

GALILEO

'We Recognize That He Suffered from Departments Of the Church' — John Paul

By Father Kenneth J. Doyle

VATICAN CITY (NC) -- Pope John Paul II told a meeting of world-renowned scientists May 9 that the Galileo affair has led the Church "to a more mature attitude and to a more accurate grasp of the authority proper to her."

The Church upholds the need for freedom of research, he said.

The pontiff's words came at an audience for 300 scientists, including 40 Nobel prize winners, who were meeting in Rome at a convention marking the 350th anniversary of the publication of Galileo's book, "Dialogues on the Two Great World Systems."

Galileo Galilei, an Italian mathematician, inventor, astronomer and physicist of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, was censured by the Roman Inquisition for teaching that the sun was the center of the universe and that the earth revolved around the sun.

This teaching, then a barely demonstrated scientific thesis, was thought by many in the Church to contradict a literal interpretation of Scripture that the sun moved around the earth and the theological belief in the centrality of man as redeemed by Christ.

The pope recalled that he had appointed an interdisciplinary team in 1980 to study the Galileo case.

"Its work is progressing very encouragingly," said the pontiff, "and there are good grounds for hoping that it will make an important contribution to the examination of the whole matter."

"We certainly recognize," said the



pope of the Galileo condemnation, "that he suffered from departments of the church."

"We cast our minds back to an age when there had developed between science and faith grave incomprehension, the result of misunderstandings or errors, which only humble and patient re-examination succeeded in gradually dispelling," the pope said.

"We should rejoice together that the world of science and the Catholic Church have learned to go beyond those moments of conflict, understandable no doubt, but nonetheless regrettable," he added.

Vatican Thanks Diocese

Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state, has written a letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark thanking the diocese for the \$79,991 contributed in the annual Peter's Pence collection.

The cardinal wrote, "His Holiness warmly thanks you and your people for giving him this assistance toward meeting the needs of the Holy See in its worldwide mission of service. He is indeed appreciative of the effort and sacrifice which this collection involved."

"The Holy Father cordially imparts his apostolic blessing to you and to all your clergy, religious and laity."

Barbecue

A chicken barbecue dinner for the benefit of Corpus Christi School will be served 4-7 p.m., Thursday, May 26 at the school. Advance sale tickets are available at the school or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Corpus Christi School Barbecue, 880 Main St. E., Rochester, N.Y. 14605. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3.75 for senior citizens, and \$2.50 for children. Adult price at the door will be \$4.50. Further information is available by calling Carolyn Maruggi, 325-6368.

Direction To Be Topic

Sister Mary Irving, SSND, will lead a four-day program discussing spiritual direction, 9 a.m.-noon, July 11-15, at the Divinity Schools.

The event is sponsored by the office of Vicar for Religious.

Sister Mary is a seminary spiritual director, and a teacher in the Summer

sessions at Creighton University.

Her program will cover content, skills and supervision in spiritual direction.

Further information and registration are available through Sister Muriel Curran, (716) 328-3210.

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Sr. Mansour Leaves 'With Deep Regret'

Lansing, Mich. (NC) — Agnes Mary Mansour, director of Michigan's Department of Social Services, has left the Sisters of Mercy in order to save her job.

At a news conference May 11, Ms. Mansour announced that she has been "canonically separated" from the order to which she belonged for 30 years, following Vatican approval of her request for a dispensation from her vows.

She said she placed her fourth vow as a sister — involving service to the poor — above the other three, which include obedience.

She said she had met May 9 with Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua of Brooklyn, N.Y., who acted as a Vatican representative, and who, she said, presented a "mandate that I immediate-

ly resign" her job "or be subject to a canonical process leading to imposed dismissal from the Sisters of Mercy."

Ms. Mansour said she earlier had requested a leave of absence from the order and that the Sisters of Mercy had granted that request April 11 only to have it refused by the Vatican.

She termed the dispensation "the least of three undesirable alternatives" and said she had sought it "with deep regret, sorrow and limited freedom."

Ms. Mansour said she sought the dispensation "in order not to act in defiance of the mandate of the holy father, and at the same time to honor my freedom of conscience and my continuing commitment to the people of Michigan, especially the poor," who are served by

her department, whose responsibilities include handling abortion funding. Her silence when Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit urged her to criticize that abortion funding caused the archbishop to demand her resignation, touching off the controversy that ensued.

"Of my four vows, the vow of service to the poor, sick, uneducated and oppressed has always been the primary one for me and the one that has given meaning to the other three vows, including obedience," she said. "Throughout my conflict with church authorities, I have attempted to be faithful to my vow of obedience by discerning honestly with my religious community and others what should be done."

Festival?

Parish festival chairpersons are advised that by law the Courier-Journal is restrained from publishing notices of any games of chance.

Healing Mass

A Mass for special intentions and healing will be celebrated 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 20 at St. Margaret Mary Church, 401 Rogers Pkwy. The general public is invited to the event. Father Gerard Guli will preside.

Deadline

Items intended for publication must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices by noon Thursday before the Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal is located at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Layman Named Director of CRS

New York (NC) — Lawrence E. Pezzullo, former U.S. ambassador to Nicaragua, has been named executive director of Catholic Relief Services, announced Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Norwich, Conn., chairman of the CRS board of directors, May 11.

Pezzullo, 57, the first layman named executive director, will assume his responsibilities with CRS, the overseas aid agency of U.S. Catholics, in New York in midsummer.

A career foreign service officer based in Washington, Pezzullo has served in posts in Mexico, Uruguay, Bolivia,

Colombia and Guatemala.

In addition he was deputy director of the Office of Central American Affairs and special assistant to then-Ambassador-at-large Robert J. McCloskey (1974-1975) and deputy assistant secretary of state for congressional relations (1975-1977).

Pezzullo is the fourth executive director of CRS, currently celebrating its 40th jubilee. The agency was first headed by Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle of Washington and then by Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, auxiliary bishop of New York, who preceded Bishop Broderick.

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