

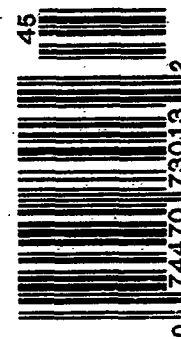
Tabasco will bewitch you

Members of the Tabasco mission team have discovered the magic beneath the surface of corruption and poverty — the people. See pages 10 and 11.



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Synod recommends clarifying lay ministries, roles

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — The world Synod of Bishops said that Catholic lay roles and ministries need to be clarified and revised, but left how that should be done up to Pope John Paul II.

The almost 230 synod delegates who met October 1-30 in Rome also told the pope not to let concern for lay ministries overshadow the laity's primary responsibility to Christianize the secular world.

The synod's final recommendations to the pope did not include a proposal that all non-ordained ministries be equally open to men and women. A preliminary set of recommendations had included that proposal.

Other proposals, however, encouraged greater participation by women in Church life, including the preparation of pastoral documents.

The recommendations were contained in a list of 54 proposals sent to the pope, who said he planned to prepare a major document after studying the recommendations.

The document will respect the "author's rights" of the synod, the pope said. He did not say when it would be issued, but said the preparation would be done in cooperation with a 15-member council of the synod general secretariat. Under Church rules, the pope is not obliged to follow the synod recommendations.

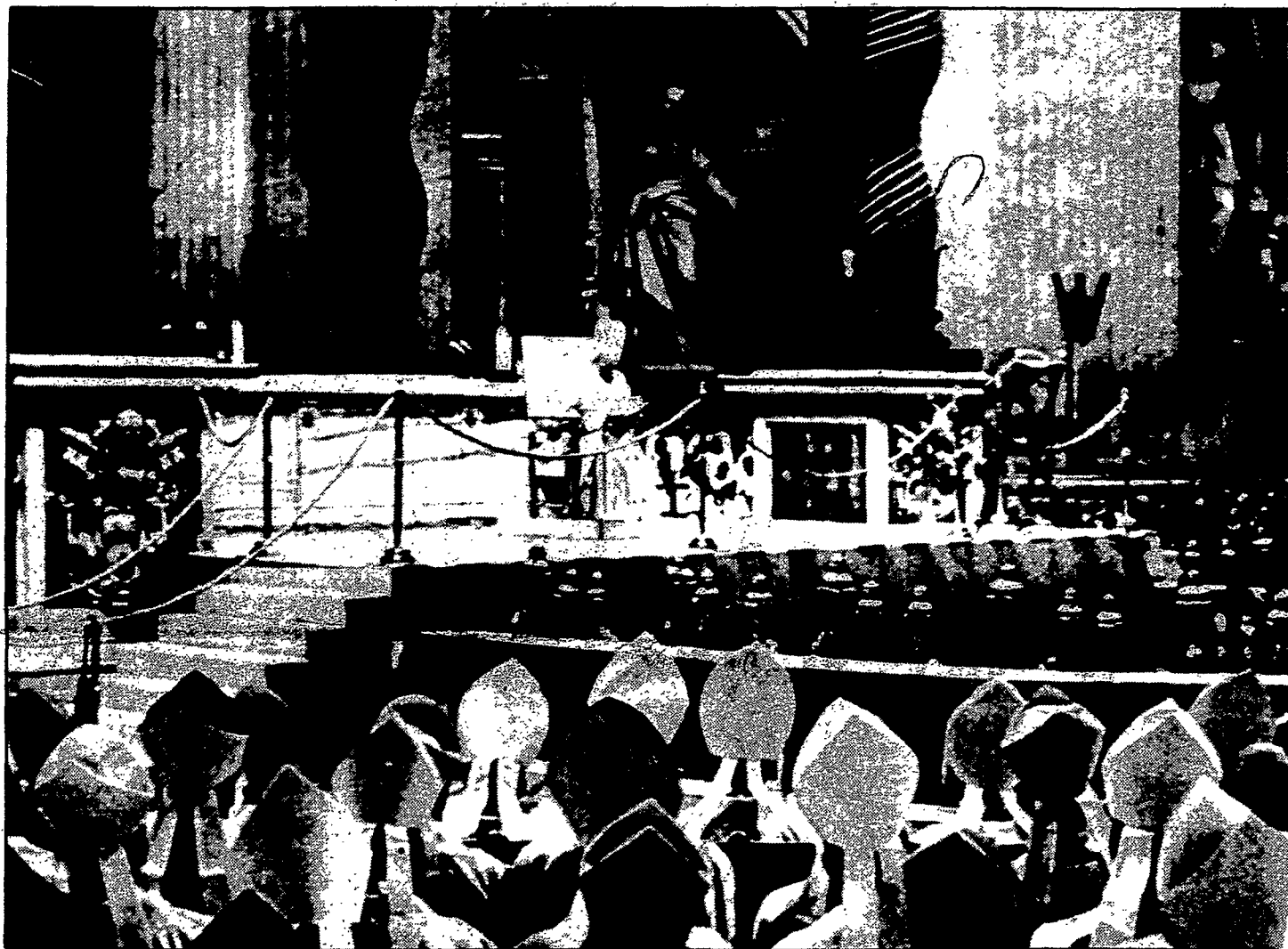
The recommendations sent to the pope were not made public by the Vatican, which released only a summary of the list of proposals. National Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the entire list.

