



An international group of musicians leads the gathering in song.



Spong and Celso outside of St. Peter's Basilica on Pentecost Sunday.

When some 10,000 Catholics from around the world attended the International Congress on Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, Rochester diocesan were among them. Bill Spong and Tom Celso of St. Bernard's Seminary attended the congress and acted as special correspondents for the Courier-Journal to provide this word-and-photo account.

# The Spirit Draws 10,000

Rome — "This renewal is a great light for all the world," Pope Paul told the more than 10,000 participants in the 1975 International Conference on the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church. The pontiff's statement, given during a special audience in St. Peter's, climaxed four days of worship, talks and workshops which drew delegates from more than 60 countries.

A great sense of excitement and anticipation marked the first general session of the conference on May 16. In several languages, the participants sang and raised their hands in praise of the Lord.

Under a vast canopy erected for the occasion Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens told the crowd that if God were to speak to them directly he would probably thank them for being a joyful people.

Father Francis Martin, leading an opening day service of repentance and reconciliation uttered the first prophecy:

"I know, I embrace and I love you. Give me your heart. Give me your heart. I am your brother. When I lay there on the ground all the weight of being human pressed me down. I understand. I understand. Repent in joy. Repent in enthusiasm. Repent, my brothers and sisters, because I love you. This every moment I want you to know how deep and how strong, how total, how joyful my love for you is,



Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens of Malines-Brussels, Belgium, one of the leading spokesmen for the international movement, poses with Bishop Nicolas D'Antonio of Juticalpa, Honduras, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph McKinney of Grand Rapids, Mich., who is recognized as a leading authority on charismatics in the United States.



Father Francis MacNutt, OP, from the U.S., one of the leading authorities on charismatic healing, tells the crowd that the great prayer for healing is found in the gospel: "Lord, the man you love is sick."

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