

et cetera

Synod

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The synod considered the roles of women in the Church as part of the broader theme of lay ministries, said Maria da Graca Sales, synod assistant special secretary and a full-time staff member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. She spoke at the October 30 Vatican news conference.

"It does not seem opportune to easily establish lay people in officially instituted ministries," said a synod proposal. Such ministries "can overshadow many lay gifts and duties — in marriage and the family, in daily work, science, economy, the fine arts, culture and politics."

Although the recommendations did not include expanding non-ordained ministries for women, two proposals dealt with women's issues.

One said that the Church should recognize and use the gifts of women.

The other urged:

• Avoiding language which is "unjustly discriminatory" against women.

• Including women active in the Church in the preparation of pastoral documents and other projects.

• Developing a "theology of matrimony," based on the love between Christ and the Church.

• Conducting anthropological and theological research on the foundations of the dignity of men and women.

• Restoring respect for virginity and maternity.

Recommendations also dealt with the heavily debated synod issue of lay renewal movements, especially those formed since the Second Vatican Council.

Several bishops complained that some

movements engage in pastoral work in their dioceses without seeking approval and that their work sometimes conflicts with diocesan projects and priorities. Defenders of the movements said they are often international in scope and should come under papal rather than local supervision.

The synod praised the movements, but said founders and members must obey the authority of "local pastors and the pope."

The synod believes that "bishops, priests and movements can work together," Archbishop Eyt said at the Vatican news conference.

Synod recommendations also encouraged greater lay action on social and political issues. The laity was asked to mobilize against abortion, voluntary sterilization, manipulation of fetuses and drug trafficking.

The synod rejected apartheid and religious discrimination or oppression. It asked for special attention to the plight of the world's poor and oppressed.

The synod also said that:

• Parish structures should be flexible enough to allow more lay participation.

• Housework performed by women should be appreciated, and obstacles faced by mothers who want to spend more time

with their children should be removed.

• Basic Christian communities, working with local pastors, are good examples of Church unity and evangelization.

At the synod closing Mass, October 30, the pope said increased lay participation at the 1987 synod should be a model for future bishops' synods.

Synod rules were waived to allow many of the almost 60 lay observers to speak at plenary sessions. Synod norms limit plenary speeches to voting members, who must be bishops or priests.

The synod was able "to profit from their experience, their advice and the suggestions they offered," the pope said.

The synod also issued a public "Message to the People of God" October 29 which encouraged lay participation in the Church and the world, but which did not discuss the synod's recommendations.

The message opposed sexual discrimination against women and urged greater action to protect human rights.

"We rejoice in the progress and advances which have been made in recognition of the legitimate rights that enable women to fulfill their mission in the Church and in the world," the message said.

TGA

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"For the most part, churches are not active participants in the market," he explained. "Their investments are normally conservative in nature, and they look more toward long-term growth than toward gains from trading."

Seventy-five percent of the Diocese of Rochester's portfolio is invested in such debt instruments as bonds and certificates, according to Trickey. These, he said, will not be affected by market variations because their rates of return already have been set.

The 25 percent of the portfolio that is invested in stocks can, however, be affected by market fluctuations. Such investments lost approximately \$49,000 between October 16 and 19, Trickey admitted, but the diocese will not feel the effects of such losses until it sells the stocks — something that is not foreseen in the near future. He also noted that since these stocks were purchased before

1980 the gains they have experienced since that time far outweigh recent losses.

Financial experts, including Louis Rukeyser, have predicted that institutions that use investment profits to help support their operations would be hurt by the market's fall, but Trickey indicated that the diocese would not be hurt in this respect, either. Only 4 percent of the diocesan budget is scheduled to come from investment income, he said. Therefore even a continued decline would not significantly affect diocesan operations.

As for the tax laws, Trickey acknowledged that some negative effects may be seen in the future. Bequests received this year were written into wills before the changes went into effect, however, and are unlikely to be affected. In light of the new laws, people may change bequests in their wills, he said, but the effects of such changes will not be seen for years to come. At this point, he concluded, there is no way to gauge donations for this year until the year is over.

Brother

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of Montreal? The Canadian who has captured his imagination was a member of his own congregation who could barely read or write. Nevertheless, beginning with the nickels he saved from cutting children's hair, Brother Bessette went on to build St. Joseph's Oratory, a magnificent basilica and the tallest building in Montreal. Credited with many hundreds of miracles, Brother Bessette was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1982. "he was the first

in our order to make it to the top," Brother Cooper explained.

Although he has only seen Brother Bessette in old photographs, Brother Cooper's likenesses of the soon-to-be saint are renowned throughout the Congregation of Holy Cross. He recites with pleasure the litany of places where his sculptures and paintings have found homes — throughout the United States, in Israel, Uganda, Peru and Chile. "You have to leave something as a heritage," he said. "I have no children, so these are my children, I suppose."

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Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

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