

World & Nation

As world synod approaches

Laity called 'vibrant, active'

Washington (NC) — When Pope John Paul II convenes the world Synod of Bishops on the laity this October in Rome, one of the freshest images in his mind will be the Catholics he has just met during his 10-day visit to the United States Sept. 10-19.

The theme of the Rome synod, which is to run Oct. 1-30, is "The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and in the World."

What will he see on that trip? What do Catholics along the papal route think and feel? What would they like to see happen at the synod in Rome or in Church dealings with lay people in the United States?

Lay leaders interviewed this summer by National Catholic News Service in papal-visit cities across the country described a vibrant, active U.S. Catholic laity — lay Catholics strongly committed to the Church even if they are critical of some positions. They described a community-oriented laity involved in both social action and ecclesial ministry, a laity both self-starting and searching for guidance and education.

Indifference and alienation were described, too — often expressed, especially by women, in terms of feeling undervalued or unneeded, or in terms of personal disagreement with Church positions on such issues as sexual morality, the role of women, priestly celibacy and social justice.

Marsha Whelan of Miami, the first stop on the papal visit, said she would like to say at least two things to the Rome synod: "Emphasize the role of the lay people in evangelization" and "really, really look at the role of women in the Church."

Whelan, the Archdiocese of Miami's evangelization director and president of the National Council for Catholic Evangelization, said consultations for an archdiocesan synod currently under way in Miami have produced lively discussion of such generally controversial Church issues as women's role in the Church and sexual morality. Among local church issues, the role of the laity in the parish was a central concern, she said.

Margaret Robinson — a participant in the Miami synod, parish eucharistic minister and full-time volunteer in the archdiocesan papal visit office — said she agreed 100 percent with the pope on such issues as women's ordination, but strongly supports greater lay involvement in ministry within current Church rules.

Citing her own experience as a eucharistic minister, she said that not only does lay ministry serve other people but "it does something major" to the person involved in the ministry.

On Sept. 11, when Pope John Paul visits Columbia, S.C., in the Diocese of Charleston, he will be in the most rural and sparsely Catholic diocese of his tour. The diocese abounds with tales of lay people doing the day-to-day work of parishes because there aren't enough priests to go around.

"These people don't ask. They do it, and they tell you what they just finished," said Trinitarian Father Vernon Danenmann, who heads Catholic churches in Ward and Batesburg, rural parishes 15 miles apart in the west central part of the state.

Like Miami, the Archdiocese of New Orleans has involved Catholics in a wide consultation for a local synod. Thomas

Perkins, who has worked 20 years for the archdiocese on its massive involvement in housing for the elderly and poor, said that during New Orleans' synodal consultation "the concern that surfaced over and over is that of woman — her role, how she's treated, what her responsibility is."

Another top lay concern was Church treatment of minorities, he said. "People do not recognize the needs of black Catholics, as far as their position within the Church." Although some efforts to correct such discrimination have been made, Perkins said such efforts were not enough.

From a similar grass-roots consultation on Church priorities in the Los Angeles archdiocese, ministry to youth emerged as the Catholics' top priority. Social justice, education, shared responsibility in the Church, family-life support and help for families in crisis were other chief priorities.

A nationwide consultation conducted in preparation for this fall's synod showed that the same issues and priorities are among top concerns of Catholics across the country.

Jane Wolford Hughes of Detroit, who headed archdiocesan adult religious education there for more than 20 years, thinks that in U.S. Catholics the pope will see a unique blend of education and commitment to the Church.

"The laity have a vibrant, abiding love for the Church," she said. At the same time, "there is not another church whose laity is as well-informed."

She believes U.S. Catholics today are suffering "a sense of confusion — even pain — as the Church seems to be returning to a greater legalism with less emphasis on the pastoral concerns for the signs of the times. One of the most ignored signs is the faith and competence of the people themselves."

While Pope John Paul is likely to see and hear about the many contributions of active Catholic lay leaders, he is less likely to have contact with those who feel alienated from the Church. Among those the pontiff is unlikely to meet is Kathy Crook, a Phoenix Catholic who claims no particular parish affiliation.

"As far as women in the American Church, the pope consistently makes statements that show he doesn't understand," Crook said. "If he can't validate me as a person, I have trouble validating him as a person. I don't feel like I belong."

Others, however, have found that a sense of alienation disappears when they get involved in Church life. Anselmo Valencia of Los Angeles said he felt alienated from the Church before he became a volunteer in Proyecto Sembrador ("Project Sower"), an archdiocesan program to reach out to poor Hispanic migrant workers by providing grass-roots material aid and by forming small groups of prayer and discussion on Gospel values.

Valencia said that through his volunteer work he discovered a basic truth of participation in the Church's mission: "Evangelizing others we evangelize ourselves... My whole life is going better now."

Contributing to this story were Liz Schevtchuk, Barb Frazee, Stephenie Overman, Laurie Hansen, Julie Asher and Sister Mary Ann Walsh.

8.8%* APR

USED CAR

48 Month Financing

Now at Valley Cadillac

CADILLAC
'87 CADILLAC ELDORADO
 Rose w/gray leather interior, only 1,400 miles. #7101A
\$AVE

'86 CADILLAC CIMARRON
 Light blue w/blue leather interior, loaded. 14,000 miles. #R168A \$11,988
\$272³⁹ per mo.

'85 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE
 Black w/red velour interior. #P205A \$12,488
\$284⁷⁸ per mo.

