

Pope Concelebrates with 70 U.S. Bishops

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul VI celebrated a special Mass Sept. 22 with 70 U.S. Catholic bishops in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

Among the bishops was Bishop Joseph L. Hogan of Rochester.

He told the bishops in a sermon that they had a God-given duty to lead their people lovingly, as concerned shepherds to whom obedience is due.

The American prelates, comprising nearly one fourth of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, were attending a month-long "theological refresher course" under the auspices of the graduate house of studies of the North American College in Rome.

The course, officially called the U.S. Bishops' Theological Consultation, is the first of its kind, although similar programs sponsored by the college have been offered for priests.

"It is a period of reflection, analysis, prayer, and sharing on many levels," according to Msgr. Richard D. Mahowald from Sioux Falls, S.D., director of continuing education at North American

The Pope, preaching in English, insisted on the "institutional" nature of the Roman Catholic Church. This, he acknowledged, is "challenged by many Christians who are, unfortunately, separated from us."

By "institutional," he explained, he meant the organizational and hierarchical aspects of the Catholic Church, which accompany the "community of grace."

The pontiff also stressed the idea of "power," for which, he said, he preferred to use the Greek word, "exousia." This word, he said, indicates both the fact of service, or "diakonia," and the right and duty of the bishop to exercise it.

He interpreted the term "exousia" as "the capacity to act and to require the ecclesial, that is, loving, obedience of those to whom this word is directed."

Some observers interpreted the Pope's remarks as directed to some Catholic circles, such as in the Netherlands, where the bishop is thought to be purely an instrument of the community.

According to the official text of

the Pope's address at the Sistine Chapel service, the pontiff declared:

"Confronted with the evangelical and ecclesial interpretation of our authority in the community of the faithful, our hearts could remain fearful and paralyzed; how shall we be able to exercise our function, if its proper meaning is apparently turned upside down?"

"Is the Church going to be governed by the faithful to the service of whom the bishops are bound?"

"No, we know it well: the bishops are constituted by the Holy Spirit to shepherd the Church of God — to shepherd, 'poimainein,' this is the decisive word, a word that with its depth of meaning links in a marvelous way the juridical charism of

authority with the sovereign charism of love."

Cardinal Terence J. Cooke of New York, speaking on behalf of the other American bishops, presented a declaration of appreciation and loyalty to Pope Paul. The Mass marked the largest gathering of American bishops in Rome since the end of the 1962-1965 Vatican Council.

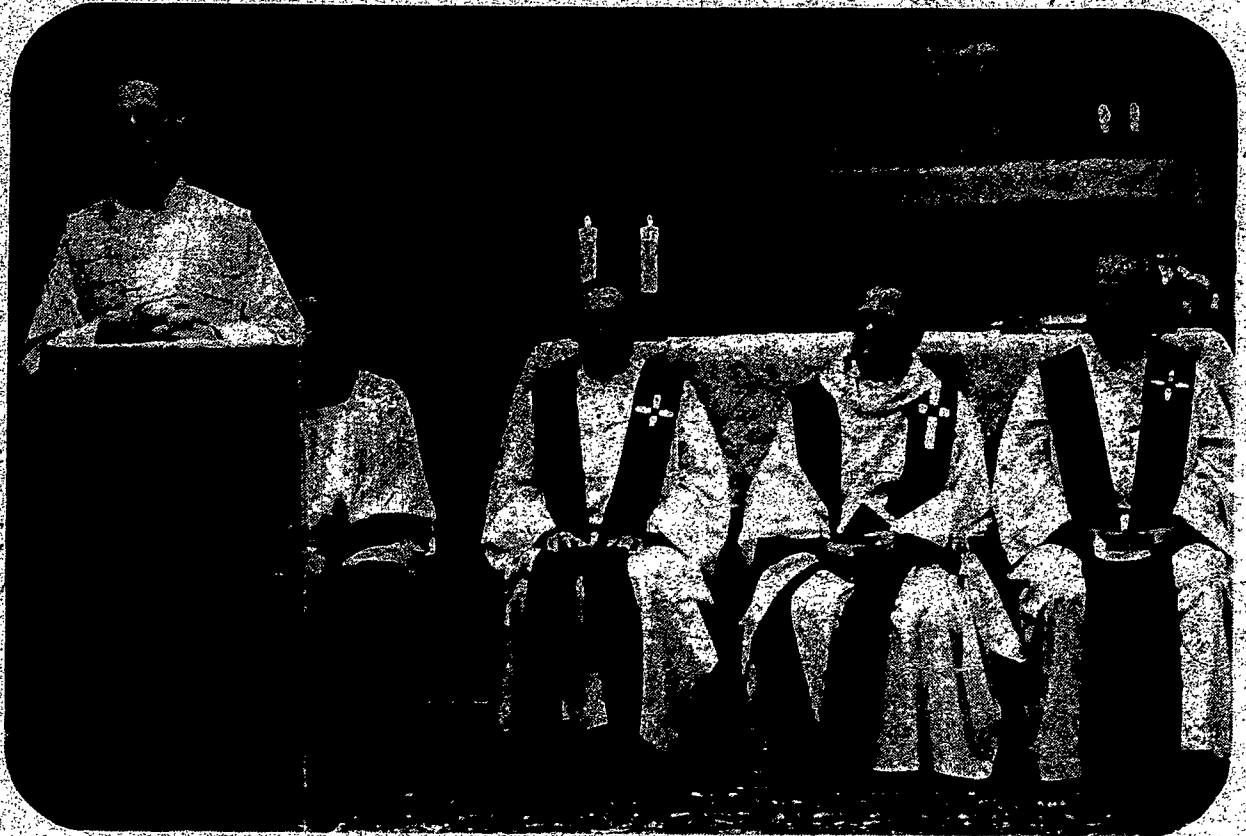
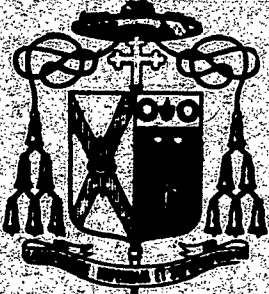


