

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, January 30, 1985

16 Pages 35 Cents



## Pope Calls Synod For Further Look At Vatican II

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II said Jan. 25 that he is calling an extraordinary Synod of Bishops this year to discuss the applications of the Second Vatican Council which ended 20 years ago.

The pope made the announcement during a Mass in the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls at the end of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

He said the synod would be Nov. 25 to Dec. 8 "to favor the further study and constant introduction of Vatican II in the life of the church, in the light also of new needs."

Archbishop Jozef Tomko, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, said the 140 presidents of Catholic bishops' conferences would be called to the extraordinary meeting as well as Eastern church patriarchs.

The purpose is threefold, the archbishop said:

- To commemorate the "spirit of communion and collegiality" resulting from Vatican II.

- To "examine the realizations or applications of Vatican II."

- To promote "the applications and realizations of all the possibilities (and richness of Vatican II."

Archbishop Tomko noted that Pope John XXIII announced the Second Vatican Council on Jan. 25, 1959 and that the council ended on Dec. 8, 1965.

The fall synod is being



called extraordinary because it is called outside the normal three-year cycle of bishops' synods, the archbishop said. The next ordinary synod is scheduled for 1986.

The Second Vatican Council resulted in major reforms of the liturgy,

strongly promoted dialogue with other Christian churches, and emphasized collegiality in relations between the bishops and the pope.

The council was conducted in four sessions spread over more than three years. The first session ran from Oct. 11 to Dec. 8, 1962. The last session ended Dec. 8, 1965.

Pope John XXIII, who said he called the council "to bring the church up to date with modern times," saw only the first session. He died June 3, 1965.

In 1982, at a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the opening session of the council, Pope John Paul asked in a prayer to the Holy Spirit "that the works of the council...might be constantly fulfilled; that it might become a reality, year after year, day after day."

He thanked the Holy Spirit for the "richness of (the council's) contents, which has illuminated the church in the second half of the 20th century, and for the direction indicated in so many important questions."

One of the main focuses of the 1969 synod turned out to be the restructuring of synods themselves to give them a stronger role in the development of church policy. The bishops who gathered for that meeting asked Pope Paul to establish regular synod sessions, expand the role of the synod's permanent

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## Diocesans Have Given \$144,129 to Ethiopia

New York (NC) — Archbishop John O'Connor of New York was to leave for Ethiopia Jan. 27 to give that country's bishops more than \$750,000 in famine relief aid from Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Msgr. John Nolan, Catholic Near East national secretary, said Jan. 24.

Archbishop O'Connor is president of Catholic Near East.

Most U.S. Catholic contributions for Ethiopian famine relief have been channeled through Catholic Relief Services, which is more widely known than Catholic Near East and has slated \$140 million for Ethiopian relief in 1985.

(As of last Friday, Jan. 25, the Rochester diocesan Missions Office, which sends its aid through Catholic Relief Services, had received \$144,129 in contributions. Anyone wishing to help may send donations to Catholic Relief Services-Ethiopia, Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.)

Msgr. Nolan said that he, Archbishop O'Connor and several aides planned to

arrive in Ethiopia Jan. 29 after a stopover in Rome. They would be in Ethiopia six days, touring Catholic Near East-funded orphanages and other institutions in the country. They would return to New York, again via Rome, about Feb. 5, he said.

One third of the Catholic Near East contribution for famine relief came from Catholics in the U.S. armed forces. On Jan. 23 Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan, coadjutor of the U.S. Catholic Military Vicariate, gave Msgr. Nolan \$250,000, donated through the vicariate by Catholic military personnel.

Other Canadian and U.S. Catholics donated more than half a million dollars in response to Catholic Near East appeals, Msgr. Nolan said.

Catholic Near East is best known to U.S. Catholics for its work in the Middle East, but it carries on missionary and social assistance activities in a number of other countries as well, including Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Ethiopia and India.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## 300 Attend 'Mass of Hope'

Students of St. Monica's School joined in the entrance procession at Sunday's Mass of Hope at St. Thomas More Church. According to a spokesperson of the Human Life Commission, the group sponsoring the Mass, the evergreen twigs they carried in symbolized "undying spirit, immortality and everlasting life." Over 300 diocesans attended the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and the reception that followed in the school.