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OUR 97th YEAR

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Photo by Martin Toombs

The Benedictine Brothers of the Weston Priory led the participants of the Ecumenical Institute and several hundred others in a prayer service for Christian Unity on Tuesday evening during the institute at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. Pictured are the monks dancing to recorded music during the prayer service, which also included many songs, presentations of parables from the New Testament, and a distribution of bread to all assembled.

Weston Priory Brothers Featured at Institute

By Martin Toombs

Worcester, Mass. — The internationally-known Benedictine Brothers of Weston Priory, Vt., attracted the largest crowd of the week to the Ecumenical Institute at Assumption College Aug. 17-22.

The brothers led a prayer service for Christian Unity, which attracted several hundred participants to the Assumption College gymnasium. The event was one of the evening programs which were open to the public.

Father Luc Martel, institute director, set the stage for the evening, noting that the monks were there to lead a prayer service, and not to perform. The result was a prayerful evening for which those attending showed their appreciation at the end with warm applause.

The program provided a prayerful pause for the ecumenists, many of whom are active theologians or

ecumenical directors around the country and in Europe. The participants, representing 23 states and 10 countries, spent the rest of the week in workshops and attending lectures and panel discussions.

The institute was sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption religious order, known as the Assumptionists, to commemorate the order's 75th anniversary.

The order viewed the institute, to which only 190 persons were invited, as an opportunity for the world's ecumenists to discuss the 20-year old movement. Headlining the list of dignitaries was Cardinal Jan Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, who addressed the institute twice. He also received an honorary doctorate from Assumption College, and the Emmanuel D'Alzon Medal, named after the founder of the Assumptionists, for his ecumenical efforts.

Prayers Asked

Sister Mary Jean Smith, assistant superior general of the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph, last week asked for prayers for Sisters Josette Capozzi, Grace Noel Gleichauf and Marie Therese Warth, injured in an automobile accident in Mobile, Ala.

The accident occurred as Sister Josette Capozzi was driving. Sisters Warth and Gleichauf from the airport to

their new mission in Mon Luis, Ala. Sister Capozzi was listed at press time as in critical condition and Sister Warth and Sister Gleichauf in satisfactory condition.

Police are investigating the accident, Sister Smith said. She asked diocesan prayers for prayers, and that get-well messages be sent to USA Medical Center, 2451 Fillim St., Mobile, Ala. 36612.

Cardinal Humberto Medeiros of Boston and Bishop Timothy Harrington, auxiliary bishop of Worcester, also participated.

One plenary session dealt with the position of Mary in

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OBM Organizes Anti-Klan Groups

The Office of Black Ministries last week convened a group of more than 50 individuals from the community at Westminster Presbyterian Church to organize a number of committees dealing with the problem of Ku Klux Klan activities in the Rochester area.

According to Dr. John Walker, chief of the diocesan OBM program, the assembly was the initial follow-up to a day-long conference on Klan activities held June 6.

At the earlier meeting, he said, more than 50 resolutions were proposed by that group. The resolutions were then grouped into five areas of concern, and now constitute the mandates given each of the committees named last week.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Charles Hatcher, will hold responsibility for dealing with the news media, to draw media attention to Klan



JOHN WALKER

activities in the area, and to offer critique of media coverage of Klan activity.

The Community Organization Committee is headed by Father Timothy McCluskey, pastor of Mt. Carmel Church. The group will coordinate the work of the other committees with community organizations, to stimulate response to and

support of programs dealing with anti-racism.

The Education Committee, chaired by the Panel of American Women, will both devise and stage education programs on the question of racism and Klan activities.

The Administrative and Legislative Action Committee is chaired by Amefika Geuka. Its responsibility is to work with political officers and law enforcement agencies in the community.

The Self-Defense Committee, headed by the Rev. Lawrence Evans, will devise ways in which security can be enhanced against Klan activity, to provide witnesses in cases of alleged Klan brutality, and to provide temporary security in times of crisis. The last was described by Dr. Walker as "holding the fort until the police come."

The committees will meet, Dr. Walker said, each month. In addition, the conveners of the committees will meet monthly.

Vatican Seen 'Testing Waters' In Anglican Convert Decision

By Edythe Westenaver
Religious News Service

The Vatican's move giving the American Catholic bishops unusual freedom to devise norms for convert Anglican priests, including married ones, is expected to have far-reaching implications for the entire Roman Catholic Church.

The instructions from Cardinal Franjo Seper, head of the Vatican doctrinal congregation, are an "unusually strong mandate" to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, according to Russell Shaw, the conference's public affairs director.

The experimental norms, which will probably be submitted to the bishops at their meeting in November, "will be designed to meet a particular situation, but whatever happens is obviously going to affect the procedures and structures of the entire church eventually," Shaw explained.

He pointed to a precedent in the Vatican's willingness to allow retention of some liturgical and other traditions by the dissident Anglicans, priests and parishioners, who approached the Roman Catholic hierarchy in 1977 because of dissatisfaction with the Episcopal Church's decision to allow ordination of women to the priesthood and with certain liturgical changes.

Contrary to some press reports, however, the Vatican's decision to allow married convert Anglican priests to become Roman Catholic priests, does not appear to be any innovation, at least for the church abroad.

The norms in Cardinal Seper's letter seem to follow those adopted by the late Pope Pius XII in the 1950s when he allowed a group of married convert Lutheran ministers in Germany to receive full Roman Catholic ordination.

Pius also accorded full status to a married Brazilian bishop who converted, which

resulted in the prelate eventually becoming one of the Council Fathers at Vatican II.

Cardinal Seper's instructions were contained in a three-page letter in English to Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, president of the NCCB. The document climaxed two years of negotiation. The American Catholic bishops — during executive sessions at their general meetings in 1978 and 1980 — had discussed the question of receiving the Anglicans and specifically their married clergy.

Sources familiar with Vatican procedures said the norms reflected an old adage often quoted by members of the Roman Curia that "law follows life." The Vatican is permitting a situation which will allow a test of several situations — most notably married clergy in the Latin church — without making a juridical ruling at this time on such controversial issues as priestly celibacy or the

validity of the ordination rites of the Anglican Church.

Shaw said in Washington that the announcement of the Vatican decision had brought home to him personally the effects of his work.

"I told my staff that professionally we deal with texts and abstractions," the NCCB spokesman said. "But the reaction here has made me realize more deeply than anything else how much peoples' lives can be affected."

"The first call I got after the announcement came from an Anglican priest who left the Episcopal Church in 1977 and started his own congregation in a major American city. He simply asked, 'What do we do to join?'"

The Brazilian who converted was Bishop Salomon Ferraz of Sao Paolo, who was married and the father of seven children. Initially a Presbyterian minister, he joined a church started by a

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