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At their first luncheon meeting, Msgr. Krieg, the bishop and Sister Muriel discuss plans for meeting diocesan religious.

Vatican Asks Islam For Mutual Efforts To Resolve Tensions

Vatican City (RNS) — The Vatican has appealed to Muslims for mutual efforts to resolve tensions between the world of Islam and Catholicism.

The message, signed by Archbishop Jean Jadot, acting president of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, was issued in conjunction with the close of the Muslim's holy month of Ramadan.

During Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Koran to the Prophet Mohammed in a cave near Mecca 14 centuries ago.

All month the faithful abstain from food and drink in the daytime. They end the month with a feast and celebration.

"On this joyous occasion," said Archbishop Jadot, "permit us to express to you,

our brother believers, our sense of esteem for your testimony of submission to God and for your piety.

"His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, has spoken of this fidelity to the Muslim communities he has had the pleasure of greeting during his travels."

Archbishop Jadot, former Apostolic Delegate in the United States, went on to remark that mutual "respect for the designs of divine Providence" constituted "a pressing invitation to work together to save man and his values from materialism."

"There are many among you who have had such thoughts, as we do," he continued. "Refugees, immigrants, minorities, the poor, and those left all alone by our world — all these await us."

Urging cooperation in lessening tensions between church and mosque, the Vatican official said:

"Conscious of our differences, let us work together with mutual respect for each other's convictions, rejecting the prejudices that are the source of so many tensions, so that we may build a world of justice and mercy, in which man can give glory to God the Creator."

Minor Surgery For Bishop

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be on crutches for "a couple of days" this coming weekend.

On Friday afternoon the bishop will register as an outpatient at Rochester General Hospital for surgery on torn cartilage in his knee. The bishop said that the procedure should be over in a short time and that he expects to return home that afternoon.

The bishop also asked diocesans for their prayers.

Bishop Names Two Vicars for Religious

By John Dash

After ten years of debate and discussion, a self-described "woman of few words" has been named to fill the full-time slot of a newly designed office of Vicar for Religious. Serving with her on a part-time basis and holding the same title, will be Scottsville pastor and canon lawyer, Msgr. Gerard Krieg.

The woman is Sister Muriel

Curran, a member of the Baltimore province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The announcement of the appointments was made last week by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, to whom the vicars will be responsible and in whose name they will serve.

The design of the office and the recommendation for Sister Muriel's appointment,

however, was the fruit of more than a decade of work by the Diocesan Sisters Council.

The vicars will serve both men and women religious in the diocese.

Sister Muriel, a native of Cambridge, Mass., entered her congregation at Wilton,

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AUSTRALIA:

How the Vatican 'Discovered' Australia

Sydney, Australia (RNS) — Three hundred years ago this summer — nearly a century before its discovery by Capt. James Cooke in 1770 — the Vatican "discovered" Australia and declared it a mission territory.

Few Australians were aware of the anniversary, even fewer have heard of the farsighted Italian priest whose vision, drive and energy led to the creation of the mission on July 15, 1681.

In fact, until recently, little was known about the Dominican friar — Father Victorio Riccio — and the unusual circumstances of the founding of the Australian mission.

The omission has now been rectified, thanks to the zeal and scholarship of an American priest, Father Ralph Witgen, a member of the Society of the Divine Word, who lives in Rome.

The Chicago-born priest perused more than 4,000 volumes of archival material preserved by the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples at its Rome headquarters.

His research formed the basis of a book, "The Founding of the Roman Catholic Church in Oceania (1825-1850)," published by the Australian National University Press in 1980 and now in its second printing.

Subsequently, Father Witgen obtained additional material about Father Riccio and the founding of the Australian mission.

On July 15, 1681, nine cardinal-members of the Vatican Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith met to form a new body, the Prefectura Apostolica-Terra Australis or apostolic prefecture for the southern land, "Southern land" in the title embraced modern Australia, Papua, New

Guinea, West Irian and Antarctica, which at the time were considered to constitute a single continent.

Father Riccio at the time was attached to St. Dominic's monastery in Manila, the Philippines. He himself had proposed the new mission on the basis of interviews with Dutch explorers, some of whom, it is conjectured, may have visited "Terra Australis."

When he submitted his proposal to Church authorities in Rome by letter of June 4, 1676, he volunteered to enter the

territory and begin mission-work there with the help of Franciscan missionaries who had agreed to accompany him from Manila.

To be sure that the cardinals would be fully aware of the location, size and consequent importance of Terra Australis, Father Riccio enclosed with his letter a large map drawn by hand in color, with descriptive captions in Latin.

The letter, with its enclosure, conveyed by Spanish galleon, took five years to reach Rome. It led to the calling of the special



session of the Vatican's mission congregation on July 15, 1681.

Summarizing Father Riccio's proposals, the secretary of the congregation said that Terra Australis was so vast "that one could walk through it for more than two years without ever seeing the sea."

that it was considered to be "the fifth part of the world," that it contained "innumerable kingdoms and nations."

The cardinals were impressed. They not only created a new prefecture for the Southern land, as Father

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