

# Pontiff Warns Jesuits To Avoid 'Deviations'; Terminates Direct Rule

By Eleni Dimmler  
Religious News  
Service Correspondent

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has instructed the Jesuits to obey him as "the vicar of Christ," to guard against doctrinal "deviations," to stay out of politics and to stick to their vocations as "religious and priests."

At the same time, the pope took the first step to end his direct rule over the Jesuit order.

At a special audience Feb. 27 with more than 100 top leaders of the Society of Jesus, the pope announced that a general congregation of the society would be called before the end of the year to elect a successor to the ailing Basque superior general, Father Pedro Arrupe.

Displeased with Jesuit advocacy of liberal theological positions on such matters as birth control, priestly celibacy, and married priests, as well as their activism in Latin America and elsewhere, the

pope last October put his own man, Father Paolo Dezza, 80, in charge of the order temporarily.

The action displaced Father Arrupe, and his handpicked temporary vicar, Father Vincent O'Keefe, an American.

In his talk to the Jesuit provincials and their top aides, the pope praised Father Arrupe, who was felled by a stroke last August, for his devotion to the Holy See.

The pope then went on to remind the Jesuit leaders of the "filial obedience that every Jesuit must demonstrate to the vicar of Christ."

He described his intervention in October as an "act of love" for Jesuits, and praised them for accepting that "trial" with an "authentic Ignatian spirit." The reference was to St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the order, who emphasized obedience to the church.

Without being specific, the pope warned against certain liberal interpretations of Vatican II, emphasizing that its reform directives were to be carried out "not according to personal criteria or psycho-sociological theories."

He insisted that "there is no more room for deviations certainly harmful to the vitality of the religious communities and the church as a whole."

The pontiff also warned the Jesuits that concern for social justice must be exercised in accord with their priestly and religious vocation.

He said a priest's function should not be secularized or reduced to the purely philanthropic.

The pope's address came midway through a meeting of the Jesuit leaders at a villa in the Alban Hills south of Rome. That meeting had been called by Father Dezza to present the pope's views for the future of the Society of Jesus.

Prior to the audience with the pope, the Jesuits celebrated Mass at their headquarters in Rome.

In a homily that he introduced, then had read on his behalf, Father Arrupe urged all Jesuits to "conform their will to the divine will and in renewed submission to the mission received from Christ through the pope."

## Nuke Foe Set

Msgr. Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 23 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall. The English parish priest is on tour in the United States under theegis of Clergy and Laity Concerned. Co-sponsors of the Rochester talk are the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, Rochester Catholic Worker, Catholics Against Nuclear Arms and the Peace and Justice Education Center.



## Hospital Helpers

Organizers of the 12th annual Seton Fashion Show, slated for 11 a.m., March 30 at Monroe Golf Club, are (left right): Mrs. William Thomas, Sister Ann William, Mrs. Richard Wilson, Mrs. Michael Adams and Mrs. Francis Kenny. Proceeds from the event will be used to fulfill a \$500,000 pledge the St. Mary's Hospital Women's Board and Seton Branches have made for the hospital's modernization fund.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## Some Facts About The Jesuits

Aren't the Jesuits in hot water with the Pope?

There are Jesuits who are faithful to their traditions; and there are Jesuits who would reject the very fundamental principle: fidelity to the Holy Father. This infra-Order contention is of such interest to the secular world that the Feb. 14 New York Times magazine section made the Jesuits and their conflicts the feature article. The very front page had a full length picture of three Jesuits gazing out, with intelligent, somber, inscrutable faces. The caption read: "Portrait of a Troubled Order."

Why should the "Times" give such coverage to a Catholic religious order?

The Jesuits are probably the most powerful and influential group in the world excepting the Russian Politburo. They were founded in the 1530s by my favorite saint, Ignatius of Loyola, a Basque. And for what? To extend and strengthen the faith of Christ through his Church by education and missionary work, always in union with the Pope. Hence their involvement in the counter-reformation, their spectacular missionary work, their development of spiritual and intellectual works in the Church. To this day Jesuit institutions are regarded with awe and respect even from their enemies. But the spirit of the world has wormed into the Jesuit Order. John XXIII, John Paul I and John Paul II have all expressed their concern. The present Pope characteristically is doing something about it. He has called the provincials of the world to a meeting in Frascati, Italy to discuss and to follow his directions. Fidelity to the Pope is a fundamental principle with the Jesuit Order.

Are there any movements today comparable to the early Jesuits in the Church?

Yes. Many of them, but not widely known. For example, "Opus Dei," founded in 1928 by the Spanish Jose Maria Escriva is a bed rock of Catholic orthodoxy, faithful to the Pope, and in many respects is of the same cloth as the early Jesuits. Again, in October 1981, while escorting a group to Kenya via Rome, I met two splendid seminarians at Kennedy Airport, recognizable in clericals. One was a Mexican, now ordained a priest. The other was from Ireland, and now a deacon. I talked with them for two hours and was greatly moved by their ardor for Christ and His Church. They belonged to a new order: "The Legionaires of Christ," with headquarters in Rome, and seminaries in Mexico, Ireland and the United States in Orange, New Jersey. The order is some 20 years old, has the piety of the early Jesuits. They preserve the traditional discipline and devotions which developed good priests. They wear the cassock and give complete fealty to the Pope.

Is Father Richard McBrien who was on Harry Reasoner's "60 Minutes" on Feb. 21 a Jesuit?

No. He belongs to the diocese of Fort Wayne and is head of the theology department of Notre Dame University. His attitude toward the Pope on the TV reminds me of a caption in a recent Democrat and Chronicle article which read: "Wife hires hit-man to murder husband." On the Feb. 28 "60 Minutes", we were informed that they had NEVER received such a flood of letters of protest as they had to Father McBrien's undercutting John Paul. When Hans Kueng was on the Donahue show he said that he was not invited to speak at any Jesuit university, but he was invited to Notre Dame, and was acclaimed by the audience. This speaks sadly of the Jesuits who operate 28 colleges and universities and 47 high schools in the United States.

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