

Womens Ordination Group Forms Core Commission

Ten Roman Catholic lay women and nine nuns have been chosen to act as a national policy-making "core commission" of the Women's Ordination Conference, and are expected to plan and implement strategies and engage in ongoing dialogue with the nation's Catholic bishops on the ordination issue.

The leadership group was chosen by an ad hoc conference committee from among 193 persons recommended after last November's Detroit Meeting on "Women in Future Priesthood Now: A Call to Action."

One person from the Rochester diocese was named to the commission — Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, the Religious Education Coordinator at St. Michael's in Rochester. Ms. Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt of Chicago, formerly a consultant to Parish Religion Education Coordinators in this diocese, also is a member of the commission.

A conference committee announcement said that commission members range in age from 22 to 52, and bring a diversity of political and ministerial experience to the conference, which was established to work for the ordination of women to a "transformed, renewed, priestly ministry in the Roman Catholic Church."

At their initial meeting at Rosary College in Chicago June 25-27, the commission will consider the selection of additional members and their first communication with the general conference, which has members in 33 states, Canada and Belgium.

The Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church has a membership of five lay women, five sisters, and three priests. The purpose they have set for themselves is to work with others to create a new understanding of ministry in the Church community, and for the full participation of women at all levels.

Through its members and their contacts, the Task Force expects to communicate with other local, national, and international groups working on the issue of the role of women in the church.

A statement of purpose issued by the Task Force traced the history of the women's ordination issue, noting the evolution in the role of women that has occurred in society and in the church, especially in the last century. The statement asked for serious consideration of the women's ordination issue and asserted that "women's ordination is not a women's issue; many women approach the issue of ordination out of ministerial experience and out of a sense of shared responsibility for the mission and ministry of the Church community."

"In aspiring to ordination to sacramental ministry," the statement explained, "women are looking to the possibilities of new types of ministries, new modes of ministering, and new structures, some of which are already being created as Church leaders struggle to meet new needs and new situations. Just as our immigrant grandparents built church structures out of brick and stone as a labor of love, so now we as the Church community are being called to rebuild for the future."

... And Is Rebuked

Spokane, Wash. [RNS] — A leading Roman Catholic theologian has warned that the proponents of the ordination of women have a "terrifying responsibility" in trying to change what he believes is the nature of a sacramental sign in Holy Orders.

Predicting that the controversy "will go on for many years," Father John R. Sheets, S.J., said that it is "difficult to see how it can be resolved unless the Church issues a dogmatic statement on the question" — a course of action which he described as highly unpopular in this day and age.

Father Sheets, chairman of the theology department at Creighton University, Omaha, made his observations in the Spring issue of *Communio*, international Catholic review published at Gonzaga University, Spokane. He is chairman of *Communio's* editorial advisory board.

Claiming that what is fundamentally at issue is the nature of the sacramental sign of orders, he said that "women have never been ordained to the priesthood" and the "note of *de fide catholica*" (indicating that a proposition has its roots in Revelation though not formulated as dogma) was assigned to the proposition that only men could be ordained to the priesthood and the episcopacy.

Father Sheets said that although

this judgment has been challenged in recent years, he holds that the "de fide catholica" proposition that restricts the priesthood to men still stands. He asserted that it was Christ's "intention" that only men be priests and bishops, and that this intention is in the nature of sacrament.

He also said that if the Church does issue a dogmatic judgment that only men can be priests "it has to contend not simply with the rage of disappointed females, but with the deeper opposition from a mentality which is anti-hierarchical (with respect to the gifts of the Holy Spirit), admitting no real difference of being."

"The notion of choice or election by God is repugnant to a mentality which tends to democratize not only politics but religion," he noted, and that mentality will not accept that "God chooses, sends and blesses" His ministers.

In stating that the leaders of the women's ordination movement have a "terrifying responsibility," Father Sheets remarked, "Unless one is sure of having a vocation like Moses, he should not lead people out into the desert where there may be no water... not all of the pressure tactics in the world... can create or destroy or change a sacramental sign."

"That is the issue — the nature of the sacramental sign of orders."

Widows, Widowers Invited To Meeting in Auburn

Auburn — An informational night open to all widows and widowers is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. June 30 at the Farm and Home Center, Grant Avenue, as the first step in exploring the needs and problems of those who have experienced the loss of a spouse.

Sponsored by Cayuga Counseling Services, the agency is interested in expanding services to focus on the special problems facing the widow

and widower, both young and senior citizen. Once these concerns have been identified, with input from those who have experienced this loss, a concerted effort will be forthcoming to provide appropriate services.

