



Photos by Robert Kutzbach

Trinity Events

Things have been busy at Webster's Trinity Council in recent weeks. The group recently celebrated a unique "family" installation of officers. In the photo above, Gerald Driscoll, Donna McNinch, Father Paul Cuddy, Peg Gilmartin, Kathy Goodsell and Philip Rohnke are shown taking part in that ceremony. In the photo below, taken on another occasion, Squire Leadership Awards were presented to Tom Freundsuh and Elaine Kerber by grand knight Thomas Sweeney. Also in that ceremony, Ronald McNinch was named knight of the year.



Synod Opens

Continued from Page 1
question of "pluralism" — a word that recurs in official, unofficial, and press writings. Is the catechism a question of "instruction" in the faith, or rather a means of "maturation in the faith" of young people who must learn to live in, and live with, a pluralistic society?
But local, smoldering — and not so smoldering — problems exercising the Catholic community may burst out. In France, for instance, where deep opposition to the catechetical movement has been in

evidence for years, an appeal was signed by a hundred well-known theologians and lay figures, which they sent to the Pope. They complained against their own National Center for Religious Instruction and its productions. They denounced what they called the center's deficiencies and they charged that those who take the instruction offered by this official agency remain in ignorance of the truths of the faith and often lose the faith. They asked the Pope to put an end to the "serious weakness" of

the present French system of religious instruction.
The signatories were not, as Henri Fesquet of the Paris paper Le Monde said, to be identified as "integralists," that is, extreme conservatives. They included the Jesuit Henri De Lubac and the Dominican Regamey and the editor of "Communio," Jacques Duchesne.
But Mr Fesquet did not mention the explosion of the very original Dominican, Father R.I. Bruckberger, not unknown in the United States, who has been waging

**Church Mission Urgent
Pontiff Tells Bishops**

BY LEE HEALEY

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul told bishops of the Catholic Church that, in view of the growing "abandonment" of religion by so many people, the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel today was ever more urgent, and called for great courage and confidence in the power of God.

The Pope spoke at a special concelebrated Mass in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel marking the opening of the fifth world Synod of Bishops, Sept. 30.

Addressing more than 200 bishops and other church figures who had come to Rome from points all over the globe to spend the month of October discussing how best to explain to today's youth what religion is all about, the Pope said:

"Being true apostles of Christ today is a great act of courage and at the same time a great act of confidence in the powerful assistance of God."

One of the decisions of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) was to set up a bishops' synod to meet regularly to discuss problems appertaining to the church and aid the pope in dealing with them.

The first synod 10 years ago in 1967, led to the setting up of the Vatican

based International Theological Commission, with the purpose of providing the Vatican's Doctrinal Congregation consultative advisory services.

The second, in 1969, discussed relations between the Holy See and the episcopal conferences. The third, in 1971, examined the problems of ministerial priesthood and justice in the world and reaffirmed the Latin Church's law requiring priests to be celibate.

The theme of the synod which began Sept. 30 in the Vatican's Synod Hall centers on "Catechetics in Our Time, with Special Reference to Children and Young People." The theme could encompass a vast field of discussion — the problems of youth today and particularly the problems of religious education, the problems of the Catholic schools versus the state schools, parish problems regarding religion classes, the conditions in the Churches in the Western countries as opposed to those in the Eastern (Communist) countries, the problems of Christians in today's culture and the problems of Christianity in a Marxist culture.

While the synod was created to give the bishops a

more effective participation in the government of the universal church, it is still a long way from deciding

exactly how much power it should have and in what way it should be used. It has only an advisory function.



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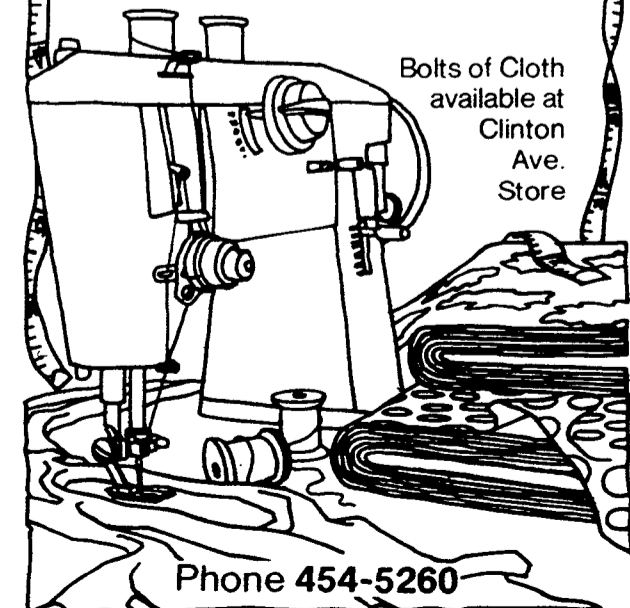
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