

**POPE**

**Catechesis Resolves Doubt**

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English during his weekly general audience at the Vatican Jan. 9.

Dear brothers and sisters,

At today's general audience: I wish to continue my reflections on the role of catechesis in the church. As I have pointed out previously, catechesis forms part of the church's mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. In this work she seeks to answer the essential questions of human existence. Catechesis imparts a teaching that is not simply the result of personal research; rather it communicates the truth of divine revelation and shows how God, through that revelation, has responded to the deepest longings of the human mind and heart. Far



from merely raising doubts regarding the problems it considers, catechesis seeks to enlighten the mind and to strengthen it with solid convictions of faith.

Since catechesis offers God's response to the fundamental questions of man, it cannot be limited to philosophical, psychological or sociological reflections alone. While there is a pressing obligation for catechesis to be communicated in a language suited to its hearers, at the same time the content cannot be neglected. The church's teaching cannot admit of any language which would alter the substance of the faith or weaken the full force of the truth that God himself wishes to communicate.



**Chairman Elected**

G. Thomas Clark was recently elected chairman of the School of the Holy Childhood's board of directors. He has been a member of the board since 1980. He is treasurer of Paychex, Inc.

**HOLY HOUR**

The Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League has scheduled a Holy Hour to begin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at Holy Trinity Church, Webster. Father Thomas Mull will be the leader.

**Local Food Club Sets to Provide Added Dimension**

A major expansion by the Penny Pincher's Food Club into central, southern and western New York has been announced by Charlie Bell, club founder and president.

The new program, called the PTL Food Co-Op, will make available direct door-to-door food service to members in a 27-county area, Bell said.

Bell, a full time Xerox employee, started the Penny Pincher's four years ago to combat high food prices in area grocery stores. Today, the club has hundreds of members able to buy food directly from wholesalers.

According to Bell, all the products offer discounts of 20 to 40 percent under typical grocery store prices, with the largest savings in meat and frozen vegetables.

The PTL Food Co-Op calls

**Dance Scheduled**

The Solo Club will sponsor a dance for all singles 30 and older at 9 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 26 at St. Cecelia's Church, 2732 Culver Road. Admission is \$3.



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On the Right Side

**Some Candid Replies to 'Inquisition'**

What is this new religious congregation, Legionaires of Christ?

The Legionaires were founded only 42 years ago in Mexico City by a seminarian, Marcial Marciel, who was so obsessed with the ambition to claim the world for Christ and the Catholic Church he was bounced out of the seminary. He gathered a group of youths, even as St. Ignatius gathered his early Jesuits; taught and trained them; and himself received the priesthood. He is still living, the head of the congregation, and there are 180 priests and 900 seminarians, with houses in Mexico, Spain, the States, Ireland, Rome, Chile, Venezuela and Australia. All are bilingual; English and Spanish.

The Legionaires, like St. Ignatius' early Jesuits are criticized by some of the clergy, and I think the criticisms make little sense. A year ago I was in Rome with Fathers Heisel and Wohlrab, and listened to a litany of disparagements. "They all wear the same kind of black suit, double breasted!" They come to the Gregorian and Angelicum universities in a big bus, each carrying the same kind of black briefcase, like a bunch of clones. "They consider themselves an elite and their apostolate is to the rich." The two positive admissions were: 1. They have a superlative education, and 2. Music is wonderfully integrated in their apostolate, and they give spectacular musical performances.

Fathers Heisel and Wohlrab and I took a cab to the Legionaires seminary on Via Aurelia to try to fathom why the pique

toward this group. A persuasive seminarian, 28-year-old Brother Spillane of New York City responded to my inquisition candidly and clearly:

1. "The uniform dress, including neat haircuts, has a psychological effect of unity and comradeship, and is a witness to the world that there are many young men who are enthusiastic about the priesthood and the Catholic Church."

2. "Yes. We are an elite. Is there something wrong about being elite? Don't you want the best educated, the best disciplined, the most committed, the most loyal?"

3. "Yes. We do have a special apostolate to the rich. Are their souls less important than the souls of the poor? If the rich are converted to genuine Catholicism, then justice and charity will impel them to help the poor. I was principal of a 'poor school' in Monterey, Mexico. It was founded by seven women who had children in our school for the well-to-do. Without them we could not have established the school for the poor, and one of our graduates is now studying to be a Legionaire."

After the inquisition, the brothers brought us cookies and coffee, and we were joined by Brother Edward Hopkins of Cazenovia, New York, who has two brothers also studying with the Legionaires as seminarians.

The depth of their training, their profound devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady, their firm loyalty to the Pope and the Church, the catholicity of their training and their regard for St. Thomas Aquinas gives us pause before the vapid derogations by detractors. For more information, write to: Father Bannon, Legionaires of Christ, 475 Oak Avenue, Cheshire, Conn. 06410.

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