

Vatican Investigating Archbishop Hunthausen

Washington (NC) -- The Vatican has named Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington to conduct a formal investigation into complaints about Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle.

Archbishop Hunthausen said the criticisms came from "reactionary elements within the church which seem bent on undoing the renewal begun in our church by the Second Vatican Council."

The archbishop is one of several U.S. bishops who have been targeted by conservative Catholics as the object of complaints to Rome.

Archbishop Hickey said that he had been appointed

by the Holy See to go to Seattle to "visit with Archbishop Hunthausen at length and to explore the views and opinions of informed members of the clergy, Religious and laity" so that the Holy See "may evaluate the criticisms and support the archbishop in his ministry."

Archbishop Hickey said he would make the visitation Nov. 2-8. He made no mention of specific issues involved.

In Seattle, Archbishop Hunthausen included the text of Archbishop Hickey's statement in a letter to the archdiocese that was slated for publication in the Oct. 28 issue of his archdiocesan newspaper, *The Progress*.

In the letter, in which he attributed most of the criticisms of himself and other bishops to "reactionary elements" in the church, Archbishop Hunthausen said that "many bishops these days are in the position of receiving criticism of the sort that calls into question the direction of their pastoral ministry, and, in some cases, actually hinders that ministry."

He said he welcomed the investigation "because I am convinced that our efforts here in this archdiocese are in keeping with the spirit and intent of the (Second Vatican) Council...It will be of benefit not only to this archdiocese but to the church in this country and beyond as it seeks to renew itself."

Archbishop Hunthausen, 62, has been a bishop for 21

years and head of the Seattle Archdiocese for nearly nine years.

He received national publicity two years ago for his outspoken opposition to U.S. nuclear weapons policy. He refused to pay half his federal income tax as a protest against U.S. military spending and was a leading protester against the Trident nuclear submarine base in Puget Sound near Seattle, which he compared to Auschwitz, the most notorious of the Nazi death camps in World War II.

But a source close to the case who asked not to be quoted on specifics said that Archbishop Hunthausen's stand on war and peace issues did not seem central to the criticisms the Vatican has been receiving.

In recent months Archbishop Hunthausen has been publicly criticized by some Catholic groups on the issues of abortion and homosexuality.

In June, all seven members of his archdiocesan Respect Life Committee resigned in protest over what they called a lack of "support" and "moral leadership" from archdiocesan officials on opposition to abortion. Their letter of resignation said that "for three years our efforts have been frustrated by archdiocesan staff."

In September, about 150 Catholics protested in front of Seattle's St. James Cathedral when Archbishop Hunthausen gave permission for the national convention of Dignity, an organization of

homosexual Catholics, to use the cathedral for a Mass.

In an interview in *The Progress* before the Dignity convention, Archbishop Hunthausen strongly reaffirmed church teaching that homosexual orientation itself is "morally neutral" but "homosexual activity is objectively wrong, sinful."

At the same time he defended his decision to welcome Dignity and let the organization use his cath-

edral, saying that "this does not mean I embrace the position of each and every member of Dignity."

He said he made his decision after consultation with "a representative group of my fellow priests, as well as with theologians and other advisers."

"I realize that some of our people might well question the decision or even misunderstand it entirely," he added.



Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Trott of 191 Coronado Drive, Rochester celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a Mass celebrated by their son, Father Roger J. Trott, of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa. The Mass was at St. Andrews on Portland Avenue and was followed by a dinner/dance for family and friends at Arena's on Ridge Road. Another Mass and reception were held for Pennsylvania friends, Oct. 9 at St. Matthews in Saltsburg, Pa. where Father Trott is pastor.

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Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Sharing Leadership, Part I

Dear Readers,

Today I would like to begin an ongoing series dealing with the subject of shared leadership in parishes and parish councils in particular, using questions of my own devising.

For more than six years, I have worked with Sister Jean Rodman in Parish Council Development, covering at one time or another almost two thirds of the diocese. I think some of the insights of that experience are worth sharing.

● Up until recently the style of leadership in the Church has been mainly autocratic in the sense that authority over particular segments of the Church has resided in a particular individual — pastor for parish, bishop for diocese, pope for the whole world. Why is this now being changed into "shared leadership," with parish councils involved in policy and decision-making?

The origin of shared leadership is many-faceted. I think the starting point is a new realization of and emphasis on the role of the laity in carrying out the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. In other words, the laity have a specific mission by reason of their Baptism and that mission is to share in the priestly, prophetic and servant (king) function of Jesus Christ. Immediately after the water is poured in Baptism, the priest anoints the baptized person with chrism. This combination of oil and perfume is a symbol of divine life and the dignity of an office conferred. The celebrant says, "As Christ was anointed

priest, prophet and king, so may you live always..."

The parable of the leaven, also, I believe, teaches us that the life of the Holy Spirit, dwelling as it does in the baptized, exerts its leavening influence on the world through the loving action of the baptized.

The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity from Vatican II describes the sharing of leadership in the Church that our times fall for: "The laity and the priests should accustom themselves to working together effectively. Each brings to the Church community his/her own parish, community, and world problems, questions concerning human salvation — all of which should be examined and resolved by common deliberation."

● In some dioceses there is hardly any movement toward parish council and in others it is given only a token recognition. What is the stance of the Diocese of Rochester?

First published in 1972 and revised in 1975, the booklet, "Parish Ministry: Guidelines for Parish Councils," expressed officially the attitude of our diocese toward parish councils. This booklet was subsequently approved and adopted by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. It indicated that the parish council is the basic leadership group in the parish, not separate from the pastor but including him.

"It is comprised of elected members, broadly representative of the parish family, joined together with the pastor and parish staff," the booklet states.

A council which would interface with the pastor rather than include him should be called a "lay council" but not a "parish council."

Will Pope Visit Miami?

Miami (NC) -- Pope John Paul II possibly may visit the United States again in 1985, said Miami Archbishop Edward McCarthy after he met with the pontiff Oct. 21.

Archbishop McCarthy delivered an invitation to the pope to visit Miami. He said that he received no promises from the pope but added that Papal Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli "confirmed that the feeling is that the Holy Father should return to the United States and visit the southern and western parts."

The archbishop added that he feels it is "quite likely" that the pope will visit Miami. The pope visited several eastern and midwestern U.S. cities in 1979.

Accompanied by Miami Auxiliary Bishops John J. Nevins and Agustin Roman, Archbishop McCarthy made his ad limina visit to the Vatican and said the pope was particularly concerned about the number of refugees in south Florida and asked whether Cuban families in Miami were allowed to visit their relatives in Cuba.

Focus on Eucharist

Father Rosario LaDelfa will celebrate Mass during an evening of Focus on the Eucharist. The program opens with evening prayer and rosary, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 3 at Holy Cross Church. A time of meditation will close with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The public is invited to the rites which include both liturgical and devotional prayer, public and private.



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