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COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

16 Pages

Wednesday, October 8, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

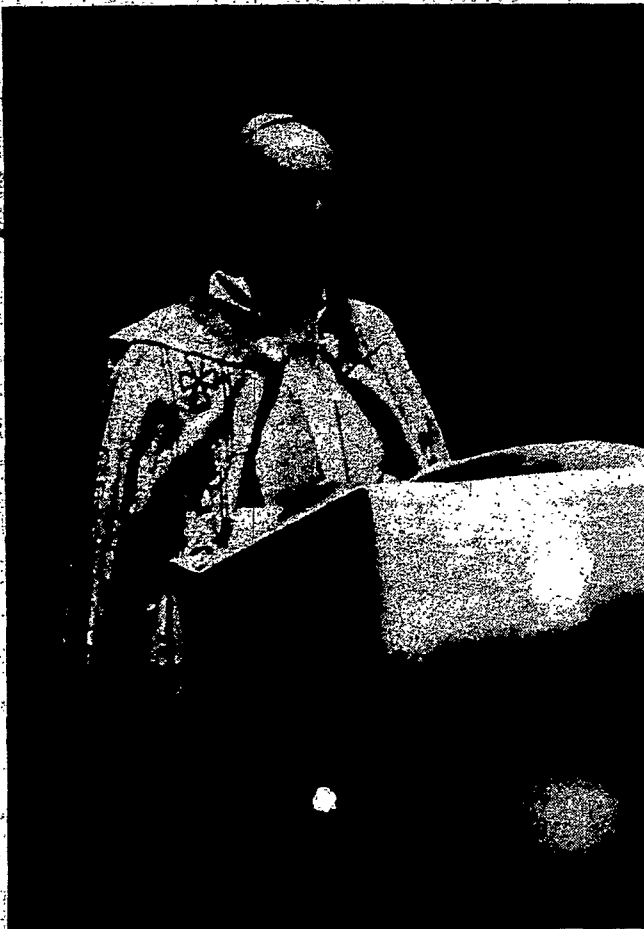
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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

200 Attend Reunion

More than 200 alumni of St. Bernard's Seminary attended the biennial reunion last week at the seminary on Lake Avenue. The two-day program opened last Monday evening with Solemn Vespers celebrated by Bishop W. Thomas Larkin, right, of St. Petersburg, Fla., a member of the Class of 1947 and a native of Mt. Morris. Below, Dr. Philip John Gleason, professor of Church History at Notre Dame University, speaks to the assembly on "American Catholicism Today and Tomorrow." Above, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Class of '63, delivers the homily at Mass last Tuesday morning.



Bishop Synod Focus On Family Matters

By Daniela Iacono
Religious News Service

Vatican City — At a colorful Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated under Michelangelo's famed Sistine Chapel ceiling, Pope John Paul II and 216 bishops from around the globe opened the Vatican's sixth world Synod of Bishops on Sept. 26.

For the first time, a group of married couples was present as official observers at the assembly, one with a four-month-old baby on hand.

In a homily delivered in Latin, the red-robed pope underscored the continuity of the present synod, which is devoted to the theme of the contemporary Christian family, with the two previous synods (1974 and 1977), which dealt with evangelization and catechesis, or religious training and instruction.

"The family," said the pontiff, "is the fundamental object of the Church's evangelization and catechesis. But it is also their indispensable and irreplaceable subject, their creative subject."

"It is the family which gives life to society because in the family, through the work of education, the actual structure of humanity is formed."

A new feature of the current synod, setting it apart from previous ones, is the presence of 16 married couples in their capacity as "auditors," together with other auditors — priests, religious of both sexes, and lay people, some 60 in all.

Praising this innovation, the pope said that "within this assembly we feel the need for the presence and the testimonies of our dear brothers and sisters who represent the Christian families of the word."

Addressing his remarks to the married auditors, who sat with the other auditors behind the marble screen which divides the Sistine Chapel in two sections, the pope asked the group to "share with us the gifts of your condition and your vocation, at least through the testimony of your presence and your experience, rooted in the sanctity of the great sacrament we call matrimony."

In a report outlining the work ahead of the bishops,

German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger told them they would have to consider among other things the issue of birth control, the role of women in today's world and the problem of divorce. However, he made it clear he was not suggesting change in traditional church teaching.

He said that "many episcopal conferences hoped" that the late Pope Paul VI's encyclical barring artificial means of birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, "would be more clearly explained, validated by new arguments and confirmed."

The cardinal reported that the episcopal conferences similarly reaffirmed that "marriage is a divine right" and so "therefore the church can neither abolish nor change it, but must only defend it and offer help so that marriage can live with the gifts of the Creator and the Redeemer."

Cardinal Ratzinger — appointed by the pope to the important position of "relator," one who summarizes — said that women's

claims for equal rights "corresponds to what the Holy Scripture says, while certain aspects of feminism, which consider man as a mere individual and deny the correlation which comes from sexuality, bring about enmity of the sexes."

"Therefore," he continued, "the problem of the correct placement of women today must be counted as one of the fundamental questions in the search for the correct form of marriage and of the family."

Two American couples — Dr. Claude and Anne Lanctot of Washington, D.C., and Richard and Barbara McBride of Long Beach, Calif. — were among the auditors.

One couple, from Kenya, had been given permission to bring their four-month-old baby with them during the synodal sessions.

Among other auditors is Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, the Nobel Prize-winning foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, who minister to the "poorest of the poor."



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

On the Move

The Courier-Journal moved its offices over the past weekend and among the first of the furnishings to make the shift was a statue of St. Francis De Sales, the patron of journalists. Joseph Lo Giudice, right, advertising executive, takes the statue into the building at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, 14607. Remodeling the new offices were, from left, Carl Richard-Hudson, Taras Muzytchuk and Wasyl Matichyn.