

Women's ordination may hurt accord with Anglicans

LONDON (NC) — Recently released correspondence between Pope John Paul II and the spiritual head of Anglicanism show the pontiff deeply concerned that the ordination of women by some Anglican provinces might result in deteriorating relations between the two churches.

"It is urgent that this aspect be given much greater attention in order to prevent a serious erosion of the degree of communion between us," Pope John Paul said in his letter to Archbishop Robert Runcie of Canterbury.

The pope said that the ordination of women in some of the autonomous provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion undercuts an ecumenical study of ministries by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission.

Those ordinations, plus the recognition that provinces also have the right to ordain women as bishops, appear "to preempt this study and effectively block the path to the mutual recognition of ministries," he said.

The texts of the correspondence between the two religious leaders was released April 27 by Anglican officials at Lambeth Palace, church headquarters, after some of the material leaked to a British newspaper.

The letters were exchanged last year. Archbishop Runcie's is dated Aug. 6, 1988. It was sent following the Lambeth Conference, the major gathering of Anglican leaders at which the ordination question was addressed. Pope John Paul's letter was sent in reply December 8.

Archbishop Runcie said in his letter that while there are "ecumenical implications" in the decision to allow individual provinces to ordain women, the consequences of a split in the communion caused by denying such permission would also be "a grave ecumenical obstacle."

Release of the texts coincided with a meeting in Cyprus of Anglican leaders on the issue of whether to allow women to become bishops.

"The Catholic Church, like the Ortho-

dox Church and the Ancient Oriental Churches, is firmly opposed" to women's ordination, the pope wrote, "viewing it as a break with tradition of a kind we have no competence to authorize."

The pope also warned the archbishop of the consequences for his own position in the Anglican Communion if the Church of England, which is still debating the issue, were to decide in favor of women's ordination.

Pope John Paul noted the "delicate nature" of Archbishop Runcie's position in relation to the autonomy of the Anglican provinces. But he said that "since, however, as archbishop of Canterbury you also represent the Anglican Communion in its relations with the Catholic Church, a highly problematic situation could certainly arise for those provinces opposed to women's ordination if there were women priests in the Church of England."

Archbishop Runcie noted that the Amer-

ican province was about to consecrate a woman bishop and that it would cause "the pain of some impairment in the communion."

But he also said that "difficult as this is, it is in the judgment of this conference, a more acceptable solution than a schism within the Anglican Communion."

"We recognize the ecumenical dimensions of this debate but know that the Catholic Church would also see a split in the Anglican Communion as a grave ecumenical obstacle," he said.

Both leaders also noted much ecumenical progress in other areas of the continuing dialogue between their two churches.

Pope John Paul said that Archbishop Runcie's letter, informing him of the Lambeth Conference proceedings, was a "gracious gesture" and a "further indication of the trust that exists between us and of the strong bond of communion by which we are already united."

Fatima Symposium planned for southern venues in July

The first-ever Fatima Symposium sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army, U.S.A.) is scheduled for July 7-9 at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

The symposium is intended to promote the Fatima message and place its consideration on the scholarly level. Featured will be a series of presentations on the Fatima message by a group of nationally and internationally known priests.

Pre-registration for the program is required. Those interested in participating in all or part of the symposium should write: The World Apostolate of Fatima National Fatima Symposium, P.O. Box 976, Washington, N.J., 07882.

Set your mind at ease.
Make prearrangements with
Funeral specialists.

JAMES R. GRAY MALCOLM M. NULTON

At one of our four locations
or at your home

Payne-Nulton Mattie Ashton-Smith
Macedon, N.Y. 853 Culver Road 853 Culver Road

NULTON FUNERAL HOME
716-381-3900

For a Mother's Day Treat
That's Really Sweet, Give
Cookies Instead of Flowers.

Call:
**Create-A-Cookie
Basket**
2815 Baird Rd.
Fairport, NY 14450
385-6973 • 381-0118

(24 hour notice required,
VISA & MasterCard accepted)
Great for Birthdays & Get Well Gifts/We Deliver!!



**THIS YEAR TREAT MOTHER
TO THE BEST!**

We invite you and your family
to join us for a super
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
Sunday, May 14th
Served from 11a.m. to 3p.m.

ADULTS CHILDREN
\$11.95 \$5.95

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY
— CALL TODAY —
248-9460

**MANHATTAN
RESTAURANT**
1665 PENFIELD ROAD
EAST of Panarama Plaza



Senior Citizen Benefits include:

- A Senior Citizen Fee that saves you 25-40%
- New York State-licensed optometrists to thoroughly examine your eyes... eyehealth screening, glaucoma testing, etc... and answer your eyecare questions.
- Quality eyeglasses made while you wait in most instances.
- A large selection of eyeglass frames in many colors, styles and prices to meet your desires and needs.
- Free convenient parking with easy accessibility to our offices.
- A friendly helpful staff to meet your eyecare and eyewear needs.

Being a senior citizen means being special at Empire Vision.

Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:30 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

empire vision
For the total eye... and...

Greece, Buckmans Plaza, 2590 Ridge Road West, (716) 227-7150 • Rochester, 3340 Monroe Avenue, Marshall's Plaza, (716) 385-4980 • Irondequoit, 1894 Ridge Road East, (716) 544-6900 • Geneva, Pyramid Mall, Routes 5 & 20, (315) 781-1162