

Vatican Hits Abuses in General Absolution

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has made plain its concern with what it considers "abuses" in the imparting of general public absolution of sins.

The concern was expressed in a new instruction on the ad-

ministration of general sacramental absolution, issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The declaration was signed by Cardinal Franjo Seper, prefect of the congregation and ap-

proved by Pope Paul VI in an audience with the cardinal on June 16.

Priests and laity are reminded of rules that have been in force for some time, particularly one stating that general absolution



cannot replace individual confession of serious sins and individual absolution, and can be employed only in "particular circumstances."

The document condemns "a growing tendency to introduce the improper practice of granting general sacramental absolution to persons who have made only a general confession."

"Individual and integral confession and absolution remain the ordinary way for the faithful to be reconciled to God and the Church unless physical or moral impossibility excuses them from such confession," the document says.

At the same time, the instruction recognizes that what it calls "particular circumstances" can "occasionally" occur when "general absolution may or even should be given to a number of penitents without previous individual confession."

These special circumstances can obtain, the document explains, when there is imminent danger of death, and even though a priest or priests are present, they have no time to hear the confession of each penitent.

"In this case," the instruction says, "any priest has the faculty to give general absolution to a number of people, after first, if there is time, exhorting them very briefly to make an act of contrition."

Another instance of a "particular" circumstance, according to the document, would occur when there is a shortage of priests, "with the result that penitents through no fault of their own would be forced to do without sacramental grace of Holy Communion for a long time."

The document recalls the teaching of the Council of Trent, reaffirmed by the Instruction of the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary in 1944, that full and perfect forgiveness of sins requires three acts from the penitent as part of the sacrament, namely, contrition, confession, and satisfaction, and says it is necessary by divine law to confess to a priest each and every mortal sin.

Insisting that the teaching of the Council of Trent must be "firmly held and faithfully put into practice," the document condemns "the recent custom in some places by which there is a presumption to satisfy the precept of sacramentally confessing mortal sins for the purpose of obtaining absolution, by confession made only generally or through what is called a community celebration of penance."

Top Vatican Diplomat:

Rome Will Seek Peace with Anyone

Rome — (RNS) — Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican's top diplomatic trouble-shooter, says the Holy See would not hesitate to work for peace with governments that place restrictions on Catholic Church activities.

In an interview, the archbishop said the "main concern" of the Church is "to relieve the plight of Catholics in the Soviet Union and in the other Communist-ruled countries of Eastern Europe," but "The Holy See is so deeply interested in helping to promote world peace, that it does not hesitate to collaborate to that effect even with those countries where the condition of our Catholic brethren is still far from satisfactory."

The interview was carried in a recent issue of The Daily American, an English-language newspaper published here and distributed throughout the Mediterranean area.

The Church diplomat said both the East and the West considered the Holy See "one of the natural recipients" of diplomatic moves and communications from the leadership of next year's European Security and Cooperation Conference.

On the basis of that remark, the newspaper said, "For the first time in more than a century, the Vatican is expected to play a direct and active role in a major

international gathering of great political significance.

"Representatives of the Holy See are likely to participate officially in the Conference on European Security and Cooperation, scheduled for next year as well as in the preparatory meetings expected to get underway late this year in Helsinki, Finland."

Archbishop Casaroli said the Vatican would like to see the conference draft an "ethical code" of international behavior, taking into account, among other things, such events as the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

He cautioned that the Holy See must conduct its diplomacy with its "eyes wide open," particularly when it concerns the major po-

litical issues which will come before the European conference.

Although he said he was pleased with President Nixon's recent summit meeting in Moscow, the Archbishop explained, "Of course, the contrasts remain and so do many problems. But the American and Soviet leaders have shown that they are willing and able to reach specific agreements of major importance, foremost among them the limitation on strategic nuclear armaments."

He suggested that a Conference-approved "ethical code" could go a long way toward the regulation of international behavior and the quelling of the fires of conflict and battle that have taken such a costly toll of mankind."

Pope Sees 'Distrust' of Church

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI lamented what he termed a "lack of trust" in the Church, among "a number of the faithful, even among priests and religious."

The Pope also expressed high hopes for long-term results from the summit meetings of President Nixon with Russian and Chinese leaders in Moscow and Peking.

Referring to elements of "distrust," the Pope noted that some people are fearful for the unity of the Church because of some of the initiatives and changes which they feel "ignore tradition."

"But these people," he said, "tend to remain closed within themselves and refuse to take their rightful part in the life and tasks of the Church."

"On the other hand," he continued, "there is a lack of trust among those who think that in a secularized society the Church should abandon the majority of the forms which distinguish it in order to listen solely to the demands of the world."

Referring to the Nixon meetings, he said they had brightened the prospects for a better life in the world through peace and cooperation, and added that it was a matter of wonderment to him that such meetings could take place when only a short time ago they would have been impossible.

