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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Vatican: No Women Priests

BY U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Washington — The Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has reaffirmed that the Catholic Church "in fidelity to the example of the Lord, does not consider herself authorized" to ordain women to the priesthood.

Basing this conclusion on the example of Christ and the apostles as well as the teaching and practice of the Church, the doctrinal congregation stated: "This norm ... has been and is still observed because it is considered to conform to God's plan for His church."

The congregation's Declaration on the Question of the Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood was signed by its prefect, Cardinal Franjo Seper, and its secretary, Archbishop Jerome Hamer, O.P. The 5,000-word document was approved by Pope Paul VI in an

audience with Cardinal Seper last Oct. 15 and made public in Rome last Thursday, Jan. 27.

The declaration deals only with the question of ordaining women to the priesthood. A commentary released at the time of the declaration's publication by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says that body has determined that the question of whether women can be ordained as deacons "should be kept for the future and not touched upon in the present document."

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, asked those who would be disappointed by the declaration's conclusion to "read, study and pray over this document in order to discern how much more, beyond a simple prohibition, it is really saying to us all."

He said the declaration's "negative conclusion is not

founded ... on lingering notions of male superiority." Instead, "the Church today fully recognizes the equality of women and men, repudiates unjust discrimination based on sex, and encourages efforts to bring women increasingly into roles of leadership in the Church," he said.

As a result, he said, the need to identify and open up new ministerial and decision-making roles for women in the Church becomes more urgent, not less, in light of this declaration.

Noting the ecumenical problem created by the "substantial diversity of belief and practice among Christians" on the subject of women's ordination, Archbishop Bernardin said Catholics "nevertheless ... remain committed to ecumenical dialogue and collaboration."

The Vatican declaration is divided into major parts.

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Schools Have Wide Impact

My dear People:

Calendars highlighting special events, holidays or reminders of personal celebration provide the opportunity to share happiness and accomplishments with each other. The week of February 6-12 has been designated as Catholic Schools' Week throughout our nation. This special commemoration reminds us to reflect upon the day-by-day service and growth developing in our schools.

The mission of Catholic Schools is far greater than the promulgation of academic excellence. The mission of the schools extends into the life and faith growth of the students, teachers and parents. The threefold goals of Catholic schools, to teach the Word of God, to build community and to offer service within and beyond the school, serve as a constant and far reaching challenge for the school personnel.

I have witnessed the evolution of the Catholic School System in the past ten years, as it moved from educational institutions nurturing the Christian message within, to become viable means by which the Church may reach out to serve the parish and larger community. The relationship of school to parish and the larger community clearly moves the students to an awareness of their responsibility beyond the confines of the classroom.

My own experience with young adults through Confirmation programs, gives witness to the many projects of service offered by the students. I am also pleased with the programs whereby the young children cooperate with Senior Citizens Groups to share wisdom and enthusiasm. Countless numbers of sick and shut-ins have been cheered by cards, visits, and messages from our school children. Assistance in the form of "big brother or sister" tutoring for the young students has been an active apostolic effort of secondary and junior high students. These and many more programs have enabled the students to have a first-hand experience in the Christian message of giving of self for others.

This lesson could not be learned if it were not taught through the dedication of our teachers. The lives and examples of the teachers are the greatest message to the students! Their belief in the uniqueness of the individual and the worth of each person is a living lesson not contained in books. Many

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CHD: \$117,002 Raised

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

The 1976 Campaign for Human Development in the Rochester Diocese raised \$117,002. It is the second highest total raised in the Rochester campaign's seven-year history, and \$11,000 more than 1975.

Judy Wehrin, CHD coordinator, said that \$114,302 came from parishes throughout the diocese from the Nov. 20-21 collections.

Special contributions made up the other \$2,700. These contributions came from hospitals, campuses and other groups as well as from private contributions by priests, religious and laity.

Two contributions impressed Wehrin the most. Blessed Sacrament Parish's eighth grade religion class, taught by Sister Mary Ann, held a special program that studied Human Development. After the program students "passed the hat" and raised \$30 which they sent to CHD.

The other was from St. Ann's Home. An annual collection is held each year and this year's total is \$238. Ms. Wehrin said that she realizes neither youngsters nor the elderly have much money and thought it was a beautiful gesture for them to contribute so much.

After 12 per cent of the total is taken for administrative and material costs, 75 per cent will be sent to the campaign's national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The remaining 25 per cent will be distributed throughout the diocese according to the amount each region contributed. Local grants, according to Wehrin, will be announced in June and the national grants will come in September.



Photoby Susan McKinney

Mayor Thomas P. Ryan Jr. proclaimed the week of Feb. 6-12 to be Catholic Schools Week in Rochester. The proclamation coincided with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week in the diocese, focusing attention on the need to maintain parochial schools as an alternative educational resource. With Mayor Ryan are Mrs. William Ouweleen and Robert A. Haehl of the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents.

Catholic School Week

The theme of the 1977 Catholic Schools Week set for Feb. 6-12 is Catholic Schools: A Plus for America. This will be the fifth annual observance of this event which is jointly sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC).

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will open the Rochester Diocesan observance of Catholic Schools Week by celebrating Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 5 at 5 p.m. Renewed commitment to the Catholic schools was encouraged by the U. S. Bishops in their Pastoral, To Teach As Jesus Did, "as the most effective instrument available to the Church for realizing the purposes of Catholic education."

Each school in the diocese has specific programs and projects planned for the week which have been cooperatively developed by administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

According to Sister Roberta Tierney, Superintendent of Schools for the diocese, "this year's plans are to focus on communicating to the public in general and the Catholic public in particular, that Catholic schools provide the public with an opportunity to sample and investigate the programs and atmosphere of the Catholic school at the local level.

Sister Roberta also emphasized that "each

Catholic school has its own identity and makes a unique contribution to the community it serves. Collectively they provide a diversity in the American educational system and an educational alternative for parents in our pluralistic society."

Rochester diocesan Catholic schools provide education to over 30,000 elementary and secondary students over a 12 county area.

Fraudulent Solicitation

Philadelphia (RNS)— The forthcoming canonization of Blessed John Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia, is being used to elicit funds fraudulently for a so-called "Neumann Canonization Committee," Philadelphia archdiocesan officials have warned.

Father Samuel E. Shoemaker, assistant chancellor here, said that the title "chancery office," followed by a Philadelphia address is being used without knowledge or

permission of the archdiocese.

He said the mailings are postmarked Van Nuys, Calif., but cite a return address of "Office of the Chancery, 1919 South Broad St., Philadelphia." The address is not the chancery and Father Shoemaker said the campaign "is a ripoff ... there is no such committee. Whoever is sending out these (letters) has no authority from our chancery and are using our name illegally."