

## Anglicans, Catholics Seen 'Sister Churches'

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

**New York (RNS)** — A 12-year status report by the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A. has declared that Episcopalians and Catholics belong to "sister churches" in the one Christian Church and suggested further study and dialogue on such questions as papal authority, the role of women, sexual morality and intercommunion.

The report made a particularly urgent plea for continued consultation on "discrepancies" concerning the formation of conscience in Christian community and

the resolution of "certain moral questions in both our churches," such as abortion and homosexuality, about which there is "growing agreement."

The report also asked the ARC's sponsoring bodies to consider joint task forces to address such common concerns as world hunger, evangelization, prayer and spirituality, Episcopal-Catholic "covenants," and pastoral role of bishops.

Issued by ARC's co-chairmen, Bishop Raymond Lessard of the Savannah, Ga., Catholic diocese, and Episcopal Bishop Arthur Vogel of West Missouri, the report was described as

"both a summary of past work and a challenge to future cooperation." Entitled "Where We Are: A Challenge for the Future," the report said the ARC believes "it has discovered a significant and substantial unity of faith between the two churches, a unity which demands visible expression and testimony."

Although it recognizes "differences" which continue to separate the churches, the report said, "After 12 years of study the ARC contends that the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church agree at the level of faith on such topics as holy eucharist, priesthood and

ordination, and the nature and mission of the Church."

"Despite historically conditioned differences," as in forms of worship, spiritual tradition and styles of theological reflection, "the ARC finds after 19 joint consultations that the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches share so profound an agreement on the level of faith that these churches are in fact 'sister churches' in the one 'communion' which is the Church of Christ."

The report summarized its areas of agreement in worship, scripture, articulation of the faith, relations of bishops to the

worldwide church, morality in the Christian community and personal life of Christ.

Both churches, the report stated, find the "core" of Christian life in the worship of the eucharistic community and both are "convinced that the centrality of the eucharist in the Church's life and work is a major affirmation made by both Anglicans and Catholics in their common faith."

Episcopalians and Catholics believe that in the Bible the inspired word of God is expressed and still speaks to Christians today through scripture, the report said.

"Both Anglicans and Catholics, we are convinced, share all the basic doctrines of classical catholic Christianity and view them as normative for the Church's continuous living tradition," the report noted. It added that "we have become increasingly conscious of the very great body of fundamental doctrine that our churches have inherited in common and still share with little or no divergence between us."

Concerning Church authority, the report said scholars of both churches agree that it is impossible to prove that Jesus intended only one particular

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## Ghana Hails Sister Jane

Sister Jane Le Frois, SSps, of Rochester, who has been teaching in West Africa since 1945 was recently awarded Ghana's highest honor. She was presented the Ghana National Award by General Ignatius Kutu Acheampong, head of State and Government, for her "outstanding services" to the country. He hailed her "indefatigable work" among the country's poor, especially among the lepers at the Leprosarium in Weija, near Accra.

Affectionately called "Mama Jane", sister has retired from teaching but is a member of the Board of Consultants of the Leprosarium where she diligently continues her work among the residents—a ministry she began 26 years ago. Her latest efforts have been to encourage the patients to clear land and plant their own vegetables and she was there to proudly examine their first crops.

A cousin of Sister's, Mrs. Theodore Githner of Rochester, told the Courier-Journal of sister's love for her work, her fearlessness about working with lepers and added, "She can't do enough for them."

This dedication is borne out by the stories told of sister's inimitable way of getting things for, and done for, her leprosy friends. One such incident occurred on a day when milk was non-existent in shops in the capital city of Accra. Sister Jane walked into a store operated by a wealthy merchant, went up to the proprietor and said, "Please give me the carton of milk you have hidden under the counter. I need it for my lepers."

The storekeeper, dumbfounded with surprise, bent down, picked up the carton and handed it to her.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Sister Jane LeFrois and Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the missions, during a recent visit by the sister to Rochester.

