

Role of Family Was Vatican Concern at Parley

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican's primary role in the just-ended United Nations World Population Conference in Bucharest was described by Vatican Radio here as an effort to obtain recognition of the "fundamental role" of the family in the formation of the human person.

It said the Vatican delegation, which was the only explicit dissenter from the final compromise Plan of Action approved by the conference, stressed that the family's social value underlies the quality of society, given that it is in the family that the child first of all socializes and imbues moral traditions and rules.

According to the Vatican Radio report of the Bucharest conference — which brought together representatives of 136 nations for two weeks of debate — the Vatican delegation won from the conference's Population and Family Commission proposals to initiate studies on the genetic effects of the size of the family and to call on UN

agencies to support national and international programs of research on fertility and on the interaction between fertility and demographic indices.

The Vatican's delegation, headed by Canadian-born Bishop Edouard Gagnon, recognized the validity of many considerations and substantial improvements introduced into the conference, Vatican Radio said. But, the broadcast maintained, "it could not associate itself with the agreement which the plan obtained from the general assembly."

It said Bishop Gagnon explained that the final plan involved a "limited vision" and an "unsatisfactory or ambiguous" approach to points of utmost importance, such as "respect for life, the family and indiscriminate recourse to measures for the prevention of birth."

The bishop also observed that the particular nature of the Vatican "does not allow it to agree with reservations as some other delegations did." He said

states can defend themselves from what appears to be unacceptable in the action plan, "thanks to their recognized right to define their national population policies with complete sovereignty."

"From the Holy See," said Bishop Gagnon, "there is expected a more basic position and there must be a distinction between what is acceptable and what is not. We observe that the persistence of ambiguities, the introduction of unhappy expressions and the omission of certain essential elements are liable to give rise to too many interpretations and regrettable consequences, and we cannot approve in full the plan which includes and could inspire such elements."

Bishop Gagnon, according to the broadcast, nevertheless emphasized that the action plan admitted for the approval of the general assembly of the conference "is a substantial improvement" over the project presented to the delegates at the beginning of the conference.

The bishop particularly judged as "positive" the affirmation according to which the problem of population would be addressed "within the framework of the general policies of integral human development, policies which would require the construction of a new socio-economic order" based on the spirit of international justice and re-balance of world consumption.

Finally, the broadcast noted Bishop Gagnon recalled that during the conference the Vatican's delegation defended these policies and was pleased that many asked for them to be clearly expressed in the final action plan.

The UN conference's plan, a 10,000-word document containing 108 items, did not directly confront the global population growth rate but left the formulation of population policies up to individual nations. However, certain international development goals were outlined.

Among these were a reduction

of infant and child mortality, the full integration of women into the development process on all levels, the promotion of social justice through more equitable distribution of income, land, and social services, the promotion of wider educational opportunities, elimination of child labor and abuse and the extension of care and benefits for the aging, and the setting of a minimum age limit for marriage.

The document, which received a consensus approval from the more than 1,250 delegates, also stated that international cooperation should play "a supportive role" in the form of "direct technical and financial assistance" in areas of population concern that have international implications — such as migration.

Divided into three parts, the document encompasses a section on background, another on principles and objections, and a third on recommendations for action. The final section deals with population goals and policies, economic and social policies, development of information and implementation.

