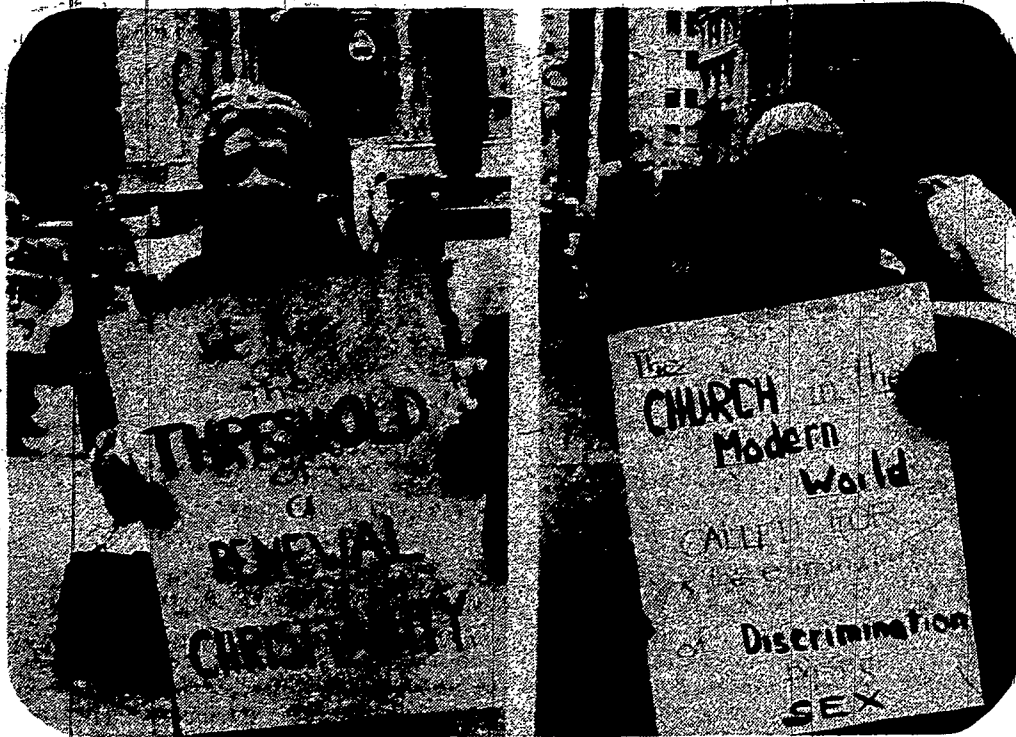


Protesting the Ban

Anne Marie Stokes (left), who works for the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Mary Ellen Philbin, a student at Union Theological Seminary, were among the 60 to 70 men and women who picketed across the street from St. Patrick's Cathedral to protest the Vatican declaration barring the priesthood to women.

Ms. Stokes said "I came today because I am French. France is the eldest daughter of the Church. Many French bishops are for the ordination of women. In France alone, they say 400 women are waiting to be ordained. I do not like the declaration from Rome. I do not accept the argument that women cannot be priests because there were none at the Last Supper. Jesus lived at a time when the Jewish man had a right to sell his wife to pay off a



gambling debt. How could Jesus ordain women then? He would do it now."

Ms. Philbin said she had

thought about women's ordination for quite some time. "I know this is something that has to come. I feel there's work that God

wants me to do. Until the ordination of women becomes a reality, I'll find ways to carry on my ministry."

Task Force on Women Reacts to Rome's 'No'

The Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church noted this week that Rome's recent reaffirmation of the ban on women's ordination was neither an "infallible pronouncement," nor a papal encyclical.

"Declarations issued by the various congregations are intended to clarify present teaching of the Church community," the group said in a statement.

"We understand this Declaration, not as a final word, but as a further call to continue the dialogue through which the Spirit renews the life and ministry of the Church community."

The document in question came from the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It was approved by Pope Paul Oct. 15 and published in Rome Jan. 27. Its title: Declaration on the question of the

Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood.

Responding to the "tradition" argument, the task force statement says that "tradition is not a static thing, all summed up by yesterday," but rather, "is being constantly created anew in the lived experience of the Church community."

"The Holy Spirit is present now as well as in the past, present in the Church community as well as in the Church hierarchy and the Church magisterium," the statement asserts.

And, "Just as Jesus did not call women (to be among The Twelve), neither did he call non-Jews, nor did he call only celibates."

Theologians take the phrase *in persona Christi* to mean that Christ himself, and not the priest, is the real celebrant of the sacraments,

the statement continues. "Natural resemblance, therefore, of the male priest to the male Jesus does not adequately convey the meaning of the term..."

"We wish to reiterate that Church women do not look upon ordination as a right which they have been deprived of in the past," the statement says. "No man or woman has a right to ordination. But men, because they are men, have a right to have their vocation to priesthood tested. Women, because they are women, do not have the right to have their vocation to priesthood tested. This is the basic issue where justice is involved."

The task force, formed after the ordination conference held in Detroit in November, 1975, comprises six laywomen, five women from religious congregations and two diocesan priests.

U.S. Bishops Supportive, Vatican Told

Vatican City (RNS)—The full support of the U.S. Catholic bishops for the Vatican declaration that excluded women from the priesthood was expressed in a telegram to Pope Paul from Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, president of the U.S. Bishops Conference.

The message expressed satisfaction with the Vatican position on women's ordination, according to Vatican radio, and observed that the declaration "authoritatively confirms the position assumed by our conference in October 1975."

