

## World &amp; Nation

## Vatican issues guidelines for bishops' 'ad limina' visits

By Greg Erlandson

Vatican City (NC) — The Vatican has issued a new set of guidelines for the mandatory "ad limina" visits which heads of dioceses make to the Vatican every five years.

The guidelines were published out of a need "to regulate the fulfillment of the 'ad limina' visit," as well as "the preparations which precede it" by both the bishops themselves and the various Vatican departments, according to a directory containing the guidelines.

Preparation should involve not only "reflection and prayer" on the part of a bishop, but also the filing of a detailed report every five years describing his diocese, its problems, and its relations with "non-Catholic and non-Christian religious communities, with civil society and with the public authorities," the directory observed.

Such reports should be filed at least six months in advance of an "ad limina" visit so

that a summary could be given to the pope and extracts be provided to interested Vatican departments, the guidelines said.

"Ad limina" visits are a "visible foundation" of the unity of the bishops with the successor of Peter and a way in which the bishop of Rome can obtain "reliable and authoritative information on the actual situations of the various churches," as well as direct contact with the world's bishops, the document said.

Dated June 29, the 43-page document was released by the Vatican July 1. The prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, signed the document, titled "Directory for the 'Ad Limina' Visit."

"Ad limina" visits allow each bishop to meet privately with the pope and to venerate the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul. The visits usually include meetings with curial departments as well.

Included with the directory were three addenda: "Theological Notes" by Cardinal

Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; "Spiritual-Pastoral Notes" by Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves of Sao Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, former secretary of the bishops' congregation; and a "Historico-Juridical Consideration" by Monsignor Vicente Carcel Orti, an official of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature.

The directory outlines procedures for arranging the dates and schedules for the visits, and lists procedures for meetings with the pope and curial officials.

Meetings with the pope involve "personal conversation" and, whenever possible, a group meeting. Visits with curial departments should be done "in a spirit of communion in truth and in charity," the directory said.

Bishops should present problems, ask questions or seek information or clarifications during these meetings. Although the responses of the departmental superiors do

"not have official status" until they are "written and registered in the customary manner," the document added, they "can still serve as information, counsel, orientation and guide for general pastoral practice and as a solution" for particular problems.

Cardinal Ratzinger's theological notes, which were prepared for a 1986 summit meeting between the representatives of the Brazilian bishops' conference and the Vatican, emphasized that "ad limina" visits are "not merely some kind of administrative procedure."

It is "an instrument and a real expression of the catholicity of the church, of the unity of the college of bishops embodied in the person of the successor of Peter," Cardinal Ratzinger wrote.

In their visit to Rome, the bishops "express their recognition that collegiality needs the Petrine center and becomes an unreal idea without that center," he observed.

Cardinal Ratzinger said the visits can involve a "difficult" meeting between "principles and lived reality."

In his summary of the history of ad limina visits, Monsignor Carcel Orti traced the tradition back to the fourth century. The format and conditions of the visits evolved through the centuries, but a constant factor has been the need for the bishops to report regularly to the pope on the situations in their dioceses.

Pope John Paul II has given the visits a "radically new stimulus," Monsignor Carcel Orti concluded. The pope has intensified the meetings with the bishops, discussing pastoral problems with them and "giving them advice and guidelines in abundant doctrinal discourses."

## ANNUAL ITALIAN FESTIVAL SALE

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**Cannon's**  
1551 Mt. Hope Ave.  
(1 minute north of W. Henrietta Rd.  
exit of Rte. 390.)  
461-1026

A Rochester favorite for 23 years, featuring a diverse menu including seafood, steaks, chops, veal, and Italian dishes. For the late night diner we serve until 1 am Mon.-Sat., and midnight Sun. Lunches are served daily from 11 am till 3:30.

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(East side of Beautiful  
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While you're there, remember to choose a fine wine from their extensive wine list. Reopen for yet another season of splendid dining, visit the Conesus Inn soon... "For The Prime of Your Life." Just ten minutes from exit 9 off 390. Call today for reservations.

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creations. We most sincerely hope that you'll find our quality uncompromising and our service unsurpassed. Reservations are appreciated.

**Glen Iris Inn**  
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Castile, N. Y. 14427  
(716) 493-2622

Located in picturesque Letchworth State Park, the Glen Iris Inn is open for another season of fine dining. Hours: Breakfast, 8:00-9:30 am; Luncheon, 12:00-2:00 pm; Dinner, 5:30-9:00 pm, Sat. Dinner, 5:30-10:00 pm, Sun. Dinner, 12:30-9:00 pm. Reservations suggested.

**Fornataro's**  
2155 Long Pond Rd.  
(corner Longpond &  
Spencerport Rds.)  
426-1240

Along the streets of Rome or in the Italian countryside, the word "trattoria" conjures up images of a family-like dining room just off a kitchen, fragrant with the rich aroma of simmering meat sauces, tomatoes and fresh peppers. Such could be a description of Fornataro's. Serving dishes like Filet Fornataro (beef dressed in a sweet sauce with melon balls and grapes), Saltimbocca, Veal Marsala and Madeira, Fettucine Alfredo in its golden cheese dressing, and Beef Tenderloin flavored with spices and cognac in a marinara sauce. Most pastas are homemade. Wines and liqueurs are used liberally in the cuisine as are artichoke hearts and fruits. Lunches served Monday through Friday, dinner seven nights a week. Banquet and private party rooms are available.

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Open Wednesdays thru Sundays. Featuring Friday Seafood Smorgasbord, Saturday Prime Rib Smorgasbord with Crab Legs, Scallops, Shrimp, Fish, Clams and much, much, more. Sundays include our fabulous champagne brunch served 12 noon till 2:30 p.m. Only \$8.00. 2nd person only \$4.00. "Our variety changes daily, but our quality stays the same."

**National Hotel**  
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Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481  
(716) 382-3130

Built in 1837, the 150 year old National Hotel is a landmark in and of itself. Serving dinners only, Tues.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. and Sundays, 12-8 p.m. A special Senior Citizen menu is featured nightly and Sunday. From Rochester, take 390 South to exit 8. The National Hotel is located on Rts. 20A & 39 in Cuylerville just 3 miles south of Geneseo or 3 miles east of Letchworth State Park. Reservations are appreciated.

**New Sodus Pt. Fish & Crab House**  
Sodus Pt., N.Y. 14555 (on the Seaway Trail)  
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Discover Sodus Pt. at its finest! The areas first waterfront fish and crab house serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on beautiful Sodus Bay. Surrounded with glass and decking, every seat has a breathtaking view second to none. Join us for dining or dancing in our authentic Cape Cod nautical atmosphere. Located on Greig St. in Sodus Pt. Reservations appreciated.

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## Dining Around the Diocese

The first issue of each month, the Courier-Journal will be featuring some prime dining spots in and around the Rochester diocese. If you, or someone you know would like to have your restaurant included in our Dining Guide, call the Courier-Journal at 328-4340. Look for our Dining Guide in the upcoming months, and pay a visit to the restaurant of your choice, and enjoy a pleasant evening of "Dining Around the Diocese."