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CROSSROADS II



Crossroads Visit

Bishop Matthew H. Clark greets one-year-old David Salotti, son of Mary Salotti of Geneva, during a Crossroads II visit to DeSales High School last Friday. Mrs. Salotti is a member of the school's board of directors. This week's Crossroads II page features the Liturgy column by Sister Marlene Vigna, RSM, an invitation to the annual Chrism Mass coming up on April 17, a story on the Holy Year by Father Robert F. McNamara, and the Crossroads calendar for the Fifth Week of Lent. All this on Page 7.

Anti-Vatican Posters Torn Down -- by Jews

Corpus Christi, Texas (NC) -- Jewish students, irate over anti-Vatican posters, worked feverishly March 21 to destroy the "offensive messages" plastered throughout Corpus Christi.

Most of the posters had been glued to windows of abandoned buildings, but some were attached to light posts and garbage cans.

"Whoever is doing this is not only hurting the Christian community but the whole city as well," said 15-year-old Laura Hopkins, one of the students removing the posters.

"It reminds me of the Nazis and the holocaust," said another student.

The anti-Vatican posters have appeared in cities throughout the United States beginning Feb. 11 in Des Moines, Iowa, and continuing throughout the Midwest, South and East.

Their messages begin with the word "Warning," and say that the Vatican owns major U.S. magazines, newspapers and television networks.

The posters accuse the Vatican of controlling the media in order to "exalt

and exonerate themselves (sic) from crimes they have done and are currently doing."

"These offensive messages are offensive for the entire city, not just the Catholic Church," said Harold Alberts, a Corpus Christi lawyer who helped organize the movement to destroy the posters.

Alberts, himself a Jew, said the students had removed all of the posters by March 23.

"One day is too long for these signs to be in our city," he said.

Bishop René H. Gracida of Corpus Christi issued a statement saying he was personally and deeply offended by the posters and denouncing their content.

Police arrested a man in Brownsville, Texas, March 19 who was attaching posters denouncing organized religion on buildings where the anti-Vatican posters had been stuck.

The man was charged with defacing private property, but after questioning him, authorities said he was not involved in circulating the anti-Catholic posters.

Rochester to Be Host To State's Bishops' Meeting This Week

Penance and reconciliation and their role in the Catholic Church today will be the topic of a New York State Catholic Conference meeting scheduled April 5-7 at Rochester's Holiday Inn Downtown.

The bishops of the eight dioceses in the state will participate and each diocese also will send six or seven delegates. About 100 participants are expected.

Newly installed Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York City, visiting Rochester for the first time, will open the conference Friday, April 6. It is probably his first official function outside of his home archdiocese. Following the morning session, Archbishop O'Connor, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Auxiliary Bishop James J. Daly of Rockville Centre, will appear at a press conference.

The focus of the meeting will be a 1983 report by the World Synod of Bishops' International Theological Commission, "Penance and Reconciliation." The report analyzes the relationship between sacramental reconcilia-

tion and Christian service for the world. Topics in the report include personal and community dimensions of penance, problems in viewing penance too much in isolation from the rest of Church life, and questions about penance in emergency situations or when confessors are lacking.

Other presenters at the conference will include Bishop Austin B. Vaughn, aux-

iliary bishop of New York City, on "The Synod on Penance and Reconciliation;" and Father Giles Pater, Ph. D., archdiocese of Cincinnati, on "The Sacrament of Penance Today." Through general sessions and discussion groups, the conference participants will relate the sacrament of penance and reconciliation to their ministries in religious education, youth and worship.

Episcopal Bishop Consecration At Sacred Heart

In an historical first, the Ven. William G. Burrill will be consecrated as bishop of the Rochester Episcopal Diocese in Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral. The ceremony will take place at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 26.

The future bishop is presently archdeacon of the Episcopal diocese of

Northern California, thus the title "venerable."

A Episcopal spokesperson said, "We're thrilled over the offer from the Catholic diocese to use its cathedral." Bishop Matthew H. Clark has decided that the collection taken up at the consecration will go to the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation which operates under the auspices of both dioceses.

Papal Exhortation: Members of Religious 'A Special Treasure'

Vatican City (NC) -- Men and women Religious are "a special treasure of the church," whom Christ loves with a "spousal character", said Pope John Paul II in his first major document on Religion since becoming pope in October 1978.

The pope highlighted the personal nature of God's call to Religion, the meaning of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and the role of Religion in the church.

The 11,000-word document, called an apostolic exhortation, is dated March 25 and was made public at a March 29 Vatican press conference. The document is titled "Redemptionis Donum," Latin for "the gift of Redemption."

There are 1.5 million Religious in the Catholic Church.

The document is a "spiritual meditation," said Archbishop Augustin Mayer, a Benedictine and the secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, at the press conference.

"The call to the way of the evangelical counsels springs from the interior encounter with the love of Christ, which

is a redeeming love," the papal document said.

"In the structure of a vocation, the encounter with this love becomes something specifically personal," it said.

This love is directed at a particular person, "and at the same time it took on a spousal character: It became a love of choice. The love embraces the whole person, soul and body, whether man or woman," it added.

"Evangelical chastity," it said, "helps us to transform in our interior life everything that has its source in the lust of the flesh; evangelical poverty, everything that finds its source in the lust of the

eyes; and evangelical obedience, enables us to transform in a radical way that which in the human heart arises from the pride of life."

The three vows assist individuals in overcoming moral weaknesses and offer "the possibility of being reborn each day to a more profound good hidden in the human soul," it said. "This good is manifested under the action of grace, toward which the practice of poverty, chastity and obedience renders the human soul particularly sensitive."

The pope also spoke of the growth in the relationship

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Priestless Sundays?

Some analysts are predicting the number of active priests in the U.S. will be down another 50 percent by the year 2000.

Thus a new term, "priestless Sundays" has been coined. It joins such other modern phrases as "parish cluster," "lay administrator" and "ministry team" as signs of the times.

The shortage of priests will be the subject of a special three-part series beginning in next week's Courier-Journal.