The meeting is open to the public. Additional information is available by calling Cayuga Counseling Services, a United Fund Agency serving Cayuga County, at 80 North Street, here.



The Unification Church's "Bicentennial God Bless America Rally" in Yankee Stadium June 1 was publicized with large red, white and blue posters featuring Moon's picture. After the rally, church members took down the posters, as part of their campaign to clean New York (left). But in Rochester (right) the posters are still as Moonies have left them.

Reject Me, Reject God, Moon Claims in Speech

New York [RNS] — The Rev. Sun Myung Moon brought a mixture of patriotism, religion, and anti-communism to Yankee Stadium in his message to the "Bicentennial God Bless America Festival" staged by his Unification Church June 1.

Crowd estimates for the 55,000-seat stadium varied between 25,000 and 40,000. Large numbers left during Moon's speech, although the audience appeared enthusiastic during the musical portions of the program, which featured a brass band, rock group, symphony orchestra, and a Korean folk ballet.

Outside, protesters representing a variety of groups distributed anti-Moon leaflets. Earlier in the day, about 100 demonstrators picketed the Unification Church's West 43rd Street headquarters.

Moon, who speaks little English, belittled his speech in Korean with South Korean Army Col. Bo Hi Pak translating in emphatic English.

Moon declared, "God has sent

me to America in the role of a doctor, in the role of a fire fighter, that is why I came to America. Good medicine may taste bitter, and the operation may involve some pain, but the treatment must begin at once.

"Your dedicated sons and daughters," he continued, "are champions of God crusading for the victory of God's will. As God's front-line, they are declaring war against evil. They are courageously fighting this noble battle. We must overcome evil. It is our mission to build the Kingdom of God on earth."

Referring to his critics, Moon said, "It is not important whether I am persecuted or not. I am only concerned with the will of God and the mission God gave me. I am concerned that your rejection of me could result in the rejection of God."

He warned that "destroying America is the Communists' final

and ultimate goal. They know America is God's final bulwark on earth. More than anything else, this is a test of whether America will stand as God's nation or fall."

The full text of Moon's 45 minute speech was printed two days later in the New York Times. The two page advertisement cost the church \$25,728.

In an effort to fill as many seats as possible, people without tickets were admitted. This led to some booing and rowdiness during Moon's speech, ranging from a smoke bomb to the arrest of one person carrying a gun.

In other developments relating to Moon's 7,000 member church, the National Council of Churches Commission of Faith and Order released its report on Moon's theology, stating that "it is to be hoped that the Unification Church will not seek any dependency on the Christian community which it distorts so completely."

The report took issue with the Christianity expressed in the church's statement of theology, "Divine Principle." Noting that the book contends that Christ failed, and was crucified because he couldn't convince the Jews he was the Messiah, the commission said "the denial that Jesus Christ provided complete and adequate salvation claims a deficiency for Christ's work which Christians could not accept."

The House of Representatives Subcommittee on International Organizations has scheduled hearings into the connections between Moon and the Korean CIA. The first witness invited to appear will be Lt. Col. Bo Hi Pak, Moon's closest associate and translator, and former South Korean military attache in Washington, according to Richard Mauzy, a staff investigator for the subcommittee.

The Unification Church itself is not the subject of the investigation. The probe, which began last December, centers on charges involving the South Korean CIA. Attention locked on Moon when his name turned up repeatedly in the course of the investigation, Mauzy said.

End Arms Race, Vatican Asks U.N.

United Nations, N.Y. [RNS] — The Vatican has condemned the armaments race "unreservedly" and has urged "controlled, gradual disarmament" "accompanied by genuine and effective guarantees."

Its statement came in response to an invitation from the United Nations secretary general to all states to submit their views on strengthening the role of the United Nations in disarmament. It was published with replies of 14 other governments in a U.N. report.

The armaments race is described by the Holy See as a "form of theft" because "massive budgets allocated to the manufacture and stockpiling of weapons is tantamount to misappropriation of funds by the 'managers' of the large nations or favored blocs."

"It is an act of aggression which amounts to a crime, for even when

they are not used, by their cost alone armaments kill the poor by causing them to starve," the statement said.

The Vatican document says "disarmament is not a separate reality, a separate thing in itself. It is part of a whole."

The document calls for "peace through law" as exemplified in a "world structure" and "bilateral or multilateral conventions and agreements."

Calling for "extensive and bold study," the document says "disarmament is not simply a matter of good will. It cannot be improvised. It will be costly, as in the case of tearing down an old building in order to replace it by a new one. The conversion of the armaments industries, and the armaments trade in particular, is a matter for technologists."