

Bishops' Document on Mary An Attempt to Clarify Her Role

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A priest who specializes in the study of the theology of the Mother of Christ declared here that the newly-released Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on Mary is intended to "allay... false fears" concerning her role and status in the Catholic Church.

Mainly, he indicated, the pastoral attempts to reassure Catholics that devotion to the Mother of Jesus has not been "de-emphasized" by Vatican II, and to point out to other Christians that devotion to Mary in no way takes precedence over the Christian's "direct access" to Jesus Christ, the "supreme intercessor."

Citing "confusion and uncertainties" about the place of the Virgin Mary in Catholic devotion since Vatican II, Father Eamon Carroll, O. Carm., professor of religious education at the Catholic University of America, said the Catholic bishops felt it was an opportune time for a document that would provide a "clear doctrinal base" for devotion to Mary.

Speaking to newsmen at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Carmelite priest stressed that the two main fears among non-Catholic Christians which the document seeks to allay are the fear that Mary somehow "takes the place of Christ" and that

Catholics overlook Scripture in developing their Marian theology.

Father Carroll, who contributed to the pastoral letter, entitled "Behold Your Mother: Woman of Faith," said the document was developed over a two-year span and went through five drafts before final approval by the bishops.

He added that it is "not a controversial document," that it is open to "other opinions," and that it is not a "guidebook" for theological seminars.

Pointing out that the document is grounded in biblical and traditional theology, the priest said that the increase in biblical scholarship since Vatican II contributed heavily to the development of the pastoral. He added that it also has "greater sensitivity" to the ecumenical issue, citing the section on ecumenism contained in one of the document's five chapters.

Father Carroll said the bishops are looking for an increase in Marian devotion among Catholics, particularly in the liturgy. He said the liturgy contains "much more on Mary" than ever before, including prayers, readings, prefaces and other references.

At the same time, the priest declared, the pastoral is "not to attempt to restore all the devotions to Mary" that have "fallen off" in the last decade or so, such as novenas under various titles accorded Mary. He noted that the pastoral does suggest a renewal of devotion to the rosary, but stressed that the emphasis is on the liturgy.

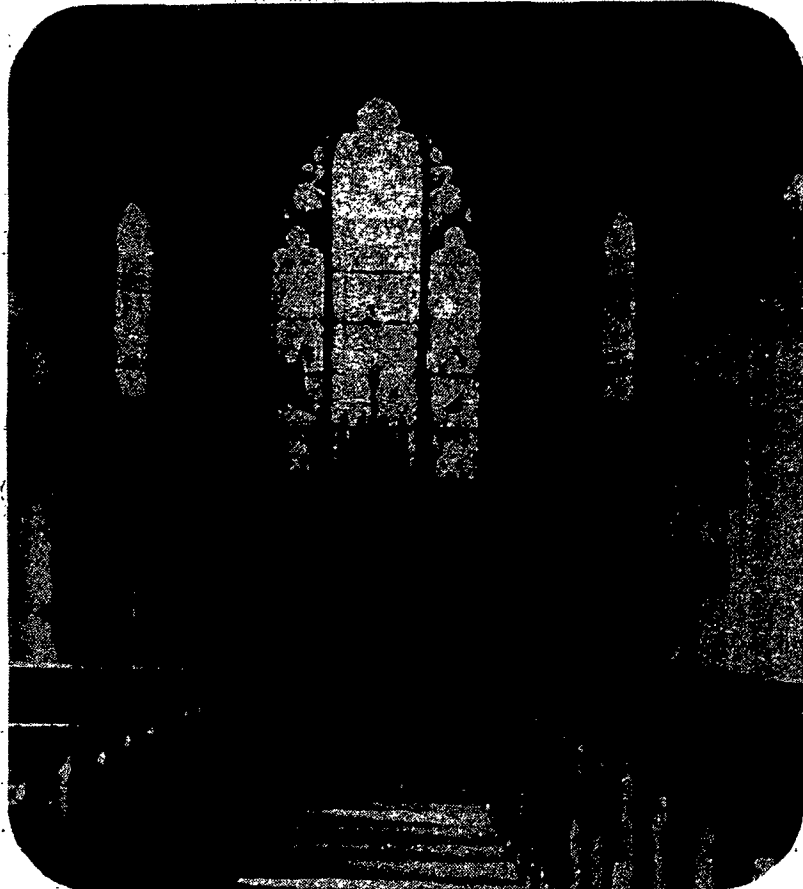
The pastoral formed the basis of a sermon by Cardinal John Carberry of St. Louis, who directed the development of the pastoral letter.