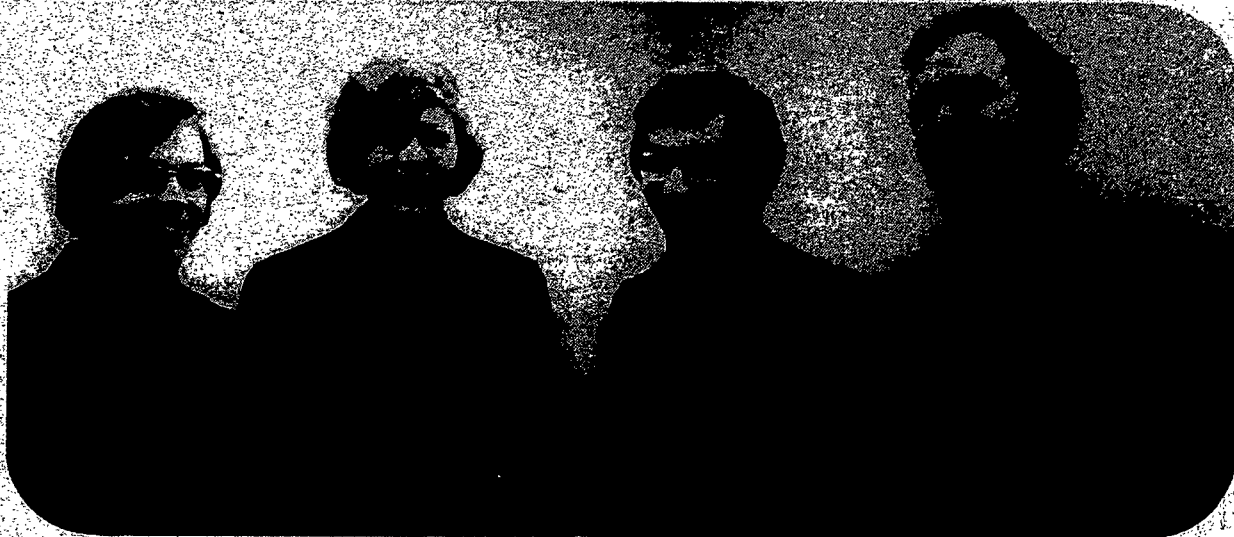


Photo by Susan McKinney

New Deacons

Four deacons were ordained for service to the Diocese of Rochester in rites at St. Ambrose Church, Friday, Sept. 6. Those ordained were Thomas Mull, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mull of Waterloo; James Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thomas of Rochester; Thomas Valenti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Valenti of Rochester; Peter Clifford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clifford of Auburn. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was the ordaining prelate at the ceremony, which, following recent diocesan custom, was attended by the general public.

New Legislation

Continued from Page 1

participation of private school children," he added.

Dr. Albert Alford, a legislative expert at the Office of Education, said that private school participation "is mandated now for virtually all of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)."

To be eligible for any federal program, Dr. Alford noted, public and private schools must not discriminate on the basis of race or sex and must give parents access to safeguarded private student records.

Meanwhile, the council hopes to have ready for distribution this fall a 50-page manual designed to provide assistance for non-public school heads desiring their students and teachers to benefit from federal programs.

Contracted by the Office of Education, the book is entitled by the council as "The Handbook for Nonpublic School Administrators: For Effective Participation in Federal Education Programs Administered by the U.S. Office of Education."

TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCING INSTRUCTION — Available by internationally known Toronto school. All ages — reply giving name, address, Phone #, age — Box 30, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St. Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Classes begin Sept. 15.

MEXICO

A COURIER-JOURNAL TOUR

October 21 to November 1

RESERVE EARLY

So near — yet centuries away in atmosphere, colorful Mexico is an exotic blend of three dynamic cultures — ancient Indian — Spanish Colonial and contemporary independence. Our tour takes us to the heart of our southern neighbor with a superb 12-day program that shows us the culture and traditions, the modern and the old, as well as the people.

We'll sightsee Mexico City — take excursions to the Shrine of Guadalupe and to the very interesting cathedral town of Puebla and then motor to the Colonial area visiting Queretaro, Guanajuato and Morelia. We'll also spend a day at the lovely mountain spa of San Jose Purua and the charming silver mining town of Taxco.

Travel throughout the country is by air-conditioned motorcoach and, as you can see in the day by day program, there is a comprehensive sightseeing program, as well as periods of leisure. Price is an all-inclusive one, including accommodations at some of the finest hotels.

Your Tour Conductor will be Father Paul Cuddy, the Courier's most popular tour escort — his friendly and helpful leadership, as well as his inspirational guidance will add immeasurably to your travel enjoyment.

TWELVE DAYS

- Including Air Fare
- Deluxe Motor Coach
- Delightful Guides
- Excellent Meals

798.00

FATHER PAUL CUDDY
TOUR DIRECTOR

COURIER-JOURNAL TOURS
67 Chestnut Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Please send brochure for the Tour of Mexico.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____