'85 CADILLAC ELDORADO
 Low miles, white. #7622A
\$AVE

'83 CADILLAC COUPE DE VILLE
 Yellow w/yellow leather interior, loaded. #D7329A \$10,988
\$247⁶⁰ per mo.

'84 CADILLAC SEDAN DE VILLE
 Black, only 30,000 miles. #7604A \$12,988
\$297¹⁸ per mo.

PONTIAC
'87 PONTIAC GRAND AM
 Like new, 18,000 miles. #7748A \$8,988
\$498⁰² per mo.

'87 PONTIAC FIERO 2M4
 Gold, 6,000 miles. #7302A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

'85 PONTIAC PARISIENNE
 Blue w/blue interior, 4 cr., 32,000 miles. #7512A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

OLDSMOBILE
'85 OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS
 Only 25,000 miles, 4 cr. #7097A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

'85 OLDSMOBILE DELTA COUPE ROYALE
 20,000 miles, like new. #D7991A \$10,988
\$247⁶⁰ per mo.

'85 OLDSMOBILE DELTA 88
 Green w/mint green interior. #D190A \$9,988
\$224⁸¹ per mo.

'84 OLDSMOBILE DELTA 88
 Cream w/brown interior, loaded w/options. #7698A \$7,988
\$173²³ per mo.

OLDSMOBILE
'86 OLDSMOBILE TORONADO
 White w/gray cloth interior, loaded w/options, only 8,000 miles. "Showroom New" #7189A \$15,887
\$369⁰⁷ per mo.

'84 OLDSMOBILE TORONADO
 Woodland haze w/brown velour interior. 41,000 miles. #D7532A \$11,988
\$272³⁹ per mo.

CHEVROLET
'83 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO
 Light blue, low miles. #7423B \$9,988
\$148⁴⁴ per mo.

'84 CHEVROLET CAMARO BERLINETTA
 Woodland haze, 30,000 miles, air. #P187A \$7,988
\$173²³ per mo.

Based on \$1,000 cash down or trade plus tax & fees. Rate applies on '83 and newer used cars and to qualified buyers only.

BUICK
'86 BUICK REGAL
 White, V-6, astroroof, loaded w/options. 14,000 miles. #7681B \$12,488
\$284⁷⁸ per mo.

'85 BUICK SOMERSET
 White w/red velour interior, sunroof, 2 cr. #D7811A \$9,988
\$498⁰² per mo.

'86 BUICK SOMERSET
 White w/red cloth interior, loaded. #D7529A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

'85 BUICK PARK AVENUE
 Red w/red velour interior. #7773A \$11,988
\$272³⁹ per mo.

BUICK
'84 BUICK PARK AVE.
 2 cr., 32,000 miles, woodland haze. #7700A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

MERCURY
'86 MERCURY TOPAZ
 Auto, air, low miles. #7272A \$7,888
\$170⁷⁵ per mo.

'85 MERCURY MARQUIS
 Blue, 2 cr. #7758A \$9,988
\$222⁸¹ per mo.

OTHERS
'87 PLYMOUTH HORIZON
 4 cyl., 5 spd., air. #7038B \$7,888
\$163³¹ per mo.

'86 FORD ESCORT WAGON
 15,000 miles. #7342B \$6,988
\$148⁴⁴ per mo.

'84 LINCOLN MARK IV
 Sedan. #D7249A \$12,988
\$297¹⁸ per mo.

'83 DATSUN MAXIMA WAGON
 Beige, auto, air, astroroof. #L7225B \$7,988
\$173²³ per mo.

'83 CHRYSLER IMPERIAL
 Silver w/gray leather interior, low miles. #7700A \$8,988
\$198⁰² per mo.

'86 CHRYSLER 5TH AVENUE
 Two-tone red & silver, 23,000 miles, sunroof. #D7810A \$12,988
\$297¹⁸ per mo.

'85 HONDA PRELUDE SI
 White, air, 5 spd., astroroof. #7133A \$10,988
\$247⁶⁰ per mo.

'85 CHRYSLER LE BARON
 Only 24,000 miles. #7358C \$6,988
\$148⁴⁴ per mo.

'84 FORD LTD
 Gray w/red cloth interior, 18 cr., cruise, air. #7752A \$5,988
\$123⁶⁵ per mo.

'85 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4x4
 #D7820B \$11,988
\$272³⁹ per mo.
 Dealer participation may affect purchase price. Other terms available.

★ TRAINS ★ WEEKEND SPECIALS ★ COMMERCIALS ★ GROUPS

A "TASTE" OF IRELAND
 Personally Escorted by Jean & Jim
 November 12 - 16, 1987
 \$620.00 p.p. dbl. includes

- Airfare from Rochester to Shannon (Piedmont & Aer Lingus)
- 2 Nites in Dublin • 1 Nite in Ennis
- Tour of Dublin • Cliffs of Moher, etc.
- Medieval Banquet • Dinner at Abbey's Tavern
- 2 Full Irish Breakfasts
- Plenty of Free Time for Duty-Free Christmas Shopping

LIMITED AVAILABILITY; CALL IMMEDIATELY FOR RESERVATIONS

rendan TOURS 889-9098 3220 Chili Avenue
Jean Brown Travel Inc.

★ HOTELS ★ CAR RENTALS ★ SENIOR CITIZEN FARES ★ RESORTS ★

THE VALLEY CADILLAC CORPORATION
 3100 Winter Road South 427-8400
 The Cadillac of Used Car Dealers