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private and popular devotions that were praised by the council but which have largely disappeared.

The idea of a worldwide catechism or compendium of church teachings was supported by many bishops who wanted the council's documents more accessible to average Catholics.

But others said a universal catechism was needed to stress church doctrine on moral issues they said are being challenged by theologians.

Theologians were at the center of several synod statements.

Cardinal Law, in proposing the catechism, criticized dissent from the magisterium (church teaching authority) in Catholic university faculties.

U.S. Cardinal William Baum, head of the Congregation for Catholic Education, said that because of historical criticism of Scripture major church teachings have been put in doubt, and confusion has spread in seminaries.

The strongest criticism of theologians came from Brazilian Cardinal Eugenio de

Araujo Sales, who said in a written report: "There are seminaries and theological schools in which grave dogmatic and moral errors are taught. There are professors who teach their own doctrines and opinions and not the doctrine of the church."

He urged stronger Vatican controls over theology professors.

One of the least controversial issues at the synod was ecumenism. The participants reaffirmed dialogue with other Christians, the pope renewed the church's commitment to full Christian unity and 10 ecumenical observers to the synod said they were "very happy" with the synod's outcome.

The synod produced no new ecumenical initiatives, however.

Canadian Archbishop James M. Hayes of Halifax, Nova Scotia suggested that inter-Communion might be viewed as a "right" for Christians whose baptism has been recognized by the church, but his suggestion was not mentioned in later synod reports.

The church forbids joint Communion on a regular basis unless there is full unity in faith.

Several other specific issues raised in opening speeches disappeared as the synod

progressed. Bishop Malone described this as a "winnowing out" process necessary to reach consensus.

Some issues which dropped out of the discussion included:

- More leniency in allowing divorced and remarried Catholics to receive the sacraments.

- Women's role in the church.

- Liberation theology, which surfaced in reports, but received little or no attention on the synod floor.

In one written report, Bishop Jose Ivo Lorscheiter, head of the Brazilian bishops' conference, strongly defended liberation theology as "the principle result" of efforts to fit theology to Latin American society.

"Liberation theology is not a theology of violence," he said. It does not justify Marxist ideology or break with Catholic theological tradition, he said.

"It is born of a spiritual experience...of God who is encountered in the poor," he said.

Last year, the Vatican issued a document saying that forms of liberation theology which borrow uncritically from Marxism are

incompatible with Catholicism. Since then, debate has focused on which strains of liberation theology violate the Vatican guidelines.

For several synod fathers, the meeting was a chance to draw attention to problems in their local churches. Cardinal Antoine Pierre Khoraihe, patriarch of Lebanon's Maronite Catholics, appealed for solidarity for Christians in the war-torn country.

Two U.S. participants, Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, chief archbishop of the world's Ukrainian Catholics, and Ukrainian Archbishop Stephen Sulyk of Philadelphia, spoke out against persecution of Ukrainian Catholics in the Soviet Union.

Bishop Adolfo Rodriguez Herrera of Camaguey, president of the Cuban bishops' conference, said the church in that Communist country reflects the council's teachings on liturgy, collegiality and doctrine.

"We also thank the council for not having condemned anyone, because we hold that the serene proclamation of the Gospel and the joyous experience of faith has more power than any purely condemnatory or defensive attitude," he told the synod.

### Observers seek greater role, not priesthood, for women

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — The church should promote increased participation of women in its life, said a group of Catholic observers at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops.

But the group did not ask the church to re-examine its opposition to women priests.

"We are happy that the Code of Canon Law has foreseen the participation also of women in the church. We hope that it is put into full practice," said a statement read to the synod delegates Dec. 6.

The statement was read by Thibor Sulik, a Brazilian and head of the Latin American Workers' Center.

Canon law forbids the ordination of women. Canon 1024 says that "only a baptized male validly receives sacred ordination."

The statement read by Sulik also favored increased promotion of women in secular society.

"Women bring much to all fields of human activity and also to the church," he said.

During the synod, several voting delegates asked for an increased role for women in the

church, but none called for a re-examination of the prohibition against female priests.

During press conferences, delegates said the synod could not consider the issue because Christ limited the priesthood to men.

Also on Dec. 6, synod delegates re-elected the current members of the Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod, responsible for organizing and overseeing synod preparatory activities.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago is one of the 15 council members. Synod rules require that each general assembly of the synod elect a new council to hold office until the next synod. The current council was elected at the 1983 synod.

The members were re-elected to avoid interrupting the preparatory work for the 1987 synod on the laity, said Father Diarmuid Martin, a synod press officer.

Synods are normally held every three years. Pope John Paul II broke the pattern last January when, in a surprise announcement, he convoked the Nov. 24-Dec. 8 extraordinary synod.



### Synod Report

The Courier-Journal will present the text of the synod's final report in next week's issue.

The document, which is close to 6,000 words long, is being translated from the original, which is in Latin.

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