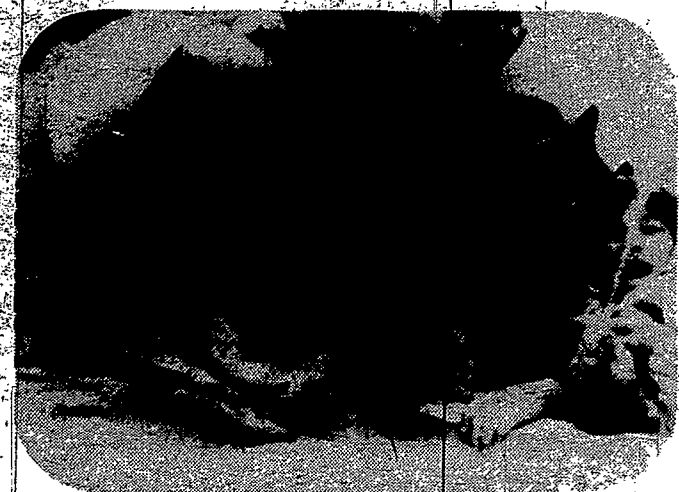


COURIER-JOURNAL

24 Pages Wednesday, January 26, 1977 © Copyright Courier Journal Inc. 1977 NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 20 Cents



"It seems appropriate that in any future union a universal primacy . . . should be held by that See."

Priest Shortage? Yes . . . But

By JOHN DASH

There is a shortage of priests. There is an impending greater shortage of priests, and the question that more and more people in the diocese will be asking is "What is to be done?"

And that in itself is a sign of hope. "I'm happy to face this more forcefully — to give more support to the vocations office than before. We have talked before, but we have not turned our attention to the problem as we should have. I'm happy we're up there where we're getting going on it."

The words of Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, the man who heads the department overseeing diocesan clerical personnel.

For the immediate future "We're trying to get an expression from the priests council on what it expects of a vocations office, whether or not that position should be full-time, what it has to do to be more effective," the bishop said last week.

He noted that "we have to look into the whole question of recruitment."

The vocations problem the diocese is experiencing, he said, is of course not limited to a shortage of priests. He cited his concern for the sisters and the religious communities also working in the diocese. But his expertise is primarily in the area of priestly vocations.

One of the reasons, Bishop Hickey thinks, for the smaller numbers of men entering the seminaries, is "the decline of the sisters in elementary schools." Vocations, he said, "get the first nudge there." He pointed out that it was a teaching sister who first encouraged his own vocation.

The whole climate of change today is another reason for the shortage he expects. Changes "have raised questions in men's minds," he said, "There is unrest politically, civilly and religiously."

"There is an inclination," the bishop said, "to push to later in life the consideration of a life-long commitment. There seems to be hope in the immediate future in men who are older," he noted.

But among Bishop Hickey's "best hopes" is the long-range vocations he sees springing from the teen programs in the diocese.

"We can't bemoan the decline in numbers," he notes. "We've got to get active."

The best recruiting, the bishop feels, is the one to one contact in parochial schools. "The work is right at the parish level, right with the parish priest, face to face."

That is the reason the diocese wants input from the priests council, he said.

Anglican-Catholic Commission Recognizes Papal Primacy

London (RNS) — The Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC), in a statement of consensus on authority in the Church, states that in any future union between the two Churches some type of "universal primacy" should be exercised by the "See of Rome, the city where Peter and Paul died."

In effect, the theological statement, in carefully weighed terms, recognizes the supreme unique pastoral position of the Pope.

Noting that it was "precisely in the problem of papal primacy" that the historical divisions between the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches "found their unhappy origin," the commission co-chairmen said in a preface to the document that "though we have not been able to resolve some of the difficulties of Anglicans concerning Roman Catholic belief relating to the Bishop of Rome, we hope and trust that our analysis has placed these problems in a proper perspective."

Following a detailed scriptural historical analysis of the doctrine of authority in the Church, as exercised by the "episcopate" (bishops), by general councils, and by one bishop, speaking in the name of his fellow bishops (primacy), the ARCIC statement declares:

"If God's will for the unity in love and truth of the whole Christian community is to be fulfilled, (the) general pattern of the complementary primatial and conciliar aspects of episcopate serving the koinonia (communion) of the churches needs to be realized at the universal level.

"The only See which makes any claim to universal primacy and which has exercised and still exercises such (episcopal authority) is the See of Rome, the city where Peter and Paul died.

"It seems appropriate that in any future union a universal primacy such as has been described should be held by that See."

The preface was written by Anglican Bishop H. R. McAdoo of Ossory, Ferns and Leighlin, Ireland, and Roman Catholic Bishop Alan Clark of East Anglia, England.

The document itself, entitled "Agreed Statement on Authority in the Church," was completed at a meeting of the 21-member commission in Venice, Italy, from Aug. 24 to Sept. 2, 1976. It was published last Thursday. In the past six years the commission has published two other documents, one on the Eucharist and one on Ministry.

The 16-page statement locates the foundation of all authority in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

"The confession of Christ as Lord is the heart of the Christian faith," the document affirms. "To him, God has given all authority in heaven and on earth. As Lord of the Church he bestows the Holy Spirit to create a communion of men with God and with one

another. To bring this koinonia to perfection is God's eternal purpose. The Church exists to serve the fulfillment of this purpose when God will be all in all."

The document then discusses Christian authority, authority in the Church, authority in the communion of the churches, authority in matters of faith, the authority of ecumenical councils, and the authority of universal primacy, or papal primacy.

On authority in the Church, the statement says that the Holy Spirit gives to some individuals and communities special gifts "for the benefit of the Church, which entitle them to speak and be heeded."

Among these gifts, it says is the "episcopate" of the ordained ministry, "ordained for service" for the whole community. The pastoral authority belongs primarily to the bishop, who is responsible for preserving and promoting the integrity of the koinonia in order to

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Not Deterred

Photos by Ben Sussio

The Rochester area Right to Life march was held on Saturday, Jan. 22, the fourth anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision liberalizing abortion. The marchers proceeded in bitter cold from Old St. Mary's to the Liberty Pole and returned to St. Mary's to celebrate Mass.



Call Time For Action

The first track of Call to Action Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. Open Input Boxes is now in its final form. There is still time to send in your replies. Review.

All of the past-out sheets published in the Dec. 29 issue must be mailed to the Courier Journal Office by Friday, Jan. 20.