

Absolution

Continued from Page 3
pointed out. They must actually take steps to an annulment.

"But there is more hope for these cases now than before," he said. Since Vatican II the Church has been allowing annulment processes previously not possible and new methods have been employed.

So while Bishop Dozier's rite has received a great deal of attention it is questionable that it will be repeated to any great extent in the same context.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said that the mass absolution does not mean this will be the "common form" of reconciliation.

"Individual private confession and absolution represent the ordinary way of celebrating the Rite of Reconciliation," he said.

The apostolic delegate to the United States, Archbishop Jean Jadot, said that contrary to impressions given in news reports, he had not given his approval for the ceremony. "In fact, I made no judgement on the matter," he said.

So while such mass absolution is within the parameter of Church guidelines, and has been held on a limited basis within this diocese, it is in no way to be taken lightly. Grave sins, would still have to be confessed on an individual basis within a year.

As Father Kennedy puts it, "General absolution is not to be regarded as a magic kind of act."

For those divorced or separated and not remarried who feel estranged from the Church, such a service is ideal. But for those

divorced and remarried a talk with a priest is still the first step. The diocese also has established a ministry to such persons, directed by Sister Kathleen, who is available at the Pastoral Center.

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REPENTANCE

The Advent Repentance program of the Rochester Catholic Charismatic Renewal Coordinating Center will continue Friday, Dec. 17. Celebration of a Charismatic Mass will open the evening at 8 p.m. Following the Mass, Father Paul J. McCabe will deliver the conclusion of a two-part teaching on repentance.

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