The synod recommended possible revisions of Pope Paul VI's 1972 order that established norms for lay ministries. The suggested revisions were not specifically enumerated in the synod recommendation. Among the 1972 norms was the establishment of acolyte and lector as instituted lay ministries reserved to men.

The synod proposals also asked that the terms "ministry," "duty," and "office" be clarified.

At an October 30 Vatican news conference capping the synod, Coadjutor Archbishop Pierre Eyt of Bordeaux, France, said that the synod did not make "preliminary judgments on how to carry out these revisions.

"It has asked the Holy Father to clarify ministries," said the archbishop, who served



Pope John Paul II delivers his homily at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica concluding the month-long world Synod of Bishops.

UPI-Reuters/NC News Service

as synod special secretary. "There is no point in saying in what manner these should take place."

The synod did not want to dwell too much on lay ministries in the Church and the attendant issue of women's roles in the Church because "we don't want to cut off the laity from its basic responsibility in the world," said Archbishop Eyt.

Several U.S. bishops were among those supporting specific recommendations

expanding the liturgical roles of women.

The principle of equal access by men and women is reflected in the proposal to study revisions of the 1972 norms even though "the specificity may not be there," said Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis after the October 29 synod vote approving the recommendations sent to the pope.

Bishop May is president of the U.S. bishops' conference.

"It seems to me that we didn't pedal backward, which is very important," said Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee. "When you have to say something that will hold for every culture, it has to be couched in terms that are quite general."

Meanwhile, the highest-ranking female synod official said that expanding the ministries of women in the Church was "never a dominant theme" at the synod.

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Preliminary results positive for '87 Thanks Giving Appeal

By Lee Strong

Despite recent stock market instability — and media reports of a resultant sense of financial uncertainty among the American people — diocesan officials are optimistic about the eventual success of this year's Thanks Giving Appeal. The appeal, the Diocese of Rochester's major source of annual income, is expected to raise \$3.584 million.

Fluctuations in the market do not appear to be affecting the campaign, according to Patrick O. Sullivan, director of the appeal. "Not one pastor or lay person has communicated any hesitation" because of the stock market, he said.

Thomas MacAvoy, TGA general chairman, agreed with Sullivan. "For the majority of people, (the market) had no impact," MacAvoy asserted. He suggested that people might delay making such major purchases as houses or automobiles, but didn't believe they would cut their contributions. "People are pretty much persuaded of the importance of giving," the chairman observed.

A spot check of several diocesan parishes appears to support the contentions of Sul-

livan and MacAvoy. St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield has already reached nearly half of its \$83,000 quota after the first weekend of in-hall solicitation. St. Thomas More in Brighton also reported nearing the halfway mark en route to its goal of \$53,000, and that results were running ahead of last year at this time.

Father Gerald Appelby of Transfiguration Parish in Pittsford said the first week's results were "right on target" and that the parish would have "no problems meeting or exceeding the quota." One parish — St. Bridget's — had already exceeded its quota.

Sullivan suggested that one reason for this year's apparent early success is the return to the overage program. Under the program, a parish receives 50 percent of all funds it raises in excess of its quota. Sullivan characterized the reinstatement of the overage plan as a positive change and reported favorable reactions from pastors and parish appeal coordinators.

Another factor that could pose a threat to this year's TGA results — and to diocesan finances in general — is the new tax laws governing charitable contributions. In pre-

vious years, federal tax laws allowed individuals to deduct higher percentages of their charitable contributions than they will be permitted to do when they file their returns in April, 1988.

One specific change is that people who donate stocks or other securities will be able to deduct only the original purchase price of the stocks. For example, if a stock was purchased for \$25 a share but had risen in value to a price of \$100 a share at the time it was donated, the donor would only be allowed to deduct the original \$25 value as a charitable contribution.

Sullivan said it was too early to tell whether the tax laws would affect the appeal, but noted that reports from other dioceses indicate that any effects would not be significant. "In all my reading of reports from other dioceses' development offices, there have been no indications of donors not giving," he said. Of the 60-65 reports Sullivan had read on completed appeals, none showed "difficulties or negative participation due to the new tax laws."

Sullivan was hesitant to predict the results of this year's TGA, but said indications so

far are that the appeal is on par with last year's successful campaign in which pledges exceeded the goal of \$3.45 million. "People give to the diocese because of their commitment and understanding of what services the diocese is performing," he explained. "If we tell the story (of what the diocese does), people will give."

Nevertheless, the stock market and new tax laws do have the potential to affect diocesan finances in other ways, but John Trickey, director of financial services for the diocese, does not believe the effects will be significant.

During the Diocesan Fiscal Managers' Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., which Trickey attended October 17-19, principal topics for discussion were the captive insurance company the Diocese of Rochester will join this December, funding for retired members of religious orders and canon law as it relates to diocesan and parish financial councils. The stock market activity of the last month wasn't on the formal agenda, and wasn't a subject of many informal discussions either, Trickey reported.

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