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Photo by Anthony J. Costello

## Deacons Ordained

The four new deacons being ordained lay prostrate last Saturday during the ceremony at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Father Thomas Valenti, diocesan vocation director, are at right. The new deacons are Frank Ernest DiSano, David Joseph Faraone, Richard Timothy Farrell and George Raymond Norton. Other photos, back page.

## USCC Official Pushes Immigration Reforms Without Amendments

Washington (NC) — John McCarthy, executive director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Service spoke out against expected efforts to amend the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1982.

The USCC had earlier expressed support for the measure, S. 2222, as it was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee by a 16 to 1 vote. The legislation was scheduled for debate and voting prior to the congressional Labor Day recess, which starts Aug. 20.

Features which had USCC support and which are expected to be challenged by amendments include those concerning eligibility for amnesty for illegal aliens. The measure now provides for a cut-off date for eligibility for permanent residence status for those who arrived before Jan. 1, 1978, a cut-off date for temporary residence status for those who arrived before Jan. 1, 1982, and a two-year waiting period for those in temporary status to apply for permanent status.

Attorney General William French Smith, on behalf of the Reagan administration, has urged instead that the permanent status date be changed to Jan. 1, 1976, that the temporary status date be changed to Jan. 1, 1981, and that the two-year waiting period be changed to four years.

The earlier dates, McCarthy said, "would greatly reduce the number of aliens eligible for legalization and

would leave many thousands in an undocumented status."

McCarthy said several senators are expected to offer amendments incorporating Smith's requested revisions.

A proposal by Sen. Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.) also is opposed by USCC because it would leave a larger number of undocumented aliens in an illegal status than would the administration's proposal.

Another "major threat" to the bill, according to McCarthy, is an expected amendment to subtract the number of refugees admitted to the United States and the number granted asylum from the total number of regular immigrants admitted the following year.

The bill currently sets a yearly ceiling of 425,000 visas, most of which are related to family reunification.

## Focus on Jobs, Bishops Asked

Washington (NC) — The bishops of the United States have been asked to focus on the national "tragedy of unemployment" in 1982 Labor Day observances.

Bishop Mark J. Hurley of Santa Rosa, Calif., chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on Social Development and World Peace, said in a letter to the nation's bishops that Labor Day offers an opportunity for "special recognition in each diocese" of the dignity of work and the widespread problem of unemployment.

"Unemployment has reached an all-time high since World War II," Bishop Hurley wrote. "Even aside from its effects on family subsistence, unemployment brings in its wake profound psychological trauma, deep pain and a sense of insecurity. The social costs

and the shattering of morale among our 10 million unemployed are all too real in our dioceses."

He urged a special focus in Labor Day observances on Pope John Paul II's encyclical "On Human Work," which he said "stresses not only the dignity of work and the tragedy of unemployment but the priority of the workers over both capital and labor."

He quoted from the encyclical on the right and duty of human beings to work: "Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and because of his own humanity. He must work out of respect to others, especially his own family but also for society . . . Unemployment . . . in all cases is an evil, which when it reaches a certain level can become a real human disaster."

## Jews and Catholics, Catholics and Jews Two Millennia of Ill-Will Is Reassessed

This assessment of relations between Jews and Roman Catholics is part of a longer address given by Father Joseph P. Brennan, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, now rector of St. Edmund's House at Cambridge University. Father Brennan, a noted biblical scholar, is widely recognized as a leader in Jewish-Christian affairs. The address was given as part of the Courtyard Series at Temple Beth Kodesh, July 27.

In 1965 the Second Vatican Council issued its "Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions," one of the briefer, but truly revolutionary documents of that council. It marked a radical break with traditional Roman Catholic attitudes, and even though it

leaves as much unsaid as it actually says, it did set Catholic thinking and practice on a totally new course. It acknowledges, first of all, that Christians cannot begin to understand their own Church unless they have a genuine knowledge of and respect for the Jewish religious experience, out of which Christianity emerged. But it then goes on to acknowledge what Christians have generally preferred to deny, that God continues to "hold the Jews most dear for the sake of their fathers: He does not repent of the gifts He makes or of the calls He issues. For that reason the Jews should not be presented as rejected or accursed by God, as if this followed from the Holy Scriptures (a reference to the ancient accusation of Jewish deicide) — which means that

the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against the Jews at any time and by any one"

Out of these fairly obvious, but seminal statements, there have emerged over the past 17 years, a number of encouraging developments.

Thus, the Vatican, shortly after the council, set up an Office for Catholic-Jewish Relations, which, in 1974, became the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. This commission celebrated the 10th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate" in January 1975 with a set of Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration Nostra Aetate.

The first new element

which appears in these guidelines is a cautious admission that Christians may have some responsibility for the tensions and suspicions which Jews feel with reference to Christians.

"While it is true," the guidelines say, "that a widespread air of suspicion, inspired by an unfortunate past, is still dominant in this particular area (of Jewish-Christian dialogue), Christians for their part will be able to see to what extent the responsibility is theirs, and deduce practical conclusions for the future. . . . It is rather timorous and grudging as a statement of guilt, or a call to repentance and amendment of life, but at least it is a step in the right direction.

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### OFFICIAL

From the diocesan chancellor

A recent news story in the Gannett Newspapers calls for clarification regarding the proposed "consecration" of Rev. Louis Vezelis.

Rev. Vezelis is not a member of the Franciscan Order. He was formally expelled by his provincial on April 17, 1978. He is suspended a divinis, which means he may not exercise his powers as a priest.

Any religious rites performed by Rev. Vezelis in our community have no approbation by Bishop Clark, the Franciscan Order, or the Holy See.

A bishop is consecrated only with the explicit mandate of the Holy Father. This mandate can never be given by another bishop. Therefore, the proposed "consecration" of Rev. Vezelis is a matter gravely contrary to Church law.