Speaking at the bishops' annual Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, he said, "Through our pastoral letter, we hope to set aside completely the report that Vatican Council Two had deemphasized love and devotion to Mary."



The Church: 1999?

A rather frightening look into the "future" of the Roman Catholic Church with embattled traditionalist Irish monks holding down the spiritual fort against a social activist humanistic church, will be the fare on the TV season's first CBS Playhouse 90 offering. To be telecast Thursday, Nov. 29 (8:30 p.m., Channel 10), the film, which was shot entirely in Ireland, is entitled "Catholics," from Brian Moore's short novel. Cyril Cusak, left, plays one of the monks trying to preserve tradition by celebrating a Latin Mass. With Trevor Howard, Martin Sheen. [RNS]



Ss. Peter and Paul Rededication Held

Elmira — Ss. Peter and Paul Church was rededicated Sunday, Nov. 25, at the 12:15 Mass.

The Mass of Rededication was offered by Father Edward Foy, pastor, with Father Mark Miller, associate pastor and other priests of the Elmira area as concelebrants. The parish choir provided music under the direction of Miss Signe May.

In the aftermath of the Agnes disaster in June of 1972, the church structure has been almost completely renewed and restored.

Ss. Peter and Paul, at the corner of Market and High Streets, has, in its 120 years, weathered six floods of varying intensity. Parish records indicate thorough restoration procedures followed each disaster.

The waters of the last flood reached heights of eight feet in and around the building. The restoration required the removal of inches of mud from every surface — the floor, the walls, the pews. Plaster had to be stripped from every wall to the height of 12 feet throughout the church. Hundreds of bricks, softened by age and water, had to be replaced.

The organ and its motor in the choir loft had to be completely cleaned and vacuumed. The electrical, plumbing and heating systems had to be dismantled and rebuilt. Pews were cleaned, rubbed and polished.

The Msgr. Philip McGhan Memorial Fund provided the money to purchase new vestments, altar linens, sanctuary furniture, altar of sacrifice and confessionals.

The church has been almost entirely repainted. New rugs

cover all the open floor space, the aisles, the sanctuary floor, and the steps of the altar of reposition.

NOW Up to size **50**
and more hip room

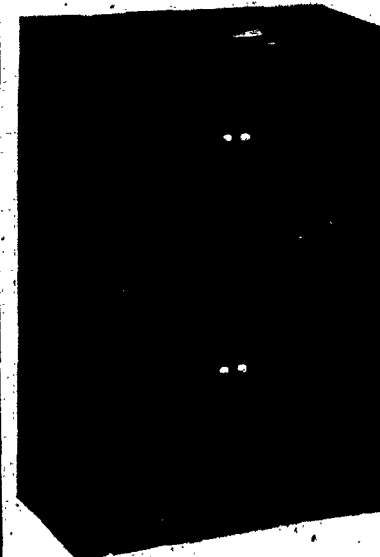
Flare Jeans for **MEN** and **WOMEN** of ALL AGES

Slightly Irregulars various Fabrics **8.00**

Shop 'til 9 SAT 'til 6

SCHOEMAN'S
458 MONROE AVE
FREE PARKING

Holiday Entertaining
at its best with
Lane Beverage Cabinets



Choose your flip-top refreshment cabinet from honey maple or antique pine. Flip top has plastic serving surface and comes complete with glassware. Locking double door storage. Easy moving casters.

\$179

MONROE
Cherry House

Cherry House West
188 So. Union St.
Spencerport
352-4200

Cherry House East
2319 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, N.Y.
244-2440