He also mentioned the Berlin accord, and the ratification of the Soviet non-aggression treaties with Poland and West Germany, noting that they "lead to an encouragement of new initia-

tives, such as the proposed European Security and Cooperation Conference," set for 1973.

Pope Won't Retire, Says Vatican Aide

Vatican City — (RNS) — Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, secretary of state for the Holy See, said Pope Paul has "expressly said" he will not retire from the papacy on reaching 75 in September.

"He (Pope Paul) never gave anyone any reason to believe that he would resign at 75," the archbishop said. "In fact, he has expressly said he will not do so."

He insisted that the reports about the Pope planning to become only the second pontiff in history to abdicate the throne of St. Peter were "very strange" and "completely lack foundation in fact."

Three years ago, the Pope directed that all bishops volunteer their resignations on reaching 75. Later he directed that all Curia cardinals on reaching 80 give up their Curia leadership posts and no longer have voting rights at papal elections.

Archbishop Benelli, who spends probably more time in the company of the Pope on a daily basis than anyone else, said the pontiff has not cut back on his heavy work load in recent years.

He cited this as "the best proof, open to everyone's scrutiny, of his excellent state of health."

'Pastoral Action' For Justice to Be Vatican Theme

Vatican City — (RNS) — A plenary assembly of the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, set for September in Rome, will focus on "pastoral action" for promoting justice in the world.

Vatican Radio said the assembly plans to map out "a vast program of action" which will alert Catholic priests, religious and laity around the world to the problems of developing countries, and inform them of the role ecclesiastical communities have to play in development.

The broadcast said that "special attention" will be paid to work programs in 25 of the world's poorest countries — those countries in which per capita income of the population is below \$100 yearly."

Without specifying, the radio said that at least 24 African nations and one Latin American country are "in this bracket."

The aim of the Justice and Peace Commission, established by Pope Paul VI in 1967, is to encourage international social justice, to help underdeveloped countries work for their own improvement, and to seek ways and means of establishing peace.

Cardinal Maurice Roy of Quebec, Canada, is president of the commission.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Munich (RNS) — Belgium's Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens of Malines-Brussels, will deliver the keynote address to a congress of social workers and philosophers here during the coming Summer Olympic games. The congress will meet Aug. 21-25 and the theme will be: "The Influence of a Risk of Sports on Man's Personality."

EDFOR BUILDERS

A NEW STYLE OF BUSINESS FOR HOME OWNERS

CALL US FOR GOOD SAVINGS!
ON YOUR HOME REMODELING NEEDS

PAINTING • CARPENTRY • HOME CLEANING
• LAWN CARE • MASONRY • BLACK TOPPING
• HANDYMAN • PLUMBING & ROOFING • GUTTERS

WE DO ALL YOUR HOME WORK!
AN EXPERT FOR EVERY JOB!

Just Call This Number
FOR INFORMATION & ESTIMATES

254-2424

We will supply material and labor or just the labor. Purchase your own materials for savings.

Member of Rochester Chamber of Commerce

BUYERS GUIDE

"Quality Shopping With Confidence"

Visit our show rooms—Select a real bargain—Complete line Rugs, Furniture, Appliances, etc.

Charlotte Appliance
TONY AGOSTINELLI
Lake Theatre—3200 Lake Ave.
663-5050

WARNER'S
LIQUOR STORE
HINCHEY ROAD
AT CHILI AVE.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
COSMETICS • TOILETRIES
PHOTO FINISHING
2910 Dewey Avenue 665-2210

Hall's
FLOWER SHOP
2075 DEWEY AVE.
Near the West Gate
of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
865-6533
Next door to Hall's Travel Service

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR A

DIAMOND

THEN IT'S TIME TO SEE
BERNARD J. HENSLER
JEWELERS

Open Tues. and Thurs.
Eves 'til 9
307 COMMERCE BLDG.
Phone 454-6918

HEATH DOWNTOWN DRUGS
Open 9 A.M. to 1 A.M.
Sundays & Holiday Included
Opposite Rochester Club
121 EAST AVENUE 232-2797

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
GILSON PHARMACY
1704 Monroe Ave.
473-6402
Prescription DELIVERY SERVICE

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH
PRESCRIPTIONS
Carefully Compounded
MANDELL'S PHARMACY
By Mandell
467-0879 266-9554
467-0785
DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES
Portland Ave. at Norton

RUTH B. DECKER
ANTIQUES
• Glass • China • Small Furniture
• Silver Lamps • Paintings
4200 W. HENRIETTA RD.
½ Mile North of Thruway Exit 46
Phone 334-1820

SPECIAL LOW ADVERTISING RATE OF \$4.76 PER INCH ON 13-WEEK BASIS