VON HILDEBRAND DIES

New Rochelle, N.Y. (RNS)—Dr. Dietrich von Hildebrand, lay Catholic philosopher, theologian and professor-emeritus at Fordham University, died here Jan. 26 at the age of 87. Dr. von Hildebrand became a convert to Catholicism at age 26 and was an outspoken critic of many of the liberal trends in the Church since Vatican II.

DR. SHUSTER DIES

Notre Dame, Ind. (RNS)—Dr. George N. Shuster, former president of Hunter College in New York City and for 10 years assistant to the president of Notre Dame University, died Jan. 25 here at the age of 82. He was a former managing editor of *Commonweal*, the author of more than 20 books on education, religion, literature and history; former president of the Catholic Association for International Peace, and a former trustee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

CHARISMATICS

The Rochester Catholic Charismatic Renewal Coordinating Center has scheduled two Lenten preparation programs for this month. At 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, Thomas J. Cusker of the center's pastoral team will speak on Christian commitment. Mass will follow. A penance service will be held Friday, Feb. 18. Center programs are presented at St. Augustine's Church, 410 Chili.

Vatican Declaration ... Diverse Comment

Several well-known bishops and other Catholic leaders have voiced their approval of the Vatican Declaration on the Question of the Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood. News reports indicate, however, that many who commented chose to emphasize what the document did not define — woman's "place."

Some prominent male theologians and women in religious life found the document unacceptable.

In the words of Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, "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."

The archbishop is president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He issued a statement in Washington the day the document was published, Jan. 27. At a news conference the same day, the executive director of two NCCB committees spoke similarly.

Msgr. Richard K. Malone

said, "The document is trying to draw attention to the unique role of women in the Church, the unique contribution that women can make to the life of the Church. This needs to be developed a great deal."

Msgr. Malone was on the staff of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for 10 years, through 1976. His NCCB committees are Doctrine and Pastoral Research and Practices.

Cardinal William Baum, archbishop of Washington and chairman of the Committee on Doctrine, said the declaration "protects the unique and proper role of women in the Church." In response to questions, he said he saw no discrimination against women, nor any problem of justice. At the news conference with Msgr. Malone and Cardinal Baum was Sister Agnes Cunningham, president-elect of the Catholic Theological Society. She said she hoped the declaration would "serve as an invitation to women to come to the aid of the church."

A former head of the

Leadership Conference of Women Religious said the declaration could not be considered "definitive or irrevocable."

"If we study it carefully," Sister Elizabeth Carroll, RSM, continued, "we may come to a deeper realization. I think we are just at the beginning."

Cardinals Terence Cooke of New York, John Cody of Chicago and John Krol of Philadelphia all said they found the document a welcome reaffirmation of tradition.

Theologian Gregory Baum said he found it a deviation from tradition. "The resemblance to Jesus Christ is found in men and women; men and women share his nature," Baum declared. "Otherwise, he said, 'women would not be redeemable and could not be baptized.'"

Baum's comment referred to the argument that a priest must be male because Jesus was a man. This is a "weak argument," in the opinion of another theologian, Father Richard McBrien, SJ. "Ordination of women is inevitable," he said.

Survey Shows Steady Trend In Moral Values

Northbrook, Illinois (RNS) — The annual nationwide survey of high school leaders reveals a continuation of the trend toward adherence to traditional moral values and high religious commitment.

Results of the seventh annual "Who's Who Among American High School Students" survey also showed that 82 per cent of teen-age leaders favor a traditional marriage arrangement and 89 per cent do not use drugs.

Religion has become "more relevant" in the past three to four years for 48 per cent of students and remained "about the same" for 33 per cent. Religion became "less relevant" for 14 per cent and "has never been relevant" for 5 per cent.

The latest study reported that 81 per cent of the leading U.S. teenagers consider themselves members of an organized religion, compared with 80 per cent in last year's poll and 70 per cent in 1972.

Some 92 per cent of the current top teenagers profess belief in a personal God or Supreme Being, or some kind of vital force or spirit. Only 1 per cent said there was no God or vital force. Seven per cent were uncertain.

The students surveyed are among 269,000 high achievers featured in the 1975-76 edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students" published here by Educational Communications Inc. They are juniors and seniors.

MARDI GRAS

The Rochester Saenger Chor will celebrate Mardi Gras Feb. 19 with a stage show, dancing and German food, at Mother of Sorrows Church hall. For those who would attend in costume, the theme is The Roaring Twenties. Reservations may be made through 872-2181.

Bishop Hogan Grateful For Response

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has expressed his gratitude to everyone in the diocese for the excellent response to the Call to Action questionnaires in the Courier-Journal.

The bishop is personally studying the letters and comments and is grateful that so many — some 2,500 — responded, saying he is very pleased that so many took the time to offer their opinions.

The bishop asks all diocesans to watch for next week's Courier-Journal when results will be printed. At that time he will have comments on the results.

Shaping Our City

Community Development 3rd Year Preliminary Plan

The City will conduct a public forum on the Community Development Third Year Preliminary Plan on Wednesday, February 16, at 8:00 p.m. on Channel 21.

You can participate by joining our studio audience in the WXXI studios at 280 State Street, or by phoning 454-6300 to ask questions or state your views during the show.

\$13.94 million in Federal funds will be available to support City of Rochester community development activities during 1977-78.

Copies of the plan for allocating these funds are available to the public at the Community Development Office, 150 State Street, the Office of Public Information in City Hall, 30 West Broad Street, and at all public libraries in Rochester.

The City Council will hold an official public hearing on the Community Development Third Year Plan at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall.

