

Divorced, Remarried Norms Listed by Pope

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, speaking at the closing session of the World Synod of Bishops, declared that validly married Catholics who divorce and remarry may not receive Communion unless they abstain from sexual relations.

The 216 bishops reaffirmed the Catholic Church ban on contraceptives and divorce.

The pope acknowledged the bishops' report during a

closing Mass in the Sistine Chapel, saying that divorced Catholics who have remarried "are not to be considered separated from the Church."

"By virtue of their baptism, they can and ought to participate in the life of the Church by praying, by hearing the Word, by assisting at the Eucharistic celebration of the community, and by fostering charity and justice," the pope said.

But, he stressed, such

couples may not approach the altar to receive the Eucharistic bread unless they "live in a manner which is not opposed to the indissolubility of marriage."

This means, he explains, that when a man and a woman find themselves in a second marriage after either has been divorced from a valid marriage, and "cannot fulfill the obligation to separate," they must live "in complete abstinence from acts in which only married couples can engage."

Mission Team To Report on Mexican Visit

The missionary team that visited the parish of Tamulte de las Sabanas in our diocese's sister diocese of Tabasco will make a report to the diocese at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 6, at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Last July, the team — Lourdes Perez — Albuerno, Rev. Mr. Paul Tomasso, Mary Louise Mitchell, SSJ, Susan Nowak, SSJ, Barbara Fagin, Mary Thompson and Paul Thompson — visited the Mexican parish for three weeks. The report is open to the public.

Volunteers Needed

STAR, a personal aid program for the elderly sponsored by the United Way of Rochester and the Monroe County Office for the Aging, is currently looking for volunteers to meet the increased service needs.

STAR is designed to "bring human companionship, comfort, laughter, conversation and reassurance to the doorstep of elderly shut-ins," according to a release. Irene Coveny, program director, said that STAR volunteers "assist with specific daily tasks such as grocery shopping, transportation, assistance and snow shoveling."

The case load is constantly increasing, she said. Those interested in volunteering their services, or for those elderly who may need STAR assistance, may call 546-7220, ext. 70, Monday through Friday.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

A Heavenly Commercial

My sister and her youngest, a third grader, frequently find themselves alone during the weekend as both her husband and the older children work at the family restaurant.

Recently as a special treat she took him into their nearby village for a stop at the ice cream parlor. While there she spotted a sign advertising a film on the life of Jesus. It had played in commercial theaters some time before and was now being presented at the local Baptist church.

"Come on, Sam," she urged him, "it'll be a nice change from television. Just think, no commercials." Grudgingly, he acquiesced.

During an intermission, the minister spoke to the audience and pointed out that there are still many places in the world where the name of Jesus is unknown.

The film, he said, had already been translated into many, many languages for presentation abroad. Every time sufficient money was collected, he added, it was translated into another language. My sister reached for her purse and as she did so heard an accusing whisper next to her.

Delighted with the present, I was, however, a little taken aback after tearing off the gift wrapping and ribbon to find a fiery, Hades-inspired cover replete with brimstone, tormented motorcyclists and winged grotesqueries.

The kids hurriedly sought to explain. The ballad, "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad" was done by a rock group named Meatloaf. The album: "Bat Out of Hell."

"Ha," said her companion, "and you said there wouldn't be any commercials!"

...

As a birthday offering the kids bought me a record album containing a single that had been popular some time ago and whose ballad-like tune I had been humming offkey for weeks.

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Pope to Resume Laicizing Priests

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II plans shortly to resume laicizing Roman Catholic priests but he will be strict about granting freedom to marry to younger men still or until recently active in the ministry.

A well-informed source said here that a letter from the Congregation for Doctrine announcing new norms for laicization was already being distributed to bishops by the Vatican's worldwide network of papal nuncios and delegates.

John Paul plans to employ the same procedure used by Pope Paul VI, the source said. The pope will personally approve each petition on recommendation from the doctrinal congregation, and he will grant dispensations to former priests, who have already been married for some time, with about the same speed as Paul VI.

However, the pontiff reportedly has told the bishops he will not consider requests from priests not yet married unless they can show they should not have been ordained — either because they lacked the necessary freedom to consent to celibacy or their

superiors lacked sufficient information to judge that they could not honor the commitment.

Under Pope Paul, the laicization process usually took six months to a year, both for those who had already married and for those asking permission to have the ceremony take place in the Church.

After Vatican Council II, Pope Paul decided to set up a regular procedure by which priests could be laicized — until then a rarity in the Catholic Church — because of his concern for men who had problems coping with the changing conditions of ministry in the post-conciliar era.

Toward the end of his life, both the pope and the officials of the doctrinal congregation became disturbed because of an increasing number of applications from young priests who simply gave the desire to marry as their reason for the request.

A backlog of 4,000 requests for laicization is reported to have piled up during the two years the ban has been in effect.

Health Services Reviewed

Sixteen Nazareth Academy students, accompanied by Ms. Nancy Werner, Guidance Department, attended the Allied Health Careers Day presented at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The program introduced professionals in the Health Careers who talked about the

opportunities open to those interested in pursuing careers in Health Services. Careers discussed included Biomedical Computing, Biomedical Photography, Dental Hygiene, Health Administration, Medical Technology, and Physical Therapy.



Fun Night

Planning the upcoming St. Agnes High School Fun Night are (seated) Rose Nasca and John Nasca, (standing) Jeanne Arthur and Principal Sister Anne Guerin. The event will be held at the East River Road institution on Friday, Nov. 7, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured will be a variety of foods and Bowlo the Clown. The event is sponsored by the school's parents' club.

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