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Despite Worldwide Observances, Holy Year Focus Is Still Rome

By Father Kenneth J. Doyle

Vatican City (NC) — At 5 p.m. on March 25, Pope John Paul II will strike the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica three times with a silver hammer, thus opening a jubilee year marking the 1,950th anniversary of mankind's redemption by Christ.

That same papal act has opened holy years for centuries. But the 1983 jubilee has a novelty all its own: of the 27 holy years in the Church's history, this will be the first to be celebrated simultaneously around the world.

The pope has asked each of the world's 2,405 dioceses on or about March 25 to celebrate local ceremonies in union with those in Rome. He has called on each of the world's 784,000,000 Catholics to "rediscover in their daily experience all the riches of salvation."

In addition, he has announced that a plenary indulgence can be gained by Catholics in their own dioceses for participating in certain holy year activities.

A plenary indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven.

Local observance of the holy year will apparently be widespread and enthusiastic. Msgr. Francis Frayne told NC News, "The feedback we're getting on this is excellent. People around the world have caught on to this."

Msgr. Frayne, a native of England, has worked for nearly a decade at the Vatican office which serves tourists and is now assisting in the planning of holy year activities.

Despite the availability of local celebrations, pilgrims will not be deterred from coming to Rome as they have done since the first holy year in 1300.

Among those who journeyed to the Eternal City for that first celebration was the Florentine poet Dante Alighieri, who is commonly said to have received the inspiration for his "The Divine Comedy" during that pilgrimage.

Rome is preparing for an influx of some six million pilgrims during the holy year, which runs until Easter of 1984. This is in addition to the 12 million tourists who visit the Italian capital during a normal year.

Rome's 1,200 hotels are already beginning to say they are completely booked for the year's peak periods, as are dozens of religious orders that run "pensioni," inexpensive rooming houses.

The city is constructing two new camping areas, and four new youth hotels will be opened.

Thirty pilgrim trains will be lined up daily to take visitors on a 12-minute ride to St. Peter's from St. Paul's

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Pope Boniface VIII reads the bull which announces the first Holy Year in 1300. This fresco by Giotto is in the basilica of St. John the Leteran in Rome. (NC Photo)

Sister Elizabeth Anne Elected SSJ Superior

Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley has been elected superior general of the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Clare Brown has been elected assistant superior.



SISTER ELIZABETH ANNE

native of Gasport, succeeds Sister Jamesine Riley who has

The elections were held Sunday at the congregational motherhouse on East Avenue.

Also elected to the central administration were Sister Agnes Catherine Battersby, Sister Ann Lafferty, Sister Maura Wilson and Sister Rosemary St. Peter.

The formal installation of the new administration will take place July 24. Each of the electees holds a four-year term.

Sister Elizabeth Anne, a

been superior general since 1975. At 40, Sister Elizabeth Anne is the youngest woman religious to hold the congregational post.

She holds degrees in English from Nazareth College and in theology from the University of Notre Dame. A member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for 19 years, she has variously taught or administered a number of educational programs. She has been a part of the congregation's central administration for more than seven years.

In addition, Sister Elizabeth Anne has served on the Diocesan Sisters Council, Pax Christi and the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators.

Sister Clare, assistant superintendent for public affairs of the diocesan Department of General Education, this year celebrates her silver jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph. She has variously served as teacher, administrator, missionary to Mexico, and infirmarian. She is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association, and of the Principals Federation. In addition she is chairperson, participant and liaison for several county, state and federal committees.

Sister Agnes Catherine is now pastoral assistant at St. Patrick's, Corning; Sister Ann, a missionary to Brazil; Sister Maura, retreat and spiritual life director; Sister Rosemary, principal of Holy Trinity School, Webster.

Diocese Preparing Special Programs

The Rochester diocese has named a committee to make special plans to join in celebration of the Holy Year declared by Pope John Paul II.

Sister Mary Louise Heffernan of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield will be chairman of the committee which will include Fathers Robert McNamara and Thomas Mull and a married couple yet to be named.

The pope declared the Holy Year of Redemption on Dec. 23, 1982, and on Jan. 21 issued the letter "Aperite Portas Redemptori" (open the doors to the Redeemer) which called the Church to participate on the local scene as well as in Rome.

The pope chose this year because it is the 1950th anniversary of the events surrounding the Resurrection of Jesus. The theme of redemption also provided the occasion for the pope to stress the theme of reconciliation.

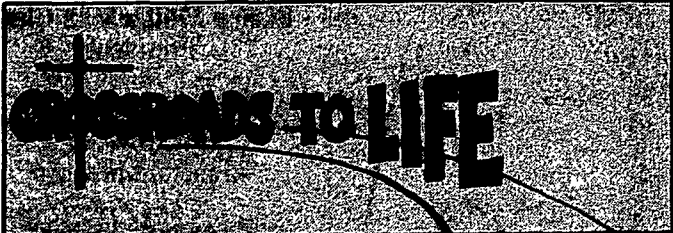
"Let this be a year that is truly holy," the pope declared. "Let it be a time of grace and salvation by being more intensely sanctified

by the acceptance of the graces of the Redemption on the part of the people of our time, through a spiritual renewal of the whole people of God, which has for its head Christ who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification."

The pope's call on the local scene will be for Catholics to pilgrimage to certain designated churches, to offer prayer there as a community, to share in the celebration of sacramental reconciliation and to create for the diocese "a year of grace and of growth."

Diocesans are asked to pray for the spirit of reconciliation. The pope extends his wish: "May the renewed experience of this one faith, also during the Jubilee Year, hasten the day of ineffable joy when the brothers and sisters will live in unity, listening to the voice of Christ in his single flock, with him as the one supreme shepherd. In the meantime, we have the joy of knowing that many of them are this year preparing to celebrate, in a particularly significant way, Jesus Christ as the life of the world."

The committee will be announcing special diocesan plans for the Holy Year, which will extend to Easter Sunday, April 22, 1984.



An Invitation

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
Invites You to:
The Chrism Mass

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Reception following in School Hall



New Prognosis

An update on the case of Irondequoit's Christine Bert is on Page 5.

Reconciliation

'We Have Sinned'

— Guatemala President
Efraim Rios Montt.
Editorial, Page 17

'I Repent'

— Mehmet Ali Agca, convicted
assassin of Pope John Paul II.

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