

Vatican Accepts Resignation of Dom Franzoni

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul VI has accepted the resignation of a controversial Benedictine abbot as head of the Basilica of St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls in Rome.

A Vatican press office statement said that the resignation of Dom Giovanni Franzoni, who last June announced he was resigning his office to go and live in a slum had been approved by a vote of the Benedictine community at the Basilica.

The statement added that Dom Franzoni will have to wait until a new abbot is elected to succeed him, before going ahead with his plans. It said that the 45-year-old monk will also have to obey the new abbot, and "submit to his decision."

Dom Franzoni, whose rank was equal to that of a bishop, although his jurisdiction extended only to the Basilica's parish area, has repeatedly shunned the dress and manner of his office. He has been a center of controversy ever since his election in 1964.

In a homily at Mass in the Basilica on Pentecost Sunday, last June, he said he intended to resign as abbot to avoid having to share in the responsibilities of the Church's hierarchy, whose majority he charged with "connivance" with "the powerful and the rich."

He paid homage to Pope Paul's support for social reforms and for developing nations. But, he added, the Pope's own words were threatened with being preempted by "the reality of the life of the Church."

"Enough of words!" he said.

He then announced his intention to go and live with the poor in the slums "in the company of other Benedictine monks" who shared his views.

Dom Franzoni, among other things, supports conscientious objectors, and on one occasion when he was addressing a meeting of war resisters from European nations, was pelted with rotten fruit.

In addition to sponsoring regular Sunday "beat music" Masses at the Basilica, Dom Franzoni supports a dissident magazine, *Com*, which is highly critical of the Vatican.

Petrus Joins Hochstein

Ted Moore and Phil Markowitz of Petrus, will join Margaret Sparrazza, to teach a seminar in jazz techniques every Monday evening beginning Sept. 17, at the Hochstein Music School. Moore and Mrs. Sparrazza will also teach a schedule of private students.

Another faculty addition to Hochstein is Mrs. Sue Ellen Johnson. Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Eric, have recently moved to Rochester from Salzburg, Austria, where Mrs. Johnson was a student at the Orff Institute under the direction of the noted composer, Carl Orff. Orff classes taught by Mrs. Johnson will be offered to children ages 4-9, daily, Monday through Saturday.

Other studies available at Hochstein this fall will be music appreciation, music theory, composition and orchestration, and private lessons on all orchestral instruments, guitar, voice, piano and recorder. Kindertanz and classical ballet for children and adults will be offered under the direction of Ed Charbonneau.

Registration begins Sept. 4 and classes start Sept. 12.

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