

New Rules for Women Religious

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has announced that the Church is preparing a new set of rules to regulate the lives of women religious.

"After years of experience directed at updating the religious life according to the particular institute, the time has come to evaluate objectively and humbly the attempts made to recognize the positive elements, the eventual deviations and, finally, to prepare a rule of stable life approved by the Church which should constitute for all sisters a stimulus to a wider consciousness of their commitments and to a joyous faith in living them," the pope said.

In his address to more than 600 mothers superior meeting in Rome for an international assembly, the pope did not say when the rule would be completed and made public.

Nor did he make any mention of his recent reaffirmation of the Church's stand against the

NFP Classes

A Natural Family Planning Information session is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10 in the Holy Rosary school library beginning at 7:30 p.m. The session, conducted by certified instructors, is open to the public at no charge. Holy Rosary school is located at 420 Lexington Ave.

An NFP class has been scheduled at Our Lady of Lourdes parish, corner of Rhinecliff and Imperial Drives in Brighton, on Dec. 12. Registration for the class is limited and the cost will be \$30 which includes "three sessions and supplies," according to an NFP release. Registrations may be obtained by contacting NFP at 464-8705.

Cultural District Discussions Set

The Outreach Commission of Christ Church has arranged a series of three Sunday evening meetings on proposals for a "cultural district" in the East Avenue-East Main-Gibbs Street area. On Dec. 2, the speaker was Vince Coughlin, director of the Downtown Development Corporation. On Dec. 9, Father Laurence Tracy of Mt. Carmel Church will talk about the impact of rezoning on low-income neighborhoods contiguous to the redevelopment area, and on Dec. 16 similar concerns will be discussed by the Rev. G. Stanford Bratton of Parsells Avenue Community Church. All sessions will begin at 7 p.m. in Ferris House at Christ Church, East Avenue at Broadway.

Games of Chance

Organizations that sponsor games of chance within Rochester's city limits are invited to send representatives to an information session at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in Council Chambers, City Hall, 30 Church St. Licensing procedures will be explained by people from the city clerk's office, the Police Department Licensing Division and the State Racing and Wagering Board. In a referendum Nov. 6, city voters chose to permit organizations to sponsor specific games of chance.

ordination of women to the priesthood.

The pontiff once again asked the nuns, as he has asked priests and monks in the past, to abandon secular clothing.

He called "the religious habit" a "special testimony." "In fact," the pope said, "it constitutes a sign: certainly an exterior sign, but one that is indicative of those choices which you have made in consecrating yourselves totally to the ideals of the reign of the heavens; the choice of poverty, lived happily and loved in faithful abandon to the provident action of God; a choice of

distance from every compromise to secularism; a choice of testimony before the brothers and sisters of the world for whose salvation you have committed yourselves and who have, moreover, the right to recognize and distinguish you as the wives of Christ."

The pontiff asked for the sisters' "daughterly adherence and faith." This "link with the Church," he said, "must manifest itself in the spirit of your institute and in its apostolic work, because fidelity to Christ can never be separated from fidelity to the Church."

The pope also asked for commitment to community life. "This is, in fact, an important element of religious life," he said. "It is a characteristic which has been lived by the religious from the beginning, because spiritual ties cannot be created, developed and perpetuated if not through daily and prolonged relationships. Such community life, in evangelical charity, is strictly tied to the mystery of the Church, which is the mystery of communion and of participation and gives proof of your consecration to Christ."

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The Midnight Mass in Bethlehem is offered each Christmas for members of this Association. How better can we say thank you? In 18 mission countries (where Catholics, though few, are mostly of the Eastern Rites) the Holy Father helps millions because you read this column. Blind boys in the Gaza Strip (not one of them a Christian) are learning rug making, basket-work, the ABCs, at the Pontifical Mission Center for the Blind. Lepers in India are cared for by native priests and Sisters. The poor have the Gospel preached to them in Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Ethiopia. . . . This season especially, won't you remember our work in your prayers? Our priests and Sisters depend on you. They ask the Infant to bless you always!

Gifts we receive no later than Friday, December 28, can be listed in your 1979 income tax return. Wondering what you can do?

BUILDING FOR CHRIST

In India three old mission buildings are desperately in need of repair and reconstruction. St. Joseph's in *Kunnumpuram* is over 100 years old and partially collapsed. Just \$5,000 will build a new church. St. Antony's in *Perumpadappu* is over 50 years old and totally inadequate for the needs of the growing parish. Poor as they are, Catholics there contributed \$2500 for the construction of a new church. Only \$4000 more is needed. Will you give what you can toward that amount? The Malabar Medical Missionary Brothers in *Manalur*, need only \$3,000 to repair the 85-year old building in which they now live. Please help!

A HOME FOR THE HOMELESS

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