

# Bishops Aim at Approval of Catechetical Directory

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — Final approval of the National Catechetical Directory, tentatively entitled "Sharing the Light of Faith," will be a major aim of the Nov. 14-17 Fall general meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops here, following four years of consultation, dialogue and preparation of the document.

The more than 250 American bishops will also consider — for the second time in a year — a controversial recommendation for an annual nation-wide collection to support diocesan and national church use of the media for evangelization.

The bishops will also choose a new president and vice-president to succeed Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, the current president, and Cardinal John Carberry of St. Louis. And they will consider the extension of the Campaign for Human Development collection for self-help anti-poverty outreaches, vote on new methods of selecting delegates to the world Synod of Bishops in Rome, and discuss recommendations of a special bishops' commission on family life and marriage.

Among significant reports to be delivered at the four-day general meeting at the Capital Hilton Hotel will be one on the recently completed Synod of Bishops in

Rome, which focused on religious education, and another on new structures being developed for national church collections.

The bishops will begin the meeting with a 9 a.m. concelebrated Mass on Nov. 14 and additional Masses and special prayer services will accompany the deliberations each day. Archbishop Bernardin will follow the opening Mass with the annual president's address to the bishops.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the bishops will concelebrate an afternoon Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the Catholic University of America.

The 254 page National Catechetical Directory, which stemmed from approval by Pope Paul of the General Catechetical Directory in 1971, is the product of three extensive consultations that resulted in tens of thousands of recommendations. It was also the subject of regional bishops' meetings in 1975.

If approved by the majority of bishops, the document will be sent to the Vatican for final action. It will then stand as the basic document governing content and methods for Catholic religious education at all levels in this country.

The proposal for a national communications collection was first

discussed by the bishops last November and was the subject of diocesan and regional consultation early this year. The collection, the proceeds of which would be divided between local and national media programs, would begin in the Spring of 1978, if approved.

Nominees for the offices of both president and vice-president listed alphabetically are: Cardinal William Baum of Washington, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, Archbishop Thomas Donnellan of Atlanta, Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio; Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami, Bishop Joseph McNicholas of Springfield, Ill.; Bishop Cletus O'Donnell of Madison, Wis.; Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco, Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, and Archbishop John Whealon of Hartford.

The bishops will vote on the proposed extension of the Campaign for Human Development until a final report is made by an ad hoc committee studying national collections. They are expected to make a final decision on national collections next May on the basis of discussion at the November meeting.

The report on family life and marriage is the result of a two-year study aimed at developing a "strategy of intervention" on the part of

the Church at all levels to support and strengthen the vocation of marriage and family life. The report of the commission, chaired by Archbishop Quinn, contains 45 separate recommendations, including a comprehensive pastoral plan for family ministry.

Marriage and family life, along with the National Catechetical Directory, will be the subjects of workshops during the the meeting.

### CHURCH/STATE

Warsaw (RNS) — The Polish Methodist Church has voiced its intention to continue to cooperate with the government in helping to develop Poland's social and economic life.

### MAGAZINE DRIVE

Aquinas Institute students set out tomorrow as magazine salesmen, seeking gross receipts of \$35,000. Profits will control the tuition rate and pay unbudgeted expenses as they occur, the administration said. Students' neighbors

are asked to renew the subscriptions they took in last year's drive. There are 300 publications on the list and others can be ordered. Tapes and records also are offered. The campaign ends Nov. 21.

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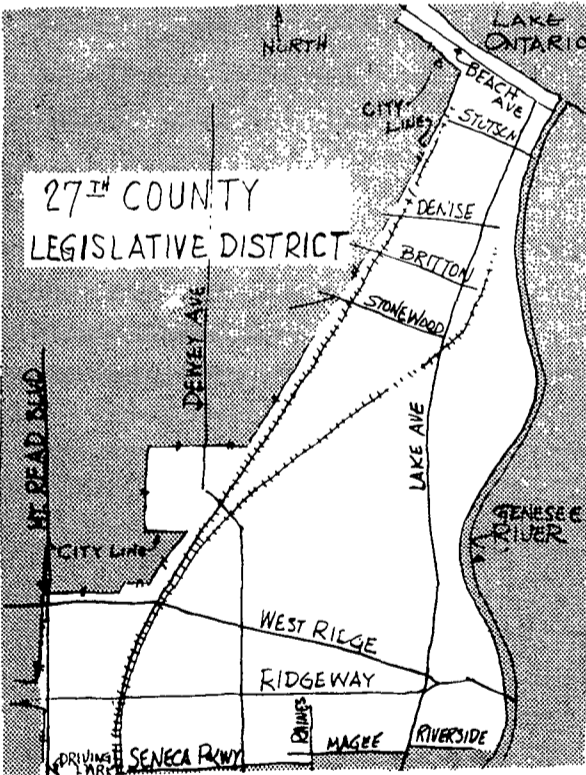


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