

Speaker Previews Upcoming Bishops' Meet

By JOHN DASH

When the more than 30 bishops and 70 religious educators from around New York State gather in Rochester next week they will be expected to come to grips with a number of problems posed by the developing National Catechetical Directory (NCD).

The NCD, when completed, is expected to be a guideline for the religious education of all Catholics, children and adults.

The principal speaker for the three-day conference of Region II of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops will be the general editor of the NCD, Father Alfred A. McBride, O. Praem.

Father McBride, who also is

director of the National Forum for Religious Educators at the National Catholic Educators Association, will review for the bishops the difficulties he has encountered, to date, with the NCD.

In a telephone interview, the priest who has studied at Lumen Vitae, Brussels, and who holds a doctorate in Religious Education from Catholic University of America admits that "The American scene is so complex, that it is very difficult to represent and present" all its facets in the document.

Among the chapters the Norbertine priest will discuss will be the first, in which he finds it "hard to satisfy the pressures of American culture today in the space allotted."

The NCD chapter on Revelation again fans an unresolved debate that has been smoldering since the second Vatican Council, Father McBride acknowledged.

The question, unresolved, is whether Divine Revelation is fully completed with the last book of the Sacred Scriptures, or whether it continues through the Tradition of the Church.

This will be a subject for the Bishops' considerations he said.

A chapter on the Church presents some problems, Father McBride noted, between those who would see the Church solely through its organized structures, and those who would see the Church primarily in terms of the Mystery of the Body of Christ.

"There is a conflict in models, for some," he said.

The basic teachings in the document, however, are "pretty well accepted," he said, as is the chapter on Social Justice and the chapter on Catechetical Personnel.

He will present the bishops with the "strong response" the chapter on the Liturgy has received. He says that liturgical commissions from around the country have felt that the document's approach to the Liturgy of the Word is "too catechetical, and not liturgical enough."

He hopes the bishops' assembly will quickly "come up with explicit critiques" of the NCD, that it will "expound clearly

what they want and don't want," in the final drafting of the document.

Underlying all of the difficulties with the NCD, Father said, is the "language problem and style problem."

"Nine different writers," he said, "have been involved in writing this." And "while style is not of the essence, the debate still remains" as to whom the document is intended for and "how much religious jargon will be incorporated."

"Academic language" in the document, "is not what they want." Yet, while the priest acknowledges that the final draft will have some academic language, he hopes that the style will be more unified than it is at present.

The Roman Holy Year Churches:

Second in a Series
By Father Robert F. McNamara

Question: "What is the pope's cathedral church, i.e. the church that contains his permanent throne as bishop of Rome?" Answer: "St. Peter's." Mark: "You flunk!"

The cathedral church of Rome is the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Not only is it one of the four major basilicas that are the special object of Holy Year visits. It is the only one in which the permanent papal throne is located; and this has been true since the first Lateran basilica was constructed by Constantine in the early Fourth Century.

Whence the name? Constantine built the earliest church into a portion of the palace that had belonged to the family of Plautius Lateranus. Nero had executed Plautius as a convenient method of getting the palace for his own use. That was in 67 A.D. It remained an imperial palace thereafter until Constantine built the church and gave it, appropriately, to the bishops of Rome for their use, along with the adjacent buildings. Here the popes lived until they moved to France in 1308. (It was only after the popes returned from France at the end of that century that

they began living elsewhere in Rome.)

In the early medieval period, the popes enlarged the church to its present dimensions. It was typically "basilican" in structure — a rectangular building with four rows of marble columns supporting the roof, and a semicircular apse before which the main altar stood. Few churches have experienced so many disasters. It was destroyed by the barbarian Vandals in the fifth century, toppled by an earthquake in the Ninth Century, nearly consumed by fire in 1308, and again in 1364; but each time it was restored and repaired with greater magnificence. In fact, Dante said of it in the 13th Century: "The barbarians from the north stood in mute wonder amid the works of Rome, when to their view the Lateran arose in greatness more than earthly;" (Paradiso, 31:34-36) Unfortunately, the last major restoration, in 1654, destroyed the old basilican image of the interior by encasing the pillars in stone and plaster, giving the church a rather cold Baroque atmosphere.

