



MOURNING AT THE WALL — A Palestinian woman raises her arms in mourning Oct. 10 at Jerusalem's Temple Mount for the 19 Palestinians killed in the Oct. 8 clash with Israeli police. Hand prints appearing on the mosque wall behind her reportedly were made during the fighting by victims' blood. AP/Wide World Photos

Bishops preparing final proposals to pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY — The world Synod of Bishops received a report on the worldwide vocations picture and continued discussing celibacy as participants prepared to make final proposals on priestly formation to Pope John Paul II.

Archbishop Pio Laghi, head of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, told the synod Oct. 20 that while the total number of priests worldwide declined by 313 between 1988 and 1989, gains were experienced in Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Although the celibacy requirement for Latin-rite priests was not an item up for vote at the synod, which is scheduled to end Oct. 28, it did receive a great deal of attention on the synod floor and in the small working groups.

The synod's Oct. 18 press conference was devoted almost entirely to the subject of celibacy after the Vatican confirmed that

the pope allowed two married Brazilian men to become priests after they agreed to give up living with their wives.

At the press conference, Cardinal Christian Wiyghan Tumi of Garoua, Cameroon, said each of the synod's 13 working groups affirmed "the importance of priestly celibacy for the church in the modern world."

"The synod fathers are very concerned to defend, promote and explain the great gift to the Western church of celibacy for priests," said Auxiliary Bishop George Pell of Melbourne, Australia.

The small groups made their initial reports to the synod Oct. 17-18. The reports are used by the synod leadership in drafting a set of proposals that may be amended by the small groups before being voted on by synod participants.

The proposals may be used by the pope in preparing a post-synod document on priestly formation.

In addition to supporting celibacy, most of the reports called for increased efforts to improve the spiritual lives of priests and supported a special year of spiritual formation for seminarians.

Synod participants also supported a call for published guidelines on the continuing education of priests and urged greater respect for local cultures when designing formation programs.

Another recurring theme was the need to integrate candidates from lay movements into seminary life and prepare them to serve their entire diocese, not just members of their group.

East European bishops in the Latin-language working group said even the Eastern rites that ordain married men see practical values to celibacy.

"Experience shows that in time of persecution, married priests have had many more problems than those who were celibate" because they had to balance taking risks with responsibility to their families, the report said.

One English-language group said, "the goals of the synod must include ways of helping the priest prepare to live a celibate life in the circumstances of today's world."

In his Oct. 20 address, Archbishop Laghi said the vocations picture can be illustrated by "a new map in the geography of Catholicism in the world."

Areas of "mature Catholicism" — Europe, North America and Australia

— are undergoing a "laborious renewal" of vocations after hitting a low point in the 1970s.

The "emergent Catholicism" of Africa and Southeast Asia is accompanied by the "constant increase" of vocations, and in countries of "consolidated Catholicism" — Central and South America — there is growth, the archbishop said.

For the church in Africa and Southeast Asia, he said, the main challenges are creating structures and finding competent personnel to educate candidates for the priesthood.

The difficulty of finding vocations in the countries of "mature Catholicism" has meant that "for some years now new ordinations cannot keep up with deaths or defections, even less are they able to attenuate the growing disproportion between clergy and population."

The countries of "consolidated Catholicism" have a "very heavy pastoral load and not enough pastoral people available, despite the continuous growth of vocations," Archbishop Laghi said.

He said the crisis in vocations experienced by some countries can be linked to the situation of the family, confusion or "indolence" in the church and the em-

Continued on page 14

ESCORTED TOURS

SENIOR PASSBOOK FARES

If you're 62 or older, you can purchase 4 One-Way tickets to any where in the Continental United States from \$384⁰⁰ - \$420⁰⁰ p.p., or 8 One-Way tickets for just \$640⁰⁰ - \$704⁰⁰ p.p.

BOOKING TRIP AIR TO HAWAII FROM ONLY \$399

FARES TO INCREASE NOVEMBER 1ST CALL NOW FOR DETAILS (716) 889-9090

Jean Brown Travel 3220 Chili Ave. Rochester, NY Mon.-Fri.: 9-5 Tues. til 8

CAR RENTALS • SENIOR