Photo by Bruce Genut

Alumni Assembly

Father Robert E. McNamara of St. Bernard's gives the homily at a Mass Sept. 25 during the biennial general assembly of seminary alumni. Listening are the three auxiliary bishops who concelebrated, with others, in the seminary chapel. Left to right are Bishops John E. McCafferty, Dennis W. Hickey and Francis J. Harrison of the Syracuse Diocese.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



October, 1974

- 4—Priesthood Ordination, St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua — 7:30 p.m.
- 6—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Mary's Church, Rexville — 2 p.m.
- 8-10—National Meeting of Priestly Spirituality Committee, Chicago, Ill.
- 11—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Boniface Church — 6:15 p.m.
- 15—Supervisors' and Leaders' Training Seminar, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
- 16—Clergy Relief Society Meeting, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua — 2:30 p.m.
- 17—Regional Conference of Tompkins-Tioga Region, St. Patrick's, Owego — 8 p.m.
- 18—Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Executive Meeting, Region II, Ramada Inn, Binghamton — 9:30 a.m.
- 19—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily for Wedding Jubilarians, St. Salome's Church — 3 p.m.
- 20—Mission Sunday, Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, TV Channel 10, WHEC — 8:30 a.m.
- 20—Dedication of Sacred Heart Church, Auburn; Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily — 11:30 a.m.
- 22—Board of Trustees Meeting, Becket Hall — 9 a.m.
- 22—Priests' Day of Recollection, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 24—Visitation and Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Fidelis Friary, Interlaken — 5 p.m.
- 25—Meeting of Boards of Trustees of St. Bernard's Seminary and Becket Hall, at Pastoral Office — 10:30 a.m.
- 25—Confirmation, St. Pius V, Cohocton — 7:45 p.m.
- 26—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 27—Diocesan Holy Year Pilgrimage, Sacred Heart Cathedral — 2:30 p.m.
- 29—Priests' Day of Recollection, St. Theodore's, Gates — 10:30 a.m.
- 30—Priestly Spirituality Committee Meeting, Victor — 12:15 p.m.

Sunday's Theme: Respect Life

Oct. 6 will be Respect Life Sunday in parishes throughout the country. The right to life of the unborn will be the theme, and a special liturgy has been supplied to the parishes, according to Father Robert Collins of the Family Life office.

In addition, parish Family Life and Human Development committees have been sent copies of a booklet that presents 10 study or action programs and lists resources for developing them. The booklets, from the Family Life Division of the U.S. Catholic Conference, were

distributed locally by the Office of Human Development.

The continuing program focuses on "things that ought to be going on in the parishes right along," Father Collins said.

Amnesty and gun control are new study topics on the list, which includes, as before, the themes of the unborn, justice and corrections, the mentally retarded, food, health care, the aging, poverty and euthanasia.

Respect Life Sunday was initiated in 1971 by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Pastoral Council

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The Pastoral Council Formation Committee that drew up the constitution was composed of priests, sisters and laity and first met in June, 1974. Since its inception it has met monthly and has undergone several membership changes.

A restructuring of the committee in the Fall of 1972 reflected the division of the diocese into regions. During this time the committee also began the first draft of the constitution.

In September, 1973, Father Hoffman took over as chairman and the committee concentrated on rewriting the draft after receiving recommendations and responses from various diocesan groups.

Bishop Hogan also became an active member of the Formation Committee during its last year. The committee completed work on the final draft of the constitution in June.

Father Hoffman expressed his thanks to committee members for the many hours of work they put in and noted that they made an effort to include extensive footnotes in the constitution to help clarify such terms as "consultative bodies," "regional conference," etc.

Bishop Enlarges Coordinators' Role

By SHARON DARNIEDER

Regional coordinators have been authorized by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to delegate the faculties of the diocese of Rochester to visiting priests who enjoy the faculties of their own diocese, according to Father William Flynn, chancellor, and the Office of Pastoral Ministry.

These faculties will include the hearing of confessions and preaching the word of God.

In a letter to the coordinators, Bishop Hogan said that he is "constantly striving to share responsibility for more effective ministry," and he noted that in the past three years they have been "of great assistance to me personally, as well as to the priests and people of their region."

He also told them that the pioneer work you've contributed to the pastoral care of souls and advancing the Kingdom of God is vital to the growth of the Church.

Although the matter had been under consideration before, according to Father Flynn, the request for permission to share this responsibility came from one of the regional coordinators last Summer.

"The bishop has referred to the coordinators in specific instances as his personal representatives in the regions, and as such they obviously have to share his role," said Father Flynn.

Father Douglas Hoffman, director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry, said he was pleased with the decision and pointed out that "any capabilities we can give coordinators to help them provide services to their locale is a real step forward."

He also said that as further needs come to light the canonical role of the coordinator will probably be expanded.

The permission to delegate diocesan faculties will only involve the coordinators now in office and will cease for each priest when his term of office as a coordinator is completed.

CYO DRIVE

The 43rd annual CYO Campaign is in progress toward the goal of combining and expanding programs. The newest program is Youth Development, which teaches youth groups techniques of group organization, leadership skills and group problem solving.

The 1974-75 Youth Development Resource Book can be obtained free of charge by calling 736/454-2030 or writing to Resource Book, CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.