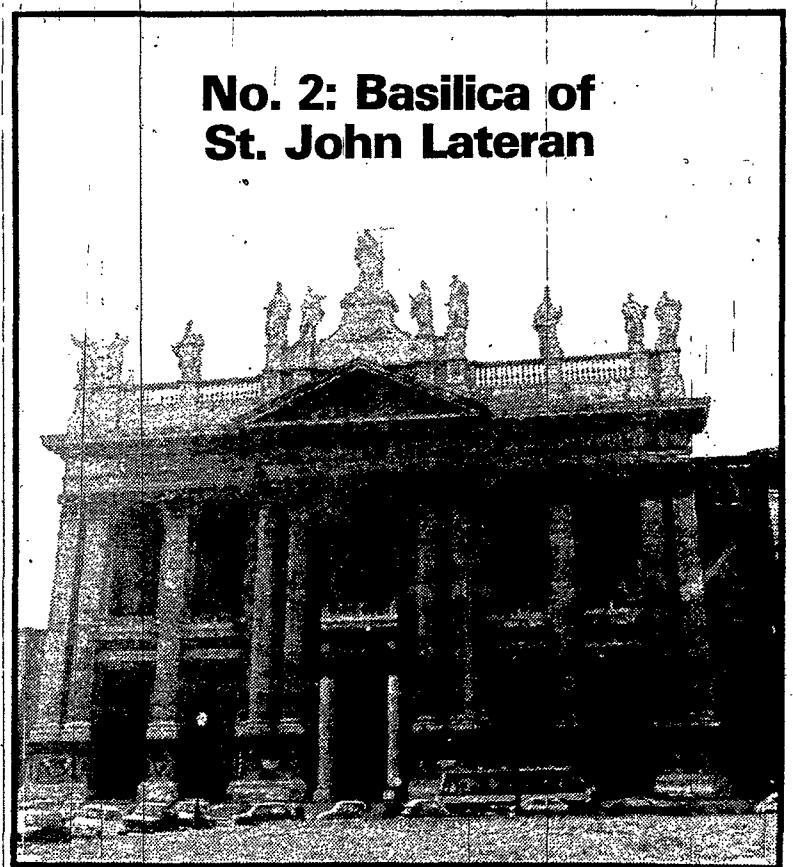
Nevertheless, St. John Lateran was remained, as the medieval inscription on it testifies, the "Mother and Principal Church of the Whole World." It was here

that the popes were officially installed in office. Here were held the five ecumenical councils of the Lateran, in 1123, 1139, 1179, 1215 and 1512. It was here that St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic came to see Pope Innocent III to get his approval of their new religious orders, the Franciscans and the Dominicans. Here lived Pope St. Gregory the Great; here Pope St. Martin I was dragged off to Constantinople by Emperor Constans; here Pope Gregory VII issued his decrees against Emperor Henry IV.

The Lateran complex of buildings includes the Constantinian baptistry; the Holy Stairs (reputed to be those of Pilate's house) which one ascends on one's knees; a beautiful medieval cloister, a main marble altar whose wooden top is related to have been that used as an altar by St. Peter; a baldachin over the altar containing the skulls of SS. Peter and Paul enshrined in silver busts.

Of special interest to Holy Year pilgrims is the painting by Giotto (d. 1336?) on one of the inner walls of the church depicting Pope Boniface VIII proclaiming the first official holy year in 1300 A.D.

St. John Lateran, dedicated first



No. 2: Basilica of St. John Lateran

to our Saviour, then to St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist, is today the least beautiful of the four major

basilicas. But in dignity and in history it still takes precedence as the "Mother Church of the Christian World."