Sister Jane, the former Evelyn Helen Le Frois, was born in Brighton, Sept. 18, 1900, graduated from Sacred Heart Academy here in Rochester in 1919 and attended Loyola and De Paul universities in Chicago where she received her PhD and two Master's degrees. She entered the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit in 1922, pronounced her final vows in the congregation in 1931 and spent 14 years teaching in the institute's schools in various parts of the United States. Sister was assigned to the congregation's mission field in Ghana in

1945, becoming Regional Superior at the Most Pure Heart of Mary Convent at Accra from that year until 1953.

Sister's brother, Father Bernard Le Frois, SVD, is presently assigned to the Philippines at the Divine Word Mission Seminary of Christ the King in Manila.

Besides Mrs. Githner, sister has another cousin here in the city, Sister Leona Le Frois, SSI. Two of Sister Jane's four deceased sisters were also members of the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph: Sisters Rose, Cecilia and Alphonsa Marie.

## Year-End Message

# Pope Hails Cairo Talks, Lashes Out at Violence

**Vatican City (RNS)**—Pope Paul praised Egyptian-Israeli peace making efforts as being "courageous to the point of appearing audacious" and renewed his call for special consideration of the "legitimate interests of Christians" in any settlement involving Jerusalem and the Holy Places.

The Pope also said that respect for human rights was "a duty that is indented with the higher interests of a peaceful human coexistence" and said he planned to deal at length with the subject in the near future.

In his customary year-end address to Vatican-based cardinals and other leading Curia prelates Dec. 22, he lashed out at spreading crime, terrorism, abortion and pornography.

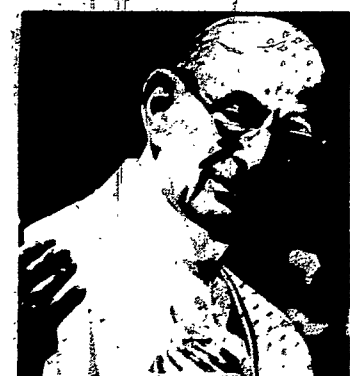
He called for a moral crusade by bishops, priests, and Christian men and women to "stem through opportune undertakings the forces that disrupt the moral order, to isolate the violent, to banish the exploiters and to oppose with civil and dignified resistance everything that is contrary to the innate dignity of the human being."

On the Middle East, Pope Paul did not mention any country or leader by name. He referred broadly to "the initiatives now in progress" but he made it clear that he was praising Egyptian President Sadat's bold overtures to Israel and the prompt Israeli response.

The Middle East was the last subject the Pope dealt with in the 4,000-word

speech that dwelt mostly on such religious matters as the recent Synod of Bishops and the canonizations he proclaimed this year, including that of St. John Nepomucene Neumann, the 19th Century bishop of Philadelphia.

The Pope referred to a message he had sent through the envoy he sent as an observer to the Israeli-Egyptian talks in Cairo, saying it was mostly about the future of the Holy Places in Jerusalem, for which the Vatican has long sought what Pope Paul calls "international guarantees."



POPE PAUL VI

of free access by all believers. He said:

"We must add some words on the Middle East. We are following the developments of the situation with very special attention and interest. We do not wish to take sides amid the different and at times opposing opinions that are being expressed in this regard, but we cannot hide our hopefulness, or silence our wish that the initiatives now in progress, courageous to the point of appearing audacious, will succeed in setting in motion

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## Fr. Hagerty Dies, Retired Pastor

The funeral of Father Roy F. Hagerty was conducted last Wednesday in St. Joseph's Church, Livonia, where he had served as pastor for the 20 years preceding his 1972 retirement.

Father Hagerty died Dec. 23, 1977, at St. Ann's Home. He was 75 years old and in the 51st year of his priesthood. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was principal concelebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial.

During his Livonia assignment, Father Hagerty



FR. HAGERTY

## Corning: A Tale of 3 Councils

The three parishes in Corning offer a fine example of cooperation in such areas as operating a school system and other citywide projects. The three council presidents discuss their work on Page 14.

Incidentally, there is something a bit unusual about the council leaders—they are all women.

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