

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, November 9, 1983

20 Pages 35 Cents

A PREVIEW

U.S. Bishops to Meet In Washington

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Bishop Clark Assesses Topics

By Carmen J. Viglucci

With a week still to go before the beginning of the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, Bishop Matthew H. Clark said it is difficult to anticipate what the most important results of that meeting might be.

"The reason it is hard," Bishop Clark said, "is because of some of the issues to be discussed are immediate and others are long-range, requiring careful groundwork."

He said that the meeting, Nov. 14-17, must deal with aspects of the revised Code of Canon law which will become official in the U.S. on Nov. 27.

"We must work on concrete ways (application of the code) in which to celebrate our faith. This is a very important matter."

"We also will consider writing a pastoral letter on women in the Church. It is very important that this be considered very carefully. This matter probably will not have a lasting effect for quite a while."

The bishop explained that these two considerations represent entirely different levels of action.

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A REVIEW

Synod Winds Up Rome Conference

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Reconciliation Was Stressed

The synod of bishops from around the world which ended last week in Rome stressed reconciliation in various ways.

It urged a renewal of the sacrament of penance and the need for persons to seek penance and conversion in their own lives as well as reconciliation among nations.

Pope John Paul II attended almost all of the sessions and in his closing address told the bishops that they "expressed a vivid preoccupation for world peace" and said that he had sent personal messages to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Yuri Andropov urging disarmament.

"The church must commit herself to every means at her disposal to ward off the dangers which menace world security," the pontiff declared.

The final week of the synod included the election of the synod council, responsible for the work of the 1983 synod and for preparing for the next synod. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago was one of 12 bishops elected to the council.

A NEW VIEW

Pope Praises Luther, Calls for Unity

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'Profound Piety' Of Luther Cited

Vatican City -- "Accurate historical work" and a "dialogue of faith" are vital to understand Martin Luther and attain Christian unity, Pope John Paul II said in a letter to Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, head of the Secretariat for Christian Unity.

The letter, dated Oct. 31, the anniversary of the date in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his famed 95 theses to the castle church in Wittenberg, was released by the Vatican Nov. 5, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth, Nov. 10.

Church sources said that the pope had agreed to preach in a Lutheran church in Rome on Dec. 11 as an ecumenical gesture. If so, it will be the first time in history that a pope has participated in a Protestant service in his own diocese.

In the letter, written in German, the pope noted the ongoing dialogue between Catholics and Lutherans and said that "it is important to continue accurate historical work." Such work, he said, does not take sides and is "motivated only by the search for truth."

The pontiff also referred to Luther as a man of "profound religiousness."

He said that research "must go on equal footing with the

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