More Potatoes Donated

By BONITA BALDWIN

They've done it again! For the second time this winter the Office of Human Development loaded potatoes for distribution to the poor.

Last week Steuben County farmer Bernard Votykka donated six tons of potatoes to three rural Human Development offices. Votykka is a member of Sacred Heart Parish in Perkinsville and serves on the Human Development Committee there. Early in March of this year, the Bourgoine family of Wayland gave away nearly four tons of potatoes.

Father George Wiant of OHD in Wayne County and Laverne Noble each drove a pick-up truck to the Votykka farm and brought a ton of potatoes back to Wayne County. Father Wiant said that 600 pounds have been distributed

to individuals, 400 pounds are to be taken to the Community Center in Williamson, and the remaining 1,000 pounds are being stored for future use in the self-development center in Lyons.

Human development in Steuben County netted over three tons of potatoes, according to Sister Mary Kruckow. She reported that Shay's of Dansville lent a truck and Anthony Ermy of St. Ann's Parish in Hornell volunteered as driver. Norman Murphy, a student at LeMoyne College home on vacation, and Donald Wickwire, both of Hornell, helped with the loading. Sister said that 3,500 pounds were distributed to service centers in Wayland, Hornell, and Addison. Another ton was distributed through her office.

Sister Alice McLaughlin of OHD in Yates, Ontario, and Seneca counties acquired 3,000 pounds. She could not be reached for further detail, but Sister Mary Kruckow said that she believes the potatoes were to have been distributed to three houses of concern in the area.

25th ANNIVERSARY AT ST. JAMES

St. James Parish, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, plans a special liturgy for all the couples married in the church. The program scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20, will include a short sermon, renewal of vows and benediction, with a social hour afterward. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tette have charge of arrangements.

Spring Events Set at Cenacle

Spring programs at the Cenacle Retreat House begin with an Experience in Prayer weekend for women April 11-13, conducted by Sisters Mary Walsh and Joan Fitzgibbons. Reservations and further information may be obtained from either of them at the cenacle.

A three-week series, Who Is This Man — For You, conducted by Sister Evelyn Bailey will begin on Wednesday, April 16, and continue on April 23 and 30. Each session will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the program format includes conferences and prayer experiences emphasizing Scripture and one's personal relationship with Christ. For reservations and further information contact Sister Bailey.

A General Retreat for women will be conducted by Father Donald Hinfey, S.J. April 18-20. Father Benedict Ehmann and Sister Margaret Mary Mattle will conduct a retreat for parish liturgy committees April 25-27.

Career Week Scheduled

Nazareth Academy is planning a business career week — April 21-25. Guest speakers representing different career fields are being scheduled for April 23 to inform the students about the aspects of various professions.

Bishops

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Father McBride's talks, and they will advise him accordingly as to progress toward his objectives.

The purpose and the theological and educational dimensions of the directory are Father McBride's topics. An open forum and a bishops' panel are included in the Wednesday afternoon schedule.

The Pastoral Office share in the

Sr. Luke Tobin Slated by CWU

Sister Mary Luke Tobin, director of Citizen Action for the national Church Women United (CWU), and the first American woman auditor at Vatican Council II, will address the area CWU at Webster United

logistics of the meeting includes the dispatching of drivers to transport the visitors from the airport to the Americana Hotel on State Street, where all working sessions will take place. The Tuesday and Wednesday meetings will be open to news reporters and photographers.

On Wednesday evening, the bishops will have a private dinner, and on Thursday they will sit in executive session.

Presbyterian Church on April 11. The meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The title of her speech before the annual assembly of the Rochester CWU will be How Can I Simplify My Life?

Because of technical problems Father Paul J. Cuddy's column does not appear this week. It will return next edition.

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Bp. Kearney

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number of religious orders, and greatly expanded the education system as well as opportunities for the spiritual growth of his people. Monuments to his energetic career include St. John Fisher College, Cardinal Mooney High School and the school that took his name, and many parishes and their schools.

Bishop Kearney has been retired, but not inactive, since 1966.