruments of negotiations are always valid and possible if international organizations regained their prestige and credibility, and if the demands of morality, reflective of the aspirations of peoples everywhere, were given heed by those who sit around the tables of great responsibility."

"Peace," he stressed, "cannot be paid for with slavery, nor liberty with slaughter."

Pope Cautions 'Ad' Men on Their Roles

Vatican City (RNS) — pope paul warned a group of European executives to guard against misusing the "enormous power" of their profession.

He told a delegation representing the top advertising agencies on the continent that the power of advertising in society today could threaten to lower the conduct and morals of men if not properly used.

The pontiff urged the executives and all other advertising men to ask themselves whether their presentations are "truthful or not" and whether "they exploit the least noble instincts in men."

The Pope meeting the delegation in private audience, said advertisers also must be alert to the question of whether they are promoting something "really of value, something useful," or if there are bordering on doing something harmful to those whom they contact through the media.

Pope Paul noted the legitimate importance of advertising in drawing attention to manufactured goods and increasing the demand for services.

"It allows industry and other economic sectors to maintain and improve their production," he conceded, adding: "In this sense, it contributes intensely to economic exchange and to the raising of a level of life. Consumers appreciate it and labor benefits from it."

He also noted that through revenue from advertising, newspapers and other journals can be supported and remain free from state or government control.

Courier-Journal

WELK IN SYRACUSE

Syracuse — Lawrence Welk, the king of champagne music, will appear in person with his television cast at Onondaga County War Memorial Auditorium on Thursday, June 8, at 8 p.m.

The show will feature, along with Welk, Myron Floren, Joe Feeney, Gail Farrell, Buddy Merrill, Charlotte Harris, Jack Imel, and the legendary bubble machine.



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NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Why Is Summer Special?

Think about it... is there a special "summer spirit?" Summer doesn't include any special religious holidays that create a whole seasonal spirit of celebration as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

But then, summer is special because EVERY DAY is special. Every day celebrates our life in Christ; every day for a Christian is a new birth in Christ (Christmas); every day is an experience of God's love in others (Easter); every day is a "Eucharist" (Thanksgiving).

We only need to pause and reflect on the most natural happenings of our everyday lives to discover that summer does offer us countless ways to grow in Christian love, especially in the many opportunities to enjoy our families and friends: be it a long-awaited vacation or a simple neighborhood cookout!

Because summer is such a beautiful season for family togetherness, we would ask you to remember in a special way your brothers and sisters in the missions. Special, because more than at any other time of the year, the missions suffer most during the summer months.

The financial help missionaries so desperately depend on to continue serving the poor, and to help even more in these critical times, reaches its yearly low. Schools, hospital-clinics, pastoral relief and development programs are affected: slowed down, crippled, or forced to cease completely.

But even more than the missionaries themselves, it is the mission-poor who suffer the most, especially when the only hope many have ever seen for their lives begins to fade away for reasons they don't understand; especially those who have just begun to grasp what it means to share in the life of Christ... to share in the Community of God's People... to know that life does have a meaning because others do care; especially those who have nothing of material worth but who have learned that every day is special when lived in the faith and love of God.

Please make this summer a very special season to share your love for God, by sharing in the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, now in its 150th year of bringing that love to others by supporting the neediest of missionaries.

Please send a sacrifice today for the missions because it is not Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter in the hearts of all men, and that makes your gift today so very special.

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Most Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, Dept. C., 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director, Rev. Joseph Reinhart, 123 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14604. 5/24/72

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