

Vatican Salute

Swiss Guards geniculate in Vatican's St. Damasus Courtyard to salute Pope Paul VI as he rides in limousine en route to his weekly general audience. The Swiss Guards, founded in 1505, are the pontiff's personal guard. Members are recruited from the Roman Catholic cantons of Switzerland. (RNS)

Vatican in Dispute With Ukrainians

New York (RNS) — The Vatican Secretary of State, through the "mandate" of Pope Paul, has informed the world's Ukrainian Rite Catholic bishops that a draft constitution they are considering is unacceptable to the Vatican as a "canonically workable" document, it was learned here.

Cardinal Jean Villot, in letters forwarded by various Apostolic Delegates to Ukrainian prelates, has in effect challenged the validity of an action taken by Cardinal Joseph Slipyi, major-archbishop of the Ukrainian Church, who sent copies of the constitution to the bishops for their comments and eventual acceptance.

The draft constitution was drawn up following last November's hotly contested archepiscopal synod of Ukrainian bishops in Rome, which was called by Cardinal Slipyi despite stated objections by the Vatican.

A spokesman for the Society for Patriarchal System in the Ukrainian Catholic Church here said the organization has informed every Ukrainian bishop that Cardinal Villot's letter is now "a public secret" and that a stand worthy of the offices they occupy is expected of them.

The society is now planning an action to "encourage" Ukrainian Catholics everywhere to stand in defense of the rights of their Church "and the honor and prestige" of Cardinal Slipyi, the spokesman said.

The controversy between Cardinal Slipyi and the Vatican is now in its third year. It began in 1969 when Cardinal Slipyi called a synod of Ukrainian prelates.

Father Rua Beatified

Vatican City (RNS) — Father Michael Rua, the first successor of St. John Bosco, who founded the Salesian order, was solemnly proclaimed "blessed" by Pope Paul VI at a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 29.

Beatification is the preliminary step to possible eventual canonization, or proclamation of sainthood.

Pope Paul hailed Father Rua as a "champion of apostolic activities."

Courier-Journal

Vatican Cuts Annulment Lawyer Fees

Vatican City (RNS) — The Holy See has ordered a ceiling on the fees that may be charged by attorneys representing marriage annulment cases before the Sacred Roman Rota, the Vatican marriage court of appeal.

Under the new regulations, which became effective Nov. 1, lawyers authorized to present cases before the Rota may charge no more than \$510. Under the old rate it was understood that lawyers often charged as much, or even more than, \$17,000 to represent a client seeking to have a marriage annulled by the Church.

The Vatican directive also reduced the rate charged by the Church for its services in hearing and passing judgment on the merits of each case. The new Rota rates range from \$425 to \$595 for each trial or hearing. It normally requires two hearings for each case.

The directive makes further provision for destitute applicants for marriage annulments to receive free legal aid.

The directive, in the form of a circular letter, was sent to bishops throughout the world by the Apostolic Signatura, the "supreme court" of Court of the Church. This Vatican agency has jurisdiction in cases involving personnel and decisions of the Sacred Rota.

The lowering of the ceiling on fees has been described in some "anti-Church" circles in Italy as a Vatican attempt "to compete with civil divorce courts."

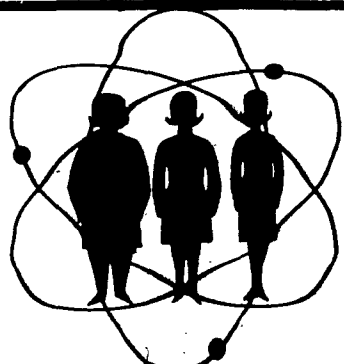
Two years ago, after much controversy, Italy passed its first civil divorce law in modern history.

The new directive is a further implementation of norms, issued earlier by Pope Paul VI, that are designed to expedite marriage cases.

Dutch Bishop, Pope Confer

Vatican City (RNS) — The conservative bishop whose papal appointment to a diocese in the Netherlands touched off a controversy between the Dutch hierarchy and the Vatican, met privately here with Pope Paul.

Bishop Adriaan Simonis of Rotterdam was the first of two men named within the last 18 months to the Dutch hierarchy as known conservatives.



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Wednesday, November 8, 1972

Pontiff Confers With Synod Aides

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in an audience with members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, said that the Synod had shown itself to be "an excellent ecclesiastical institution."

The Synod of Bishops, chartered by Pope Paul in 1965, met in Rome for the first time in 1967. A second Synod was held in 1969, and a third in 1971.

The pontiff told the secretariat members, whose major function is to draw up, in consultation with national and regional episcopal conferences, the agenda of subsequent Synods, that he was anxious to learn what suggestions had been made concerning the subject and date of the next Synod.

Pope Paul said bishops should be involved in the administration of the "universal Church," to that point that "bishops associated with the Roman pontiff would cooperate closely in the

exercise of his ministry."

The consequences of such cooperation, he said, would lead to "greater cohesion of minds and wills, in applying Canon Law," to "solidarity in work and fraternal aid," and to "unity of spirit in faith and charity."

A member of the secretariat told RNS that the agency had received "all sorts of suggestions for the agenda on the next Synod," which, he said, would probably be held in the Fall of 1973.

"Of these suggestions which were submitted by Bishops' Conferences throughout the world," he said, "about two dozen were judged to be of major importance."

"From these two dozen," he said, "without elaborating or specifying, 'we will select three or four as proposed agenda items to submit to the Holy Father for his consideration.'"

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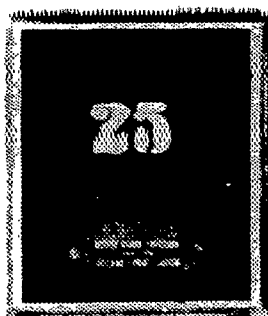
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