

'Holy Year' Ends in Symbolic Rite

Vatican City [RNS] — Enacting a ceremony introduced by Pope Paul II in 1475, Pope Paul VI will solemnly close the 25th Holy Year of the Roman Catholic Church by presiding over the closing of the "Holy Door" of St. Peter's Basilica shortly before midnight on Christmas Eve (tonight).

With the closing of the door, which the Pope had ceremoniously opened on Christmas Eve 1974, the year of "renewal and reconciliation" will come to a formal end.

The opening and closing of this door has been the most distinctive feature of the Holy Year since the 15th Century. The expulsion from Paradise, the reconciliation of penitents (penance is a door to Heaven), and the idea of sanctuary seem all to have con-

tributed to give meaning to the symbol.

Between times, the door is closed by two partitions of brick, between which are deposited medals and a commemorative parchment.

Traditionally in holy years, pilgrims stream into Rome to visit holy places, Saints are canonized, and the Church encourages a mood of prayerful repentance and introspection.

According to the bull of Pope Paul proclaiming the 1975 Holy Year, participation in the event could earn "the gift" of a plenary indulgence (a full remission of temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven) for all the faithful "who through a profound conversion of the heart to God, through works of penance, piety

and brotherly solidarity, sincerely and fervently attest to their desire to remain united in charity with God and their brethren, and to make progress in that charity."

Pilgrims by the millions responded to the call and made the pilgrimage to Rome. They came from the U.S., Western Europe, Asia, and Africa. They came even from Communist Poland, Hungary, East Germany. It seemed that all mankind, all races, were represented in Rome during the year.

The universality or "catholicity" of the Church was dramatically shown forth last July when Pope Paul ordained to the priesthood 359 young men — Africans, Asians, Oceanians, Europeans, and Americans — at a colorful ceremony in St. Peter's Square. It was the largest group ordination in Vatican history.

Pilgrims — singly, or more generally in groups — made special visits to Rome's four major Basilicas, taking part in a liturgical celebration, especially the Mass, or in some exercise of piety, such as the Way of the Cross or the Rosary.

By the hundreds of thousands, pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square on Wednesdays and on Sundays to greet Pope Paul, listen to his homily, and receive his blessing.

Numerous international meetings and conferences took place in Rome as part of the year's celebration. In May, some 70,000 participants, including more than 4,000 from the U.S., and Canada — and eight leading Catholic bishops — assembled in Rome for a four-day International Congress of the Charismatic

Renewal in the Catholic Church. They were warmly greeted by Pope Paul.

The Pope, following a Holy Year tradition, also proclaimed a number of new Blessed and Saints. Prominent among these were Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) — the first native-born American Saint — who founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph and laid the foundation for the parochial school system in the U.S., and Oliver Plunkett, an Irish Catholic archbishop martyred for the faith in 1681 — Ireland's first canonized saint in 700 years.

The 1975 Holy Year — in line with the preceding 24 — was aimed at "spiritual renewal in Christ and reconciliation with God." The year had an added dimension, however: "the promotion of Christian unity."

Still Time To Help

The Courier-Journal Christmas Fund, run in conjunction with Catholic Charities, is still accepting donations. Anyone wishing to contribute should send their contribution to:

**Courier-Journal Christmas Fund
Care of Catholic Charities
50 Chestnut St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604**

Pope's Mass On Local TV

Pope Paul's celebration of Christmas Eve Mass will be broadcast over NBC TV, Channel 8 locally, at 11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. The Mass, marking the end of the Holy Year, will be offered in St. Peter's Square to accommodate the expected crowds.

Cooperation between the Knights of Columbus, paying production costs in Rome, and NBC is making the satellite broadcast possible. Father Agnellus Andrew, OFM, a former director of religious programming for the BBC in London, will provide commentary in English. Organizing the event is the United States Catholic Conference's Office of Film and Broadcasting, headed by Father Patrick Sullivan, S.J.



Alleluia! Christ is Born

Cardinal Mooney High School theology classes under the direction of Mrs. Marianne Kuter enacted a "live" nativity scene complete with sheep, goats and burros. Performances were given by the students on three evenings. Front row: Mrs. Kuter, David Philippone, Tom Panaggio, Martha Buckley, Joseph

Scotto, Steve Metzler, Jim Bauer, and Bryan Liddle. Back row includes Mary Jo Lynch, Meg Tydings, Kathy Hart, Sue Springer, Karen Keefer, and Mary Maitland. See RapAround, page 11, for other high schools and their participation in various Christmas activities.

Basilians to Staff Christ the King Parish

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Basilian priests will staff Christ the King parish after the imminent retirement of Father William J. Schifferli. Jan. 15 is the date tentatively set for their arrival, the Pastoral Office announced this week.

Appointments will be made at the Basilian Fathers' Toronto headquarters and confirmed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. If only one assistant is assigned with the new pastor, Father David Mura will stay on for a while, the Pastoral Office said. Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, may continue to live at the rectory.

In a "verbal survey," the people of the 18-year-old Irondequoit parish chose a Basilian administration from among three options offered by the diocese. They could have had a traditional pastorate or a co-pastorate, according to Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, head of the Personnel Board.

Under terms of a proposition accepted by the Priests Council in April 1973, the order priests will work under contract at regular diocesan pay rates.

Bishop Hickey wrote lately to all the diocesan priests that there

would not be enough of them "for all the needs of June 1976, to say nothing of 1977 when seven priests will reach retirement age."

"The Basilians, many of whose members are Rochesterians, have a real love and warmth for the diocese and are anxious to be of assistance," the bishop wrote. He said they had volunteered to administer one parish.

Christ the King Church, opened in 1957, has had but two pastors. The late Msgr. Charles Mahoney was succeeded in 1961 by Father Schifferli, who announced last month that he would retire Dec. 31 because of worsening health.

The parish community consists of about 1,250 families. There is no parish council, but there are active liturgy and human development committees, the traditional Mens Club and Rosary Guild and a host of other organizations, ranging from Cub Scouts to Pre-Can.

William Schmitz, Mens Club president, said adults from all these groups, plus trustees, head ushers and volunteer coaches took a "verbal survey" of parish opinion. The three options were announced from the pulpit at Masses Dec. 13 and 14 and the 26 men and women on the ad hoc committee held information

sessions in the school hall between Masses. This group, representing the leadership of all the parish organizations, later voted 18-8 for a Basilian administration, Schmitz reported.

In general, he said, there was "a good deal of support for the traditional pastor and associate pastor arrangement, but greater support for the Basilians." The idea of a co-pastorate appealed to few, he added.

Many parishioners had not been "truly aware" of a priest shortage, Schmitz continued. Those who are acquainted with the Basilians give them "highest praise," and think their presence will bring "great stability" to the parish. Schmitz said he thought that any negative feeling could be traced to the loyalty parishioners feel toward the diocesan priests who have been serving them well. Those who opted for a traditional pastor and associate pastor arrangement were able to see, he said, that this was "inherent" in the proposed Basilian administration.

Six members of the parish committee contacted people active in other parishes that are conducted by order priests, and "all the feedback was extremely positive," Schmitz reported.

The Congregation of St. Basil has been established here for nearly 40 years. It has two communities in the diocese, at Aquinas Institute and St. John Fisher College. Its members are trained to teach at high school and college levels, but some of them are staffing parishes in Toronto, Windsor and other Ontario communities, in Detroit and in Houston. The order also maintains a number of missions among the Spanish-speaking people of Texas and Mexico.

The Basilians took over Aquinas from the diocese in 1937 and founded Fisher College in 1948. Members assigned to these two institutions have parish duties weekends.

Before the priests Council was organized several parishes had been for years in the care of various orders. The Redemptorists alone "own" their parish, St. Joseph's in downtown Rochester. They established it before the diocese of Rochester existed. After fire ruined the St. Joseph property two years ago, the church of Our Lady of Victory was lent to them.

Parishes administered by orders include Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester, which is in the care of the Sacred Hearts Fathers; St.

Francis Solanus in Interlaken, served by a Capuchin community; St. Theresa, Rochester, and St. Hyacinth, Auburn, Polish Franciscans, and St. George (Lithuanian), also run by a Franciscan order. St. Anthony-St. Patrick has been staffed since June 1974 by the Precious Blood Fathers, who came here 40 years ago to serve Most Precious Blood Church.

Bishop Hogan In 3 TV Appearances

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan faces a busy round of television appearances during the holiday season.

He first will appear on the Eddie Meath Show on WHEC-TV, Channel 10, between 8 and 8:30 a.m., Christmas morning. Later that same morning, 11 a.m., he will celebrate Mass, also over Channel 10.

On Saturday, Dec. 27, he will be the guest on Channel 13's weekly News Conference at 7:30 p.m.