

Bishops Deny Rift with Pope

'We're not picking on him And he's not picking on us'

Vatican City (NC) — A weekly news magazine's implication of conflict between Pope John Paul II and the American hierarchy has brought a quick denial from Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, who are here attending the international synod of bishops.

At a press conference sponsored by the U.S. delegates to the world Synod of Bishops, Oct. 7, Archbishop Roach said that the bishops have received some attention because of an article in the Oct. 10 issue of Newsweek which suggested conflict between the pope and U.S. bishops.

He said that some non-U.S. bishops, speaking tongue-in-cheek, had said, "Quit picking on the pope."

"We're not picking on him and he is not picking on us," Archbishop Roach said. He noted that the pope has spoken strongly to groups of U.S. bishops recently on numerous controversial church issues such as individual confession, the role of Religious and the need to combat breakdowns in family life.

"He speaks directly to us," Archbishop Roach said, but this is simply "a new chapter in collegiality" and an example of how the pope relates to a large bishops' conference.

Archbishop Roach called the U.S. hierarchy "a big conference, one which is hard to ignore." He added, "If I were the Holy Father I'd watch us carefully, too."

Cardinal Bernardin and Archbishop Roach said that they do not ascribe any negative meaning to the pope's strong words to U.S. bishops nor to a study of U.S. seminaries which the Vatican has ordered.

"Someone asked me why the Holy Father speaks to certain countries about human rights but focuses on moral or internal church issues when he speaks to the United States," said Cardinal Bernardin. "There's no sure way of knowing, of course, but one consideration is that in our country, we enjoy freedom protected by the government. There's no need to talk about it, so other topics are the focus."

Cardinal Bernardin also noted that when the pope speaks in strong words to the U.S. bishops he quotes from their own documents.

"He is not telling us what we don't know," said Cardinal Bernardin. "He is affirming positions that we already have taken."

Cardinal Bernardin pointed out that some Vatican actions may appear negative when they really are not. He cited the seminary study and noted that in his former Archdiocese of Cincinnati and in his current Archdiocese of Chicago, he volunteered the diocesan seminary for study. Shortly afterwards, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in the Chicago Archdiocese became one of the two pilot studies.

"The study was extremely valuable and positive," said Cardinal Bernardin. "We had a good instrument to work with and it gave us an opportunity to look at ourselves. We came out quite well. It was a motivation to improve ourselves."



They Ran Proud

Eager participants take a break to ham it up during the St. John Evangelist in Greece mini-marathon, Thursday, Sept. 29. Natalie Cropo, Kelly Judd, Willie Smith, Michael Diehl pose with Sister Marilyn Reeves, principal and the marathon mouse who is the school's mascot for the yearly event. The six lap, two-mile course was designed to provide an option for children too young to participate in the diocesan marathon.

U.S. Employee Gifts Can Aid Right to Life

Both the national Right to Life Education Trust Fund and the Rochester Area Right to Life Education fund are eligible to receive contributions from federal employees participating in the Combined Federal Campaign, according to Gerry Oftedahl of Right to Life.

Both the local and national groups specialize in education activities about the topics of abortion, euthanasia and infanticide; neither is involved in lobbying or political action, according to spokesperson Oftedahl.

The 1983 Combined Federal Campaign will run from Oct. 17 through Dec. 7. Federal employees can support the education and human services by designating National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund, 419 7th St., Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20004 as the organization they wish to

receive their tax deductible contributions.

Donations from Rochester area people will be divided among the national, state and Rochester Right to Life Education funds.

Catholic Women Start New Season

A Fall banquet started the new season for the Catholic Women's Club. New members were received at the event by Mrs. Frederick Heier, president. Following the dinner members watched a presentation on the 1984 Rochester sesquicentennial.

Program chairman Mary Elizabeth Weidenborner has slated a number of events for club members this year, among the events a travelogue on the Far East, a card party for the Benefit Scholar-

ship Fund, a memorial Mass at the Carmelite Monastery, a brunch at Locust Hill Country Club, and a benefit Christmas tea.

Information on club programs, which also include legislative forums, First Friday Masses, marathon bridge games, scholarships, literary and travel activities and forums for business women, is available by calling the club, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., weekdays, 275-9173.

Novena to St. Jude

From Oct. 20-28 at St. Jude's Church, 4100 Lyell Rd. (Gates) Rochester, N.Y. 14606

With Mass and prayers each evening at 7:30 P.M.

All are invited by Father John J. Steger, pastor, to attend and pray to the Patron of Hopeless Cases and impossible causes.

Shut-ins may write for a Novena Booklet. St. Jude Church and Hall are easily accessible to handicapped. Ample parking.

Anointing of the Sick, Oct. 24
Conducting the Novena
Rev. John T. Carrigan, O.P.

Solemn Closing on the Feast of St. Jude
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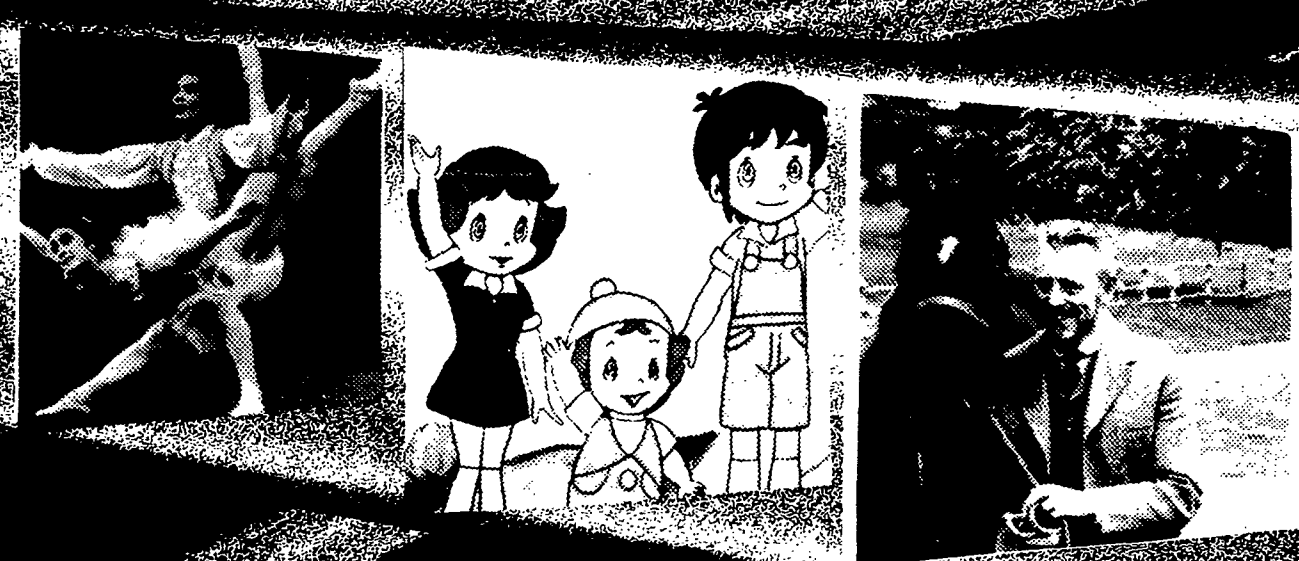
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