O Pages Three Sections Wednesday February 20, 1974

Fifteen Cent

The scene at the last Holy Year as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square. Other photos and stories in the Centerfold.



Traditional Opening

In a traditional ceremony at the beginning of a Holy Year the Pope presides at the opening of the Holy Door entrance to St. Peter's Basilica. After the Holy Year ceremonies the door is resealed and kept closed until the next Holy Year. As the Holy Father reopens the Holy Door three cardinals will be performing the same ceremony at three other basilicas on the itinerary, St. Paul's, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major, all in Rome.

Bishop Hogan Launches Holy Year Preparation

My Dear People:

Our Holy Father has proclaimed 1975 a Holy Year of Jubilee to be celebrated in Rome. He has extended the invitation to the local churches throughout the world to share many spiritual benefits in a year of preparation and anticipation.

The theme of the Holy Year and this preparatory period of 1974 is, "Renewal and Reconciliation." In our diocese, by a happy coincidence, this is known as a Time of Renewal — a continuation of the Year of Renewal inaugurated in September 1972. It is a time during which we have been praying for self-alignment with Christ and the loving efforts He is making in our time to speak to the modern world through us, His people, and the members of His Church.

The Holy Father has also added reconciliation as a theme or objective of this holy time. And his wisdom in so doing is obvious. Our times have been marked by many misunderstandings and breaches of charity. As he expressed it himself in announcing the Holy Year. "We need above all to re-establish a genuine, vital and happy relationship with God, to be reconciled with Him in humility and love, so that from this first and basic harmony the whole world of our experience may express a need and acquire a virtue of reconciliation in charity and justice with men."

The Holy Year is not to be considered another program, but rather as an op-

portunity and grace offered us for sowing and reaping a bountiful spiritual harvest. Next year, witness to reconciliation will be given by pilgrimages to the Eternal City by Christians throughout the world. They will express their unity with Peter and His Successor by coming together to pray at the tomb of the Apostle. The pilgrimage is foreshadowed this year as all our people are invited to unite in prayer — first in filial groups and especially as parish families, and then symbolically as our diocesan family in pilgrimage to our Cathedral Church, or to those other churches we have been permitted to designate for convenience in the various regions of the diocese.

We are told that we shall soon receive suggested liturgical and para-liturgical rites, prepared at Rome, for use at the places of pilgrimage. We can do no more than express now our hope and prayer that all our people will respond to the call of the Holy Father in faith, and that the fruits of reformation and reconciliation will find vibrant expression in our diocesan community and in all of Christ's Church.

With the assurance that my prayer shall be joined with yours and with Christ's vicar in visible participation with you in the spiritual celebrations of this year, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Jay X. Higan

Bridal Section

This week's edition includes a special section Bride & Groom 1974." Turn to it for detailed information on Pre-Cana Conferences and diocesan programs for young marrieds. You also will find sound advice for making wedding plans and getting your new life off on the right foot.

Also in this edition is the first part of a series on teenage drinking by staffer Sharon Darnieder. Can teenage drinking lead to alcoholism? If you dismiss all heavy drinking during the teen years as just another part of growing up, maybe you'd better take another look. Meet Jean. A former teenage alcoholic, now 23, she's been sober 2 1/2 years. Her story begins a three-part series entitled: "Teenage Drinkers Our Future Alcoholics?" Page 18.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bride & Groom 1974



A new column makes its debut in this week's Courier-Journal — Life, Liberty and Law. Written by Nancy Murphy of the Right to Life Committee, the column will give guidance to those interested in restoring the rights of the unborn. Page 8 today.