

# Seminarians Up Worldwide but Down in U.S.

By Father Kenneth J. Doyle

Vatican City (NC) -- The number of major seminarians worldwide is increasing while the United States is experiencing a steady decline, according to a Vatican statistical report covering the years 1970-82.

From a low point in 1975, worldwide seminarian enrollments have steadily risen and in 1982, the latest year for which figures were available, the number of major seminarians exceeded the total in 1970.

The findings are contained in a report, "The Evolution of the Number and the Territorial Distribution of Major Seminarians in the Period 1970-82," compiled by the Vatican's central office for church statistics.

Worldwide, the number of students in major seminaries in 1975 totaled 60,142. By 1982, major seminarians totaled 73,001. This also exceeds by 10 the students enrolled in 1970.

Major seminaries are for students enrolled in the four years

of theological study immediately preceding ordination to the priesthood.

The biggest jump occurred between 1981 and 1982, an increase of 4,368 students, or 6.4 percent.

In the United States the number of major seminarians has declined steadily, from 12,749 in 1970 to a low point of 7,180 in 1982.

In the Vatican study, figures are reported individually for 29 countries having major Catholic populations.

The report shows a sharp seminarian increase in Third World countries, especially in South America and Africa. In Brazil, the country with the world's largest Catholic population, enrollments rose from 2,024 students in 1970 to 5,058 in 1982. In Zaire, the jump for the same period was from 459 to 1,935.

Several Western European countries -- most notably France, Italy and Spain -- have experienced a decline in seminarian enrollments since 1970. But in each case the trend

was reversed, with enrollments jumping significantly between 1981 and 1982.

In Poland, the figures have climbed sharply and steadily from 4,100 in 1970 to 7,074 in 1982.

Average worldwide figures for 1982 show 90 major seminarians per 1 million Catholics. This is down from the 1970 ratio of 111.5 major seminarians per 1 million Catholics.

The ratio in the United States is higher, with 139.6 major seminarians per 1 million Catholics.

Ecuador has the lowest ratio, with 28.4 major seminarians per 1 million Catholics. The highest ratio is in South Korea, with 539 major seminarians per 1 million Catholics.

The five countries with the highest per capita income -- West Germany, the United States, France, Canada and Australia -- are experiencing declines, while the two countries with the lowest per capita income -- India and Zaire -- have shown a steady growth since 1970 in the number of seminarians.

## Pope Asks Prayers For Sakharov, End To Persian Gulf War

Viterbo, Italy (NC) -- Pope John Paul II asked prayers May 27 for dissident Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov and appealed for an end to the spreading war between Iran and Iraq.

The pope spoke during a one-day trip to Viterbo,

about 50 miles north of Rome. The trip included an emotional visit with prison inmates, a talk with young drug addicts and a dramatic nighttime celebration honoring the city's patroness, St. Rose.

The pope told a crowd of

several thousand townspeople that the war between Iran and Iraq could spread to neighboring countries, causing "an even greater crisis to explode."

In recent weeks, both sides have begun attacking oil tankers in the Persian Gulf in an attempt to further damage each other's economies.

"The ruination, the destruction and the death accumulate -- it is said that 300,000 have died in four years -- and afflict the life of those two nations," he said.

The pontiff asked prayers to encourage the warring governments to negotiate a peace.

The pope's appeal for Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, came four days after he met Sakharov's stepdaughter, Tatiana Bonner Yankelevich.

"Some days ago I met with Tatiana Bonner, who asked me to pray and urge prayers for her adoptive father, Professor Andrei Sakharov, and her mother Yelena," the pope said. "This I do with all my heart."

Sakharov's whereabouts remain unknown since he was reportedly taken from his apartment in the Soviet city of Gorky by authorities several days before the pope met his stepdaughter. The scientist, a 1975 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his criticisms of the human rights situation in the Soviet Union, began a hunger strike in early May to force the Soviet government to allow his wife to leave the country for medical treatment.

Pope John Paul also asked prayers for persons imprisoned or facing restrictions because of their beliefs.

"A great number of these, of different religious beliefs, suffer for their attachment to their faith," he said.

Many "are unknown to most people -- only God knows one by one -- these heroes of the faith," the pope said.

## Permanent Deacon: Call Me Chancellor

Salt Lake City (NC) -- For what is believed to be the first time in the United States, a permanent deacon has been appointed chancellor of a diocese.

Bishop William K. Weigand of Salt Lake City has appointed Silvio Mayo as chancellor, effective June 29.

He will replace Father Gerald Lynch, who will return to pastoral ministry at Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish in Price, Utah.

"To our knowledge, this is a first," said Sam Taub, a permanent deacon and staff associate for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate in Washington.

Mayo and his wife, Mary, have three children, one of whom is Father Joseph Mayo, pastor of St. James Parish in Ogden, Utah.

Mayo was ordained a deacon in 1976 and served in pastoral ministry at the University of Utah Hospital before being appointed to the Cathedral of the Madeleine. He is also director of the continuing education program for deacons.

In December, Mayo will retire from his administrative position at J.C. Penney Co.

The bishop said Mayo would "bring unique experience and gifts to the position."



## Reception

Father Joseph J. Moffatt, CSB, departing principal of Aquinas Institute, will be feted at a reception sponsored by the institution's board of trustees and parents association, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, June 10 at the Basilian Fathers Residence on Augustine Street.

## Correction

The fee for the second annual workshop for church musicians sponsored by the Community Education Division of Rochester's Eastman School of Music, Aug. 1-3, is \$100 for parishes. Further information on the event is available by calling (716) 275-3015.

## Father George Tracy, CSSR

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father George Tracy in the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Brooklyn. Father Tracy, associate pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester for the past three years, died of a heart attack Wednesday, May 23, 1984 while visiting his family in Brooklyn.

Father Tracy was ordained

in 1951 and was immediately assigned to Paraguay, where he worked the first 14 years of his priestly career.

He was reassigned to the United States in 1967; and he worked in the Spanish Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York for the next 14 years.

On the priest's death, the Redemptorist Fathers remarked:

"While here in Rochester, his mild manner endeared him as a confessor and counselor to the people of Our Lady of Victory. His absence will be deeply felt by all. A memorial Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul on Memorial Day. May Father Tracy, who faithfully fulfilled his priestly ministry be welcomed into the eternal joy of the Lord."

## Sr. Theodebert Celebrates 80th Jubilee and 101st Birthday

Sister Mary Theodebert Lambert SSND, a Rochester native now living in Baltimore, Md., recently celebrated her 101st birthday and 80th year as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

Born Anna Johanna Lambert, May 4, 1883, she entered the convent in 1904 after spending two years as a first grade teacher's aide at Holy Family School in Rochester.

She spent most of this century teaching in elementary schools in Boston, Rochester, Baltimore and Verona, Pa.

She has several relatives in Rochester who attended the jubilee celebrations.

## Embezzling Charged to Diocesan Employee

Holidaysburg, Pa. (NC) -- Charlotte Rice, a former employee of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., has been charged with embezzling more than \$43,000 from a diocesan education department fund. Ms. Rice, 36, was arrested May 24 and charged with 62 counts of unlawful taking and receiving of stolen property, forgery and tampering with public records, according to Pennsylvania State Police Sgt. Thomas Semelsberger. She was released on \$50,000 bond. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for June 6. According to the Altoona Mirror, in November Ms. Rice had been seen throwing checks into a trash can outside the chancery building complex in Holidaysburg.

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## Pope Ordains 77 Priests

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II ordained 77 priests from 19 countries in St. Peter's Basilica on Ascension Thursday, May 31. Those ordained included a former Anglican priest and a former Lutheran minister.

The new priests came from

five continents and represented a wide range of professional backgrounds. They included 10 Americans, five members of Eastern Rite churches, four Iraqis, and 30 members of Opus Dei, an international association of priests and lay people.



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