

French Prelate Seeks to Build \$1 Million Seminary in U.S.

Oyster Bay Cove, N.Y. (RNS) — French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre offered a pre-Vatican II Latin Mass before more than 1,000 traditionalist Catholics and dedicated the U.S. headquarters of the Society of St. Pius X which he heads.

He also announced plans to open a major seminary in the U.S. at an unspecified site in the mid-West. The society hopes to raise \$1 million to purchase a 100-student facility, he said.

The society now operates a seminary in Armada, Mich., but it can accommodate only 20 to 25 seminarians. Archbishop Lefebvre said the expansion was necessary because of increasing support of the movement by Catholics in the U.S. and increasing applications.

The Mass was celebrated at the St. Pius X chapel here on the former Long Island estate of the late William Woodward, Jr. Plans for the Mass had been opposed by the village of Oyster Bay Cove and the Catholic Rockville Centre diocese.

As a concession to the Nassau Supreme Court ruling which enabled them to hold the Mass, the 1,000 traditionalist Catholics had to park their buses at the bottom of a hill and walk the last half-mile up to the estate.

The Village of Oyster Bay had tried to block the service and initially succeeded in having the meeting limited to 25 participants. But the Society of St. Pius X appealed and won a ruling that at-

tendance could be unlimited.

The Tridentine Mass was held in defiance of the wishes of Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre, who asked Archbishop Lefebvre not to come to Long Island.

Father Hector Bolduc, director of the St. Pius X chapel near Houston, Texas, which was dedicated by the archbishop in July, said the "society was blessed because we're doing God's work and the society continues to prosper."

"The Catholic Church has collapsed around us and we need to restore it," Father Bolduc said at a dinner and

reception at the Huntington Town House.

Archbishop Lefebvre noted that his priests are now located in the U. S., England, France, Germany, Italy and Canada. He planned to visit Montreal following his Long Island visit.

"We are the future in the Church because we have the past," he said. "The Church cannot change. The faith, sacraments, the Mass, must always be the same."

The Archbishop, 71, was suspended from all his priestly functions in July 1976 after he ordained priests against a direct papal injunction.

Pope Urges Vigilance Against Permissiveness

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul urged members of the Vatican-based Committee for the Family to be "vigilant" in the face of "grave threats" against the stability and sacredness of marriage.

The Pope cited "conditions of life which are unfavorable" to matrimonial and family stability, and "the growing permissiveness of some legislation." This latter was seen as a reference to pro-abortion laws in various countries around the world.

"Indifference to, or opposition to, the Christian ideal of matrimony should not discourage you in your efforts to educate consciences and hearts," the pontiff told the group.

Members of the Committee for the Family were received in special audience on Nov. 4, together with members of two other Vatican agencies, the Pontifical Council for the Laity and the Pontifical Council, Cor Unum (One Heart), the Church's central relief and development body. All three were holding separate plenary assemblies in Rome.

Addressing the three groups, the Pope said: "You are collaborating in our apostolic ministry on an equal level with the other members of the Curia (the Church's central administrative arm). Therefore, yours is not an honorary task, but a real and active service."

"All three bodies," he added, "are the particular expression of the intention of the Holy See and of the entire Church to the needs and expectations of the world and of society."

NEAD Slates Convention

The annual convention of North East Area Development, Inc. is scheduled for Saturday night, Nov. 19, at Covenant United Methodist Church, 1124 Culver, at Parsells. All residents of the community organization's neighborhoods who have reached the age of 18, and all owners of businesses in the area are entitled to vote for a board of directors and on issues to be taken up in the new year. The area extends east from Goodman Street to the city line and north from University to Norton.

Registration will begin at 7 p.m.; the program, at 8. Afterward there will be a party at Effinger's German Sausage Haus, 1582 East Main. Transportation will be provided at six locations: Waring Plaza, Bay and Irquois streets, Atlantic Avenue at Alma, Cedarwood Towers on Main Street, Good Shepherd Church on North Winton and St. John's on Humboldt Street. Details may be obtained at the NEAD office, 70 Denver, 482-7320.

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Next week: Thanksgiving interruption, then back to NFP



Folk Choir

The St. Philip Neri Parish Folk Choir rehearses the hymn "We Give Thanks, Lord" which will be part of a special Thanksgiving Eve Family Mass on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The folk choir, under the direction of Mary Savastano, planned the special liturgy.

Advent Program November 21

The Adult Education Committee of Blessed Sacrament Church, Oxford Street at Monroe Avenue, is sponsoring an Advent program for Monday evenings beginning Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the school.

The program, titled "A Biblical Study: The Advent Message in Liturgy and Prophecy," will be taught by Sisters Rogers and Dowd of Our Lady of the Cenacle. All persons interested in attending are invited by Blessed Sacrament parishioners. Admission is free.

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Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

It is not infrequent in this whirly-burley world of religious journalism that one is attacked by theologians. In fact, that is one of the more stimulating aspects and one of the most rewarding in the long run. One youngish theologian told me recently that he did not "trust" Natural Family Planning, and would not present it to the seminarians in his charge because, he said, "There are 12 definitions of the word 'natural.'" I went home and checked the number. He was right. Then I checked the definitions of the word family. There are 24. I wondered if he "distrusted" families to the same degree as he distrusted NFP based on the same reason.

In a more serious vein, his unusual remark did prompt me to look into the meaning of the word natural in a moral sense. Perhaps the best references to it (for Catholics) are in these quotations taken from the L'Osservatore Romano, the weekly Vatican newspaper English edition.

[L'Osservatore Romano 4-22-76 pg.8]: "It is rightly pointed out that (NFP) is not

a question of learning difficult techniques, nor are there insuperable objective difficulties as regards putting them into practice. It should not be thought that as these methods are called 'natural' that it is a question of something empirical or approximate (without regard to scientific knowledge... NM). Each of the 'natural' methods is based on scientific data. Each has a history, a field of observation, of its own. They are called 'natural' based on scientific data. opposition to, and to distinguish them from, 'artificial' knowledge."

[L'Osservatore Romano 1-6-77 pg.8]: "Pastoral sensitivity requires that we be understanding toward those who find it hard to accept this teaching (on contraception), but this does not permit us to change or suppress the teaching. We recognize that couples face increasing pressures related to family planning. Contraceptive birth control results from selfishness, improperly formed consciences and conflicts and pressures which can mitigate moral culpability. Therefore we ask our people not to lose heart or turn away from the community of faith when they find themselves caught in these conflicts. We urge them to investigate such legitimate methods of birth limitations as Natural Family Planning. At the same time we urge those who dissent from this teaching of the Church to a prayerful and studied reconsideration of their position."

It's been a Long Day...

High in the mountains of Latin America, Father has been up since the crack of dawn... saying Mass... visiting the lady sick with tuberculosis on the other side of the valley... stopping by the school for a religion class... seeing a roofer about some wind damage to the church... holding a Novena service... talking to a plantation owner about a job for one of the men of the parish... attending a meeting of catechists who substitute for him in the outlying communities across the mountains...

Yes, Father's had a busy day... and his feet know it!

Because he has no other way to get around his immense parish.

Father is helped in his work by the prayers of generous people like you, and by financial support you make possible through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Dedicated missionaries like this priest spend all their efforts in bringing Christ to the mission-poor. Would you make an effort to help them? Please send a special Thanksgiving sacrifice on their behalf.

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