

Purported Papal Interview Phony, Vatican Reports

Vatican City (RNS) — The head of the Vatican Press Office has strongly denied that a series of "exclusive conversations," reportedly held by a journalist with Pope John Paul II and published in the Ladies Home Journal, ever took place.

The spokesman, Father Romeo Panciroli, asserted that such conversations, as published in question and answer form, "could not have been possible."

The responses, which concern the role of women in the modern world and church, are for the most part similar to comments that the pope had made in various public speeches.

In New York, representatives of the monthly women's magazine said they were convinced the conversations had taken place, and that they occurred over a period of some months in

Rome and during the pope's visit to the U.S. and Ireland.

The author of the article is Peter Dragadze, a London-born member of the Rome press corps. He could not be reached for comment.

It has long been Vatican policy that a pope gives no interviews, especially to foreign journalists. Pope Paul VI broke the rule twice but each time saw a correspondent from a leading Italian daily newspaper.

Holy Week Music To Be Featured at Palm Sunday Concert

The Diocesan Festival Choir's sixth annual concert of sacred music has been scheduled for 4 p.m., Palm Sunday, March 30. The program will emphasize music written for Holy Week feasts.

The program, at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., will open with a choir processional singing an old Palm Sunday hymn, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates."

Other works will include the rarely sung Gregorian chant, "Christus factus est," and Bach's cantata No. 159, "Come and Let Us Go Up to Jerusalem." Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ," a sacred cantata for narrator, soloists, choir and string ensemble, will be featured.

The choir is directed by Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, who founded it in 1975. Soloists for the performance will be soprano Barbara Staropoli, SSJ; mezzosoprano Mary Ellen Campbell, SSJ; tenor Bruce Purrinton, and bass Paul Rowe.

More than 25 Catholic and other churches are represented in the choir. The 75-voice membership, formed to promote and perform sacred church music, enables the performance of works written for large choirs. The Festival Choir was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1979. Dr. Michael Laluppa serves as president of the board.

Sister Virginia also will conduct the choir at the 5 p.m. Mass, Saturday, March 22, at Fairport's Church of the Resurrection.

Brueggemann Talk Set At St. Bernard's

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures and Academic Dean of Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, will give the 1980 Joseph P. Brennan Lecture on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at St. Bernard's Seminary, 2260 Lake Avenue. His talk is titled, "On Prophetic Promise: Imagination and Criticism In Israel."

Dr. Brueggemann is the author of several books on the Old Testament. In addition, he has published a number of articles in the Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Interpretations and other widely read publications.

The lecture series is named after Father Joseph P. Brennan, former rector of the seminary and presently professor there of Old Testament Studies. The series is designed to bring a distinguished Old Testament scholar to the Rochester community each year.

The lecture is open to the public. Tickets are free but required and can be obtained by writing The Director, The Bishop Hogan Center for Continuing Education, St. Bernard's Seminary, 2260 Lake Avenue, Rochester, NY 14612. Telephone (716) 647-2303.

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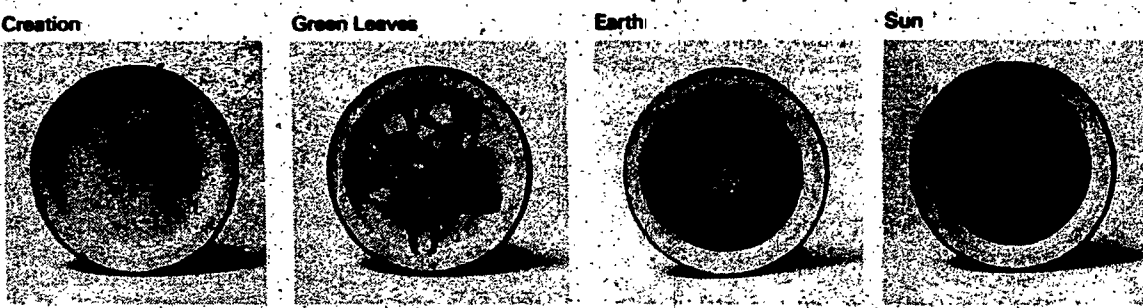
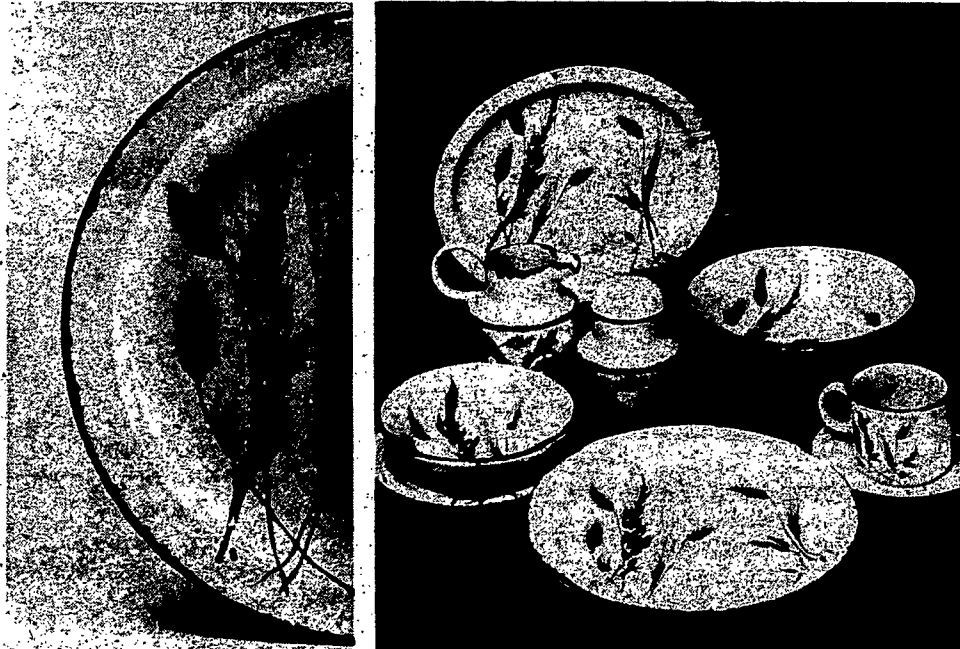
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