

Share Priests, Says Vatican

Vatican City (RNS) — Citing glaring inequalities in the global distribution of its priests, the Roman Catholic Church has asked national bishops' bodies to help reallocate clergy in a new worldwide evangelization effort.

In a document issued 10 days after the pope's return from Brazil, the world's

largest Catholic country, the Vatican asked national bishops' conferences to expedite the sending of clergy to priestless areas.

The decree renews an appeal first made by Pope John XXIII and Vatican Council II in the early 1960s to bishops in Europe and North America to send priests to Third World countries, and

especially to Latin America with its large Catholic population.

The decree instructs the bishops' conferences to recruit diocesan priests for mission work, set up new sources of funding for mission programs and cooperate in the construction of seminaries in countries with grave shortages of priests.

As part of the coordination of this new missionary effort, bishops were also instructed to make written agreements outlining rights and duties of priests and lay auxiliaries who volunteer to serve in foreign countries.

Those sent to serve in other lands should meet the church's norms for orthodoxy of doctrine and lifestyle, and be instructed in the language, culture, and social conditions of the lands to which they are sent, the document said.

The document also gives the present membership of the church as 739,127,000, or 18 per cent of the world population. Based on these statistics, the text declares:

Forty-five per cent of the world's Catholics live in Europe and North America where they are served by 77.2 per cent of the world's priests. However, Latin American and the Philippines, where another 45 per cent of the world's Catholics live, have only 12.62 per cent of the Catholic clergy.

There are 16 priests for every 100,000 Catholics in Latin America, 33 in southern Africa, 43 in the Far East, 93 in Europe, 104 in Oceania, 120 in North America, and 133 in the Middle East and Asia.

"The statistics present grave problems for anyone deeply concerned about the healthy growth of the church, but especially for those who have authority in the church," the document states.

The text also outlines the roles bishops, priests, men and women religious and lay people should play in the increased evangelization by the church.

"All the members of the church — be they pastors, lay

or religious, participate, each in his own way, to the missionary nature of the church," the Vatican document said. "The diversity of the members form one body of Christ to better fulfill the mandate. All the church in fact, is pushed by the Holy Spirit to cooperate until the plan of God is realized," it adds.

USCC Grants Go to Eight New Media Projects

By U.S. Catholic Conference

Washington — The United States Catholic Conference has awarded an additional eight grants to proposals submitted for funding under the new Catholic Communication Campaign.

The new grants include five proposals submitted in the original application process but not previously funded, a supplementary grant to an already funded proposal, and two special proposals pertaining to the Catholic press called for by the USCC Communication Committee at its meeting last March.

Combined with the proposals approved last spring, the Catholic Communication Campaign has now funded 26 highly diversified media proposals throughout the country totaling \$836,614.

The new projects include two new television program series, one on marriage enrichment and one on the letters of St. Paul, funds for journalistic training for minorities, delivery of the National Catholic News Service to Third World communicators, a project to explore the feasibility of a Catholic Video News Service, and two Catholic Press Association sponsored projects — a study on the creation of a Catholic Press service agency and aid for

Third World journalists attending the World Congress of the Catholic press in Rome in September.

In addition, the committee voted a supplement for Dabar Productions, a nationally syndicated Catholic television magazine program sponsored by UNDA-USA.

Eighteen media projects announced last April and already under way include grants for communication training, two new prime time holiday television specials, a national Catholic Spanish language television series for the Fall, radio and television spots, the creation of a media resource center, assistance to media programs in developing nations, print projects dealing with media and family values and children's television and research regarding the development of a satellite delivery system for the Church.

The satellite study had been commissioned by the committee in late 1979, along with a grass roots public information campaign regarding the Federal Communication Commission's proposal on radio deregulation.

The communications campaign is funded by an annual collection in parishes during June. Half the collection remains in the dioceses for local activities; the other half is used on the national level.



Couple Honored

Helena and Ignacy Chorzyzewski, of Hamtramck, Mich., recently received the Israeli "Medal of the Just" in recognition of their heroism during the Holocaust. The Catholic couple, sheltered four young Jewish boys during World War II in their farmhouse in Poland.

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