

POPE

Pope Calls Extraordinary Synod

Vatican City (NC) — Here is an NC News translation of the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's Italian-language announcement of an extraordinary Synod of Bishops Jan. 25 at the end of Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls.

At the end of this eucharistic celebration of the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, which finds us gathered here by the glorious tomb of the apostle, at the conclusion of the octave of prayer for Christian unity, an event comes to the consciousness of each one of us. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, the first announcement of which, we well recall, was given by my predecessor John XXIII of venerable memory exactly here in this basilica, on this same date, Jan. 25, 1959.

The Second Vatican Council remains the fundamental event in the life of the contemporary church. It was fundamental for deepening of the wealth entrusted to her

by Christ. In her and through her he extends and imparts to mankind the "mysterium salutis," the mystery of salvation, the work of redemption. It was fundamental for fruitful contact with the contemporary world for the purpose of evangelization and dialogue at all levels and with all people of upright conscience. I had the special grace of participating in the council and actively collaborating in its development. For me the Second Vatican Council has always been — in a particular fashion during these years of my pontificate — the constant reference point of every pastoral action, with conscious commitment to translate its directives into concrete, faithful action, at the level of every church and of the whole church.

We must ceaselessly refresh ourselves at that source, and all the more when meaningful dates, such as those of this year, grow near, and stir memories and emotions from that truly historic event.

Today therefore, on the feast day of the conversion of St. Paul, with deep joy and emotion, I call an extraordinary general assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will be celebrated from Nov. 25 through Dec. 8 of the present year, and in which the patriarchs and a number of archbishops of the eastern churches and presidents of all episcopal conferences on the five continents will take part.

The aim of this initiative is not only that of commemorating the Second Vatican Council 20 years after its conclusion, but is also and above all: to revive in some way the extraordinary atmosphere of ecclesial communion which characterized that ecumenical assembly, through mutual participation in sufferings and joys, struggles and hopes, which are the body of Christ's in the various parts of the earth; to exchange and deepen experiences and information concerning application of the council at the level of the universal church and the particular churches; to favor further deepening and constant application of the Second Vatican Council into the church's life, also in the light of the new needs. I attribute particular importance to this extraordinary assembly of the synod. That is the reason why I have chosen to make public announcement of it in this basilica today, here where announcement of the ecumenical council of our century first resounded. The intention moving me follows in the line of that of my venerated predecessors John XXIII and Paul VI: to contribute to that "renewal of thoughts, activities, behavior, and moral force and joy and hope, which was the very same purpose of the council" (Teachings of Paul VI, III, 1965, p. 746).

From now on I entrust realization of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops to the prayers of the church and the powerful intercession of Sts. Peter and Paul, and with you above all I implore the immaculate Virgin, mother of the church, that she may assist us in this hour and obtain for us that fidelity to Christ of which she is the incomparable model through her readiness to be "the handmaid of the Lord," and through her constant openness to the Word of God (cf. Lk 1:38; 2:19,51). In this total fidelity and perseverance the church of today wills to pursue her way toward the third millennium of history, in the midst of mankind and with it, sharing in men's own hopes and expectations, following the path traced out by the Second Vatican Council, and always listening to "what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rv 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13).

Sister Amata Miller Will Speak Feb. 15

Sister Amata Miller IHM, a nationally known economist and educator, will conduct two presentations in Rochester, Feb. 15.

Sister Amata will lead a seminar for church and business professionals entitled, "Reaganomics and the Bishops: A Comparative Analysis," 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Bridget's Church.

Her presentation will draw particular attention to the forthcoming U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on Catholic social teaching and the American economy.

The seminar registration fees are \$8 for individual church professionals; and \$20 for parish staffs as groups. Checks are made payable to Great Lakes Ministry Center, and sent to the center, 3 Parsells Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14609, by Monday, Feb. 11.

Great Lakes Ministry Center is a sponsor of Sister Amata's presentations.

Sister Amata will give a public lecture, "Economics as if People Mattered," 7 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church hall. The program is free, but a donation will be accepted at the door.

Sister Amata is assistant professor of economics at Marygrove College in Detroit, Mich. She holds a doctorate from the University of California. She has lectured widely throughout the country, and has published numerous articles



SISTER AMATA

in popular and scholarly periodicals.

She also serves on the board of NETWORK, and frequently consults religious congregations and social service agencies on economic issues.

The two events are co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Ministry Center, the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph, diocesan Urban Ministry Office, diocesan Office of Black Ministry, Corpus Christi Parish, Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady Parish, St. Bridget's Parish, St. John's Parish (Humboldt Street), the Office of the Vicar for Religious and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

Further information is available during the day by calling John Engels, 288-3854; or Jim Ramerman, 325-2424.

Economic Pastoral Info Workshop Set for March

Father David Hollenbach SJ will lead a day for diocesan staff persons interested in further information on the forthcoming pastoral letter, "Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy," 10 a.m.-4 p.m., March 11 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Father Hollenbach is professor of moral theology at Weston School of Theology.

He is the author of "Claims in Conflict," "Nuclear Ethics," and numerous articles on social ethics.

He has worked closely with the U.S. bishops in developing their economic pastoral.

Reservations are required and are made by contacting Jim Lund, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624; (716) 328-3210.

Feb. 10 World Marriage Day

World Marriage Day will be celebrated in parishes throughout the country on Sunday, Feb. 10. Suggestions for appropriate celebrations have been mailed to parishes throughout the Rochester diocese, according to Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

The special day, annually noted on the second Sunday in February, draws attention

to the beauty of marriage.

The major event of the local Worldwide ME in 1984 was a reception Jan. 27 honoring couples married 50 years or more. Salvatore and Marie Trobia, married 74 years, were formally recognized as the area's longest married couple. About 250 persons attended the reception at which certificates were presented to each couple.

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