

# Pope's top choices: synod, youth year, encyclical on Slavs

By John Thavis

**Vatican City (NC)** — The International Youth Year celebrations, an encyclical recognizing the work of the Slavic saints Cyril and Methodius, and the extraordinary Synod of Bishops were three key events that made 1985 a special year for the church's evangelizing role, Pope John Paul II said Dec. 20.

Above all, it was the synod that made clear the church's commitment to a "new missionary evangelization" inside and outside its membership, the pope said in a traditional year-end talk to cardinals, Curia members and employees of the papal household.

The pope called the Nov. 24-Dec. 8 synod to evaluate the results of the Second Vatican Council. The initiative was undertaken as a "service" by the church to the world, another step in the path outlined by the council, the pope said.

The synod's "profound significance" was in emphasizing the church's evangelizing mission, he said, in reminding lay Christians of their particular responsibilities.

The pope noted that this synod was followed worldwide with greater interest than previous synods.

The International Youth Year was another event marked by the church and the rest of the world, the pope said. It was an initiative

of the United Nations, but the church celebrated it with a special meeting of young people at the Vatican and in a papal message to the youth of the world.

The church also instituted World Youth Day, to be celebrated every year on Palm Sunday.

The pope recalled his meeting in March with a group of youths, who were "not an anonymous mass, not a number, but a living and personal presence."

"The church must look to young people as its hope, above all because for them come vocations, which are the guarantee of the fruitfulness of the church itself in the third millennium," he said.

He stressed the need for proper formation among youths and said such education "is an updated and necessary form of evangelization."

"Young people are waiting. They are disappointed by too many frustrations in the civil, political and social area. They judge with a clear and critical eye," the pope said. The church should answer their expectations, he said.

The pope's encyclical, "Apostles of the Slavs," commemorated the 11th centenary of the evangelizing work of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the Greek brothers credited with taking Christianity to many parts of Eastern Europe.

"The church today finds itself faced with challenges similar to those which society and people presented to Cyril and Methodius," the pope said in his talk.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius were known for successfully combining Christianity with the existing Slavic culture and introducing the vernacular in the liturgy.

## Monsignor John Duffy celebrates 40th jubilee

Monsignor John F. Duffy, pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Rochester, celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with his parish family at the 12:15 p.m. Mass Sunday, December 22. The jubilarian will also be honored at a reception Sunday, January 26, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the school hall. All are invited.



The son of the late Stephen L. Duffy and the late Nora Connor Duffy, Monsignor Duffy was born in Rochester and attended St. Monica's School, Aquinas Institute, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney at the then Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on the traditional date of Saturday, Dec. 22, 1945.

After his ordination, Monsignor Duffy was appointed as assistant pastor of St. James' Parish in Waverly in January, 1946.

Subsequent appointments took him to St. Mary's in Canandaigua, St. Cecilia's in Irondequoit, St. Stephen's in Geneva and Holy Cross in Rochester.

In June, 1961, Bishop Kearney appointed the Monsignor Duffy diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, succeeding the late Father George S. Wood. While serving in this position, Monsignor Duffy and nine other diocesan priests were honored with the title "monsignor" by the Holy Father in December, 1965.

Bishop Fulton Sheen appointed Monsignor Duffy as pastor of St. Mary's in Dansville in June, 1969. After serving at St. Catherine of Siena in Addison and St. Francis of Assisi in Phelps, he took up his present assignment at St. Philip Neri in 1984.

Monsignor Duffy is not the first in his family to enter religious life. His father's brother, the late Monsignor John M. Duffy, served as diocesan superintendent of schools and as pastor of St. Augustine's Church.

Sister Marie Thomas, S.S.J., his father's sister, served the diocese for many years and was principal of Immaculate Conception School in Rochester at her death in 1955.



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