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Bishop Hogan's Statement on Women Priests

Following is a statement by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on the recent Vatican declaration on the admission of women to the priesthood.

The recently released declaration from Rome on the question of the admission of women to the ministerial priesthood has provoked very strong reactions of support and opposition. As with Rome's declarations on social and economic justice the document needs to be given a genuine listening. It is part of the ordinary, non-infallible teaching of the Church.

It should be noted that ordinary, non-infallible teachings of the Church have been revised by Rome in the past in light of later discussions and study. One has only to recall how the Vatican II document on Divine

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Révelation reversed the earlier positions opposing a critical approach to the New Testament, the way the Decree on Ecumenism changed the hostility toward Protestant churches enshrined in Pius XI's Mortalium Animos, and the radical shift from previous denunciations of modern civilization to a modified optimism evident in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. The ensuing dialogue on Roman documents has been very important.

Among the problems created by the present statement on ordination of women is a misunderstanding of

Christianity to which the document unwittingly lends itself; namely, that our likeness to Christ, St. Paul's call to all believers to "put on Christ," is in some way based on our sexual differences. This is not the case. Our likeness to Christ is reflected in where our hearts are, how much we live his Gospel.

The Congrégation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in presenting the case against changing the Church's discipline on ordination for women, concludes with the statement that "the Church desires that Christian women should become fully aware of the greatness of their mission ..." I hope that this dialogue that results from the Roman document fulfills this desire, and that truthfulness and charity remain earmarks of the exchanges.

Bp. Harrison's Address Of Installation

My first word must be one of thanksgiving to the Lord for the favor of this day of good weather, and that thanksgiving is so real because of the dreadful storms that have come to our region this winter.

As I stand here surrounded by such a beautiful gathering of the people of God, I assure you that my heart overflows with gratitude to God for my being counted as one worthy to stand in His presence to serve Him and to serve you as members of His flock.

I am grateful to our holy father, Pope Paul VI, for his placing his trust in me by appointing me to be bishop of Syracuse. I assure him of my faithfulness to him and to the magisterium of the Church.

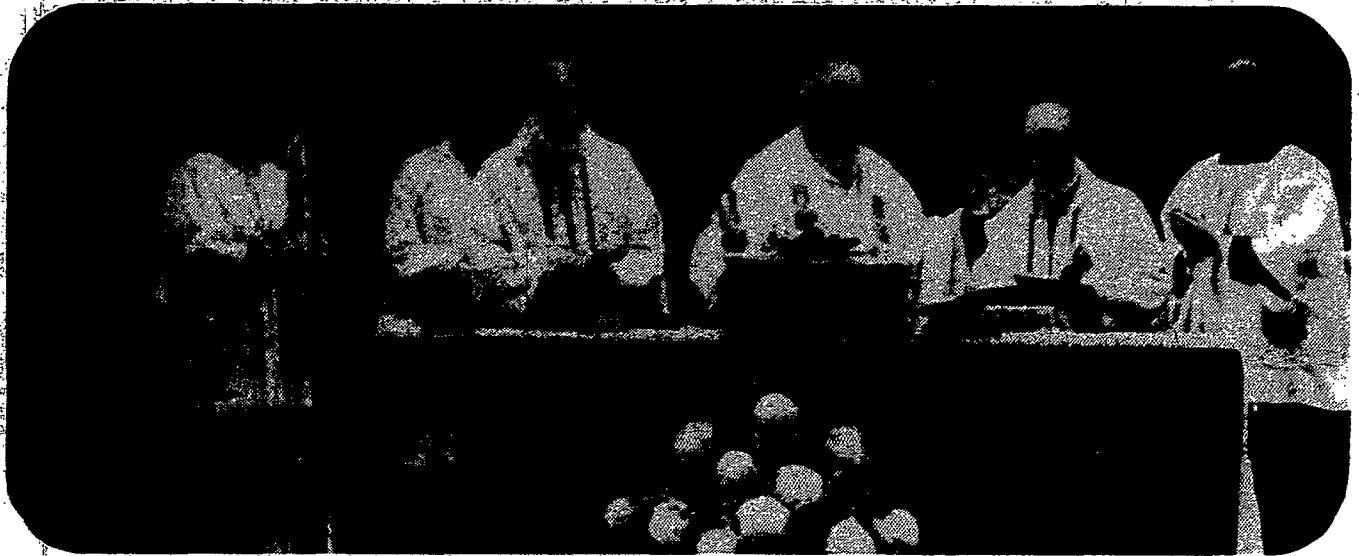
Because of my many years of experience in the priesthood, I am fully aware of the heavy responsibilities that come to me as the bishop of Syracuse. But, I cannot help but feel confident in this undertaking because of this marvelous demonstration that the spirit of God is alive and working among us — evidence indeed that all the people, priests, religious, and laity, are ever ready and willing to serve in the ministry of the Lord. The seed has been planted and well-nurtured in this diocese to bring about a healthy growth of real Christian living. Credit must be given for so much of what we experience today to Bishop Foery and Bishop Cunningham. During their time, the faith was kept alive and duly spread. All things were carried on with understanding and charity.

To both of these bishops, our illustrious predecessors, we are indebted deeply for the very healthy condition of the diocese. What a joy it is to have them here with us this afternoon. I am sure that they, too, are filled with satisfaction as they look out upon this joy-filled gathering. For in the life of the spirit — in the way of the Lord — the joy of the harvest will come to the sower, as well as to the reaper. Our diocese is young in spirit and vigorous in effort. There is evidence on every side. You find it in the prayer groups, the cursillos, the Better World, the charismatic assemblies. You see it in the Marriage Encounter, Pre-Cana and Family Life movements. It is evident in our schools, hospitals, homes for the aged and infirmed, in Catholic Social Services and youth movements. It is in our centers that care for the destitute, the unwanted and the forgotten. It is only for us to keep it alive — burning with the love for Christ and His flock. We cannot fail if we allow ourselves to be open to His call and allow Him to work through us.

I am sincerely grateful to Bishop Foery and Bishop Cunningham for their presence here today, as well as for the countless kindnesses they have done for me over the past 40 years.

I thank my brother bishops and visiting clergy and dignitaries for honoring us with their presence here ... And my heartfelt thanks to so many — priests, Religious, laity — all those who planned this occasion, and worked so hard to bring this dream into reality, as a wonderful manifestation of the Church of Syracuse — our unity in Christ.

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Bishop Frank J. Harrison during his Mass of installation Sunday at Syracuse, flanked by Archbishop Jean Jadot, the papal delegate to the United States, and former Syracuse ordinary, Bishop David F. Cunningham. At left is Father J. Robert Yeazel, general coordinator of installation and secretary to Bishop Cunningham; at right, Father David W. Barry, general coordinator and secretary to Bishop Harrison.



Archbishop Jadot



Bishop Harrison being greeted by Cardinal Terence Cooke.



Bishop Cunningham



Part of Rochester contingent of priests attending installation.

New Bishop Graduate of St. Bernard's

Bishop Francis James Harrison of Syracuse has many friends and relatives in the Rochester area. He was graduated from St. Bernard's Seminary in 1937, and his brother, the late Father John Harrison, was a member of the seminary class of 1945.

Rita Tellier of Irondequoit and Florence Timmins of North Chili are the bishop's sisters. Four nieces and a nephew also live in the area.