

Women Barred from Formal Ministry

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ture promise in a special rite to stay celibate.

In dealing with the subject of the ordination of deacons who are to be ordained, later, as priests, Pope Paul said the ordination ceremony was being revamped to include a formal vow of celibacy. Such a vow had

been made during the ceremony "ordaining" men to the subdiaconate. The new papal decree suppresses the so-called "major" order of subdiaconate.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1973, when the new decrees take effect, diaconate will mark the rite of introduction to the clerical state, and "incardination" or affiliation with a particular diocese.

The age-old rite of "tonsure" which made a man a cleric has been suppressed. In this ceremony, the hair of the candidate was clipped and he was invested with a surplice.

Tonsure — for those who maintained their intention to become priests — preceded reception of the "minor orders" of porter, acolyte, exorcist and lector — all formal steps "up the ladder" to the priesthood.

An exorcist was empowered to

perform services for expelling evil spirits. This function, however, has long been reserved to specially designated priests.

The order of porter originated in the early Church; it was the porter's function to guard the entrance to an assembly of Christians and to ward off undesirables who try to gain admittance.

According to the new decree, the "orders" of lector and acolyte, henceforth to be known as "ministries," are open to laymen,

as well as to candidates for the priesthood and diaconate.

They can be conferred on a layman; they must be conferred on candidates to Holy Orders, the document says.

The document, to all intents and purposes, suppresses the orders of exorcist and porter. It says, however, that episcopal conferences, "if they see the need of special usefulness," may always request "other ministries" of the Holy See.



The Willkes present Bishop Hogan with a copy of their Handbook on Abortion, at his Victor home, during a recent visit to the diocese.

Conference Speakers

The Conference for the Unborn brings to the diocese three nationally known pro-life speakers, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Willke and Marjory Mecklenburg.

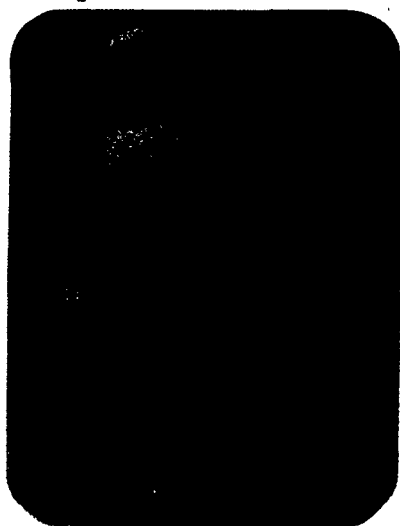
Mrs. Mecklenburg is president of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, Inc.

In a paper delivered this year before the Pennsylvania Abortion Law Commission, she described herself as "a liberal, Methodist woman, married to an obstetrician — gynecologist who is considered a family planning expert and who is also a member of Planned Parenthood."

The Willkes are the authors of three books, "The Wonder of Sex," "Sex — Shall We Wait?" and "Handbook on Abortion," and also of several recordings. Their articles have appeared in over twenty publications.

They are both graduates of the University of Cincinnati, she from the College of Nursing and Health, he from the College of Medicine. Dr. Willke has been a practicing physician for 20 years, devoting much of his time to teaching and family counseling. They are parents of six children and have also had several foster children.

Their books and records are a



MRS. MECKLENBURG

product of this extensive experience, independent research and study, and reflect a practical and accurate knowledge of a cross-section of the country. They lecture to groups of physicians, teachers, clergy and professionals in many allied fields as well as to major parent and university audiences. Members and consultants to local, state and national organizations in the field of medicine and human sexuality, their professional qualifications are greatly enhanced by their own deeply fulfilling love shared in an exceptionally good marriage.

Bishop Hogan's Letter

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Citizens Concerned for Life, and a specialist on alternatives to abortion.

The Conference of Concern for the Unborn will be held at St. Agnes High School, 300 East River Road, Rochester, on Wednesday, Sept. 27. To facilitate attendance for everyone, the program will be repeated three times that day: 9:30 a.m. — Noon; 1:30 — 4 p.m.; 8 — 10:30 p.m.

For the convenience of those living in the Southern Tier, this conference will be held again on Thursday, Sept. 28 at St. Casimir's School, 1008 Davis Street, Elmira. There will be an afternoon session 1:30 — 4 p.m., and another session 8 — 10:30 p.m.

I will be present to introduce each of the presentations, and will remain throughout the day for public and private discussions.

I urge you to attend this conference, to aid you in your active educational efforts to promote the sacredness of human life at all stages.

Thank you for your cooperation, especially as we enter the Year of Renewal.

With every good wish, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan

Area Religious Concerned About Pope's Motu Proprio

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Last week's statement by Pope Paul VI barring women from formal investiture in ministerial roles won't change anything here, but did trigger ripples of concern among area religious.

Commenting on the story in the daily press, since she hadn't seen the official document, Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, RSM, new liturgy consultant for the diocese, characterized it as "part of the conflict in views of what the Church means," and sees it "as part of the struggle to free us all."

She pointed out that the ruling doesn't prohibit women from Bible reading, it prohibits "formal investiture by a bishop."

"I feel it will resolve itself," Sister Margaret continued. "I think we need a lot more dialogue, we are all victims of historical experience which colors our view of what can happen in the future."

She looked at the Pope's statement from a broader perspective.

"Until we come to across-the-board recognition of the equality of women in society, everyone, Church and non-Church, you will see this kind of thing. Institutions are not going to lead the way, they maintain the status quo."

Father Robert F. McNamara of the diocesan Liturgical Commission, explained that the Pope's decision "is not a doctrinal one, but a legal regulation."

Father McNamara was not surprised by the Pope's statement since "back in 1970 when he declared St. Teresa of Avila a Doctor of the Church, Pope Paul VI said, 'Women are not destined to hold hierarchical or ministerial functions of the Church.'"

He explained that there is no doctrine that bars women from taking orders, "so the Pope must be basing his decision on tradition."

Sister Mary Jo Langie, pastoral assistant at Holy Name of Jesus in Greece since 1969, maintains "It's all in the understanding of the word 'ministry'."

To Sister Mary Jo, "ministry means the celebration of the liturgy. I can still celebrate the word of God by reading the word of God on Sundays and week days, and can act as an acolyte to assist the priest and can distribute Communion."

"I think what the Pope is talking about is women in the priesthood as such, and what I am doing is assisting the priest. Not taking over his role. What I am doing is what laymen and women are allowed to do and have been allowed to do."

Sister Judith Heberle, superior general of diocesan Sisters of Mercy, who recently returned from a national Leadership Con-

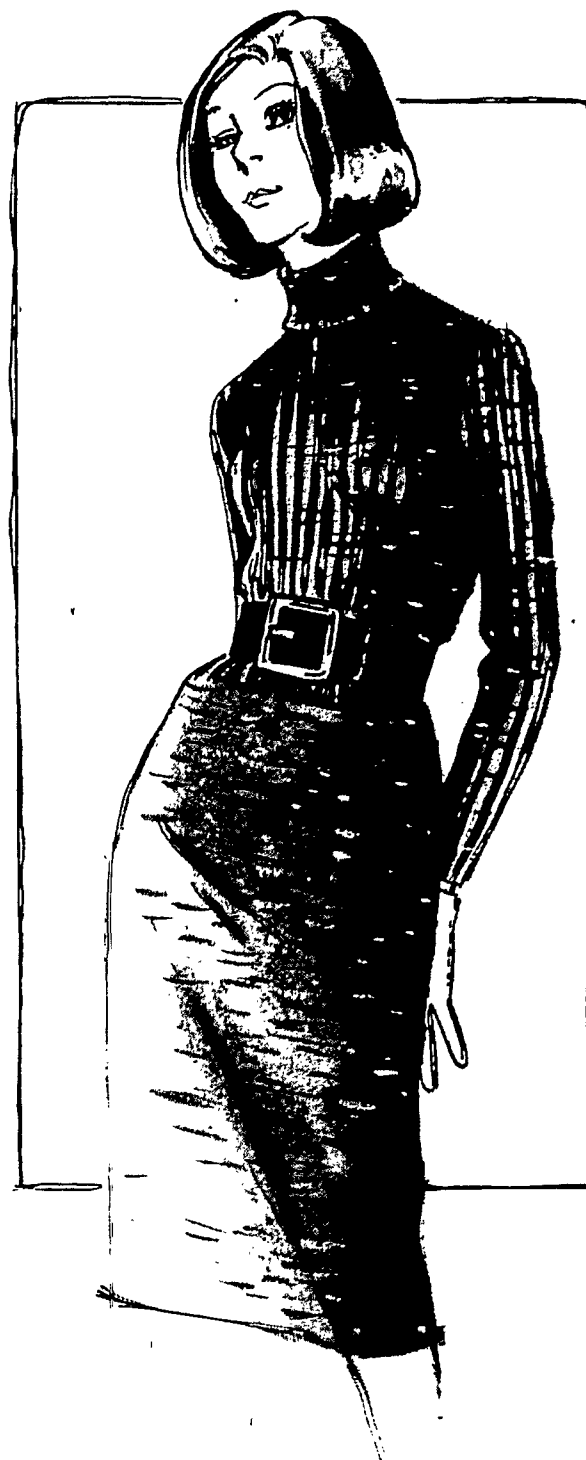
ference of Women Religious said, "I would like to be able to read the complete decree before commenting on it. As I read what is quoted in the Democrat and Chronicle, Sept. 15, it is stated that formal investiture by a bishop is the significant factor."

"Therefore I believe the Church women can continue in

their present Church ministries and serve the people of God by discerning and meeting their needs without a formal investiture.

"I feel strongly that to be barred from formal investiture will not inhibit our ministries to God's people," stated Sister Judith.

McCurdy's



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Kasper rib-and-flat knits it. Colors: it heathery green or beige. Adds the smash of a soft suede belt. Quite a little prestige number — in every way but price! Misses' sizes. McCurdy's Designer Salon, Second Floor, Midtown.

Problem Pregnancy?
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Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weekdays; 24 Hour record-o-fone to receive messages.