



Patrick's Arrival

A ship carrying St. Patrick arrives on the coast of Ireland as the Saint stands in the prow. It is held he began his mission of converting the pagan Celtic peoples during the early 5th century.

Crisis Growing In Priesthood, Pontiff Warns

Vatican City (RNS) — The crisis in the Roman Catholic priesthood has "deepened even further," Pope Paul warned in a message to Rome's Lenten preachers.

He said the crisis has gone from "doubt about their rightful identity" to "doubt about their rightful mission."

Taking part in a traditional solemn celebration of The Word in the Sistine Chapel, the pontiff said there is a need to "rediscover some basic values . . ."

He indicated that two of these values are that the priest is above all a minister of Christ and His follower, and this calls for "detachment" from things of the world. The Pope added that these values must be pursued "in the face of the phenomenon of secularization which desires that the priest be a man like all others, neither more nor less."

Pope Paul then pointed out that the priest "is a victim of robbery," that he is a "person dispossessed by Christ Himself." He added that to follow Christ means "abandoning a great many things" or one cannot be a faithful or capable minister.

Concerning detachment from the world, the Pope said the follower of Christ and the priest in particular must function in the world, but this "immersion" in the world must be "for the salvation of this world."

Comparing the evangelical role with that of a doctor who must be immunized against diseases that he treats, he said the priest who is "separated from the world on the one hand is immersed in it on the other, on the one hand completely free and on the other a servant."

The Pope told Rome's preachers of the need for meditation, which is "to know how to find, during the long, hard-working apostolic day, the corner for speaking to God."

In urging the priests to remember that the exercise of the ministry of Christ demands detachment, he said "much is spoken about liberation, but the liberation which Christ demands from us is to leave home, to leave

behind all things which are useless, except for announcing the Word, the celebration of the Eucharist, and the ministry of souls."

"Remember that we swore fidelity to this and let us try to remain faithful, to remain constant, to remain on the Cross," he said.

Renewal Subject Of Press Conference

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has unveiled a special communication program featured by a survey and advertising campaign, for the diocesan Time of Renewal.

At a press conference at Sacred Heart Cathedral rectory yesterday, Bishop Hogan and Father Daniel Holland, director of the Year of Renewal, told media representatives of plans for nine full-page advertisements in daily newspapers, television and radio interviews and for publication of a booklet.

A diocesan survey, conducted by the Harvey Research Organization, has formed the basis for the advertisement campaign. The Bishop listed five steps to the total effort — the survey, analysis of the survey, public communications program, parish and school forums, and publication of a booklet delineating each of the aforementioned steps in detail.

"This communication campaign, will, we hope, attract so much attention that no Catholic in the diocese will be unaware of the Time of Renewal and of our plea for understanding that will lead to a rebirth of faith," the Bishop said.

Father Holland, key coordinator of the planned campaign, said, "Never before has a bishop of Rochester been able to use the modern means of market research to listen to the people. Never before has he used a series of public information ads to encourage two-way communication in the Church."

The entire survey report will be available in late May and the booklet, "Dialogue for Renewal," will be published in September to report all the findings of the survey with detailed commentary.

Bishop Hogan To Be on TV

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the guest on the WOKR-TV panel show, "News Conference," at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, March 18. The topic for the show will be the Bishop's letter of reconciliation which appeared in the Courier-Journal Feb. 28.

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