

Assident Prelate Continues Criticism of Pope Paul

(RNS) — In a gesture of defiance of papal authority, rebel French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, CSSP, gave a widely publicized lecture on June 6 in the Pope's own diocese, roundly denouncing the reforms of Vatican II.

The lecture, "The Church in the Council," was given in the baroque throne room of the 17th Century Palazzo Pallavicini overlooking the Piazza del Quirinale Palace, the summer residence of the Pope for three centuries and now the home of the President of Italy.

The theme of Archbishop Lefebvre's talk was the "disintegration" of the Catholic Church due to those Popes and Cardinals who once lived in these very places.

Pope Paul's vicar for the diocese of Rome, Cardinal Giovanni Poletti, called the suspended prelate's decision to hold a conference in Rome "an unseemly gesture," a presumptuous act which displayed such a lack of good taste and education, that it caused even those who still venerate this ecclesiastic to blush.

The 71-year-old former bishop of Tulle, France has been under suspension since 1976, forbidden to

exercise any of his priestly or episcopal functions. (He was suspended for ordaining a number of priests against an explicit papal injunction.)

The prelate's lecture was sponsored by Princess Elvina Pallavicini, an open supporter of the Italian neo-Fascist movement. Archbishop Lefebvre, who denies any sympathy for Fascism, draws a good part of his support from the European political right.

Launching into his theme, the archbishop charged that Vatican II had changed the "definition" of the Church. "The new liturgical reforms are now centered on the 'Supper,' or 'Communion,'" he said. But this is not the central point of the Mass. The Mass is not a meal, but a sacrifice... It is not an 'assembly' only 'presided' over by a priest."

"This," he continued, "is a grave change. This is excessively grave. By diminishing the sacrificial aspect of the Mass, it has become completely changed. In a sacrifice there must be a victim. Who is the victim? Jesus Christ?"

Archbishop Lefebvre went on to emphasize what he said was the uniqueness of the Roman Catholic Church. "Jesus created one Church. There is only one true religion and it is the Catholic."

Using this assertion as his

premise, he then argued that Catholic churchmen's efforts to "court Protestants and promote ecumenism" constituted "disloyalty to the traditions of the Church."

He cited many cardinals and archbishops, including American Cardinals William Baum of Washington and John Wright, a Vatican official, for their eagerness to court Protestants and promote ecumenism.

All this," he continued, "all this is to please the Protestants. I am asked why I am not a realist. Why do I not accept the reforms, and I say, because I am a realist, then there is no more truth."

The French prelate decried current stress on "human rights," saying it led to acceptance of contraception and abortion, which "are against the Ten Commandments." It is "the Ten Commandments which are the basis of society," he said, "not human rights."

Alluding to his 1976 meeting with Pope Paul, he said that he told the pontiff "I have always been faithful to the Holy See, but it is impossible for me or my seminarians (at his unauthorized seminary in Switzerland) to accept the reforms (of Vatican II)"

Pie Thrower Around the Nation... Paid by Priest

Minneapolis (RNS) — A Minneapolis Jesuit priest, reversing an earlier statement, now says he paid \$20 to a man who threw a pie at Archbishop John R. Roach to protest Catholic opposition to a homosexual rights bill in the Minnesota legislature.

"My participation was stupid, foolish and wrong and I deeply regret it," Father George Casey stated.

He said a statement he issued May 14 saying that he was not involved in planning the incident "was not the whole truth. In panic and fear over the possible threat to my ministry and aware that I had been set up by certain anti-Christian elements in the gay community... I denied any involvement."

"The truth is that while I did not plan the incident I did subsequently meet the person who threw the pie and did, through another person, give him \$20 for doing so."


Dennis Miller of St. Paul, who earlier told the media that he had paid the \$20 to the pie-thrower, said, "It's obvious now that I didn't pay the pie thrower. But Father Casey did not plan the incident. I did."

A new 100-page quarterly, The International Review of Natural Family Planning, is being published by the Human Life Center at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn. as a "vehicle of dialogue" for the growing natural family planning movement throughout the world. The review, described as an educational venture providing up-to-date information on all natural methods of child-spacing, will include research results, educational programs, book reviews and other materials related to natural family planning as well as euthanasia, human sexuality, morality, communication within marriage, sterilization, abortion and all means of artificial birth control.

President Jimmy Carter has been named recipient of the 1977 Gold Medallion of the Society for the Family of Man of the Council of Churches. Mr. Carter was cited by the Council for "bringing new hope to all mankind, both at home and abroad, and especially lifting the aspirations of the underprivileged."

A national political action committee has been formed to help elect "pro-life" candidates to state legislatures. The agency called LIFE-PAC, plans to concentrate its initial efforts on state races in Virginia, New Jersey and Kentucky this fall. The first political seminar on the Washington, D.C. based committee is scheduled for July 29-31 at Silver Spring Md.

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... The Pope's Response

Vatican City—Pope Paul, remarks interpreted as referring to rebel French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre seemed to some observers to be hinting at the possibility of excommunication for the suspended prelate.

Archbishop Lefebvre, in a gesture of defiance of papal authority, gave a widely publicized lecture on June 6 in the Pope's own diocese of Rome, in which he reiterated his strong rejection of post Vatican II reforms.

On June 8, at his regularly

scheduled midweekly general audience at the Vatican, Pope Paul spoke about the internal unity of the Church, as "wished for" by Jesus Christ, saying that Jesus himself, as in Matthew 18: 15-17, "allowed for the possibility of exclusion from the fraternal community of those who, in spite of repeated requests, showed themselves to be refractory."

"The unity wished for by Christ," said the pontiff, "must illumine our religious profession. We cannot have a rapport with God if we are

not in peaceful rapport with our brothers."

"Those who provoke divisions or discord in the harmonious and united company of the Mystical Body are not following in the way of the Lord," the Pope said, adding:

"We must always remember the exhortation of the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 1:10): 'All the same, I do appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice.'"

Right to Life Group Opposes Constitutional Convention

Albany — The New York State Right to Life Committee said here that New York's state senators commendably "but mistakenly" endorsed a call for a Constitutional Convention which would enact a "human life amendment" to the Constitution.

Instead, the committee of the Legislature should memorialize the Congress to pass an anti-abortion amendment.

Spokesperson for Right to Life said that neither the National Committee nor the New York Committee could support the call for a Convention approach to the human life amendment at this time.

According to the spokesperson, a survey of

pro-life state senators indicated that many were not aware of the continued non-support of right to life groups for the Convention Call route and voted on the basis of their opposition to abortion rather than on support for a Convention Call.

The state senators were commended by the New

York group for their continued anti-abortion vote but they were urged to "translate" their strong pro-life commitment into passage of the "memorialization to Congress to enact a human life amendment."

Bills for memorialization are already pending in the Legislature.

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