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Reaffirmed: Women Can Not Be Priests

Washington — The president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a statement affirming the Catholic Church's teaching that "women are not to be ordained to the priesthood."

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati stated:

"It is not correct to say that no serious theological obstacle stands in the way of ordaining women to the priesthood, and that the fact that women have not been ordained up to now can be explained simply by culturally

conditioned notions of male superiority.

"There is a serious theological issue. Throughout its history the Catholic Church has not called women to the priesthood. Although many of the arguments presented in times gone by on this subject may not be defensible today, there are compelling reasons for this practice."

Archbishop Bernardin was authorized to make a statement reaffirming Church teaching on the ordination of women by the Administrative Committee of the

National Conference of Catholic Bishops at its meeting here Sept. 9-10. The statement was prepared subsequently and was issued after consultation with the NCCB Executive Committee. Copies have been sent to all U.S. bishops.

Archbishop Bernardin quoted at length from a 1972 report of the NCCB Committee on Pastoral Research and Practices entitled "Theological Reflections on the Ordination of Women," which he said gave "a very powerful reason for not ordaining women."

That report states in part: "The constant tradition and practice of the Catholic Church against the ordination of women, interpreted (whenever interpreted) as of divine law, is of such a nature as to constitute a clear teaching of the Ordinary Magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church. Though not formally defined, this is Catholic doctrine."

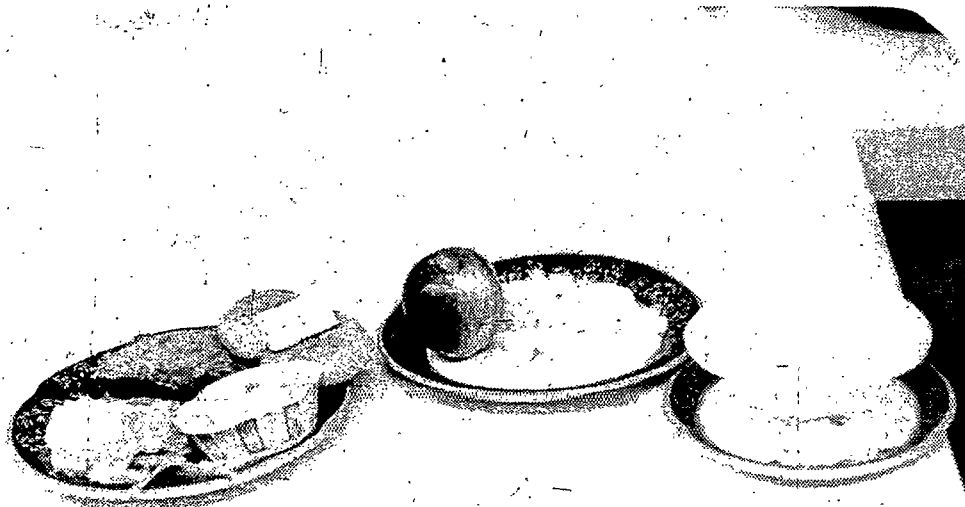
Declaring that "a negative answer to the possible ordination of women is indicated," the 1972 report added: "The well-founded present discipline will continue

to have and to hold the entire field unless and until a contrary theological development takes place, leading to a clarifying statement from the Magisterium."

Archbishop Bernardin called it "a 'mistake' to 'reduce the question of the ordination of women to one of injustice, as is done at times.'"

"It would be correct to do this only if ordination were a God-given right of every individual; only if somehow one's human

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Photos by Bruce Genit

World Hunger

One out of every eight people at last week's World Hunger Banquet was served the dish at the left. Two got the apple and the macaroni. Everyone else ate a cup of chicken soup and a handful of crackers, during the event at McQuaid Jesuit High School — an event designed to demonstrate what it means to

go hungry while someone else is filled. Present at the meal are (from the left) Congressman Barber Conable, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Henry Maher, director of the Southwest Region Human Development committees, which sponsored the affair; and Father Charles Mulligan, director of OHD.

Sister DeSales Dies, Was Nun 75 Years

Sister Mary de Sales Reilly, the oldest Sister of Mercy in the diocese, died at the Motherhouse Oct. 2, 1975, at the age of 95.

She had retired three years ago, after 72 years of service at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday at St. Ann's, Hornell. Sister de Sales is survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was born in 1880 in County Cavan, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1898. Two years later, she joined the Mercy sisters at Hornell, and as a novice began the hospital career that was to continue until 1972. She became the director of the first school of nursing, in 1912, and headed the

school for more than 40 years. She also was operating room supervisor for 64 years. The hospital's new education building was named for her in 1968.

When Sister de Sales began her on-the-job training, which included cleaning the hospital as well as caring for the sick, there were three sisters in full charge. They had the assistance from time to time of graduate nurses from other places, and everyone worked at least 12 hours a day, Sister recalled some years ago.

The late Dr. William J. Tracy of the hospital staff, in a 1955 tribute, described Sister de Sales as "one of the most devoted and endearing persons in all the history of St. James Mercy, a truly real pioneer for the good of all."



The new deacons prostrate themselves during the invocation of the Litany of the Saints.

Nine Ordained to Diaconate

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan ordained nine men to the diaconate for the Diocese of Rochester last Friday, Oct. 3, in public ceremonies in St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Those ordained from the diocese are John DeSocio, whose home parish is St. Anthony, Elmira; John Firpo, St. Pius X, Chili; Matthew Kawiak, St. Stanislaus; Kevin McKenna, Sacred Heart Cathedral; and James Sauers, also from Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Others ordained for service in the diocese are John Forni, of Great Barrington, Mass.; Daniel Karl of Allegany, N.Y.; James Sauers from the U.S. Military Vicariate; and Stephen Ward from Lancaster, Pa.

Assisting Bishop Hogan in the ceremony were Father Joseph P. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, who called the candidates to orders; and Father William Graf, of the seminary faculty. The newly ordained also

asked several of their former professors to take part in the Eucharistic celebration. Sister Margaret Deegan, RSM, and Dr. Theodore Weeden acted as lectors; Sister Anne Mary Dooley, SSJ, and Joseph Kelly brought the Offertory gifts to the altar.

A special feature of the ceremony was the music, provided by a folk group made up of diocesan clergy. All of them are alumni of St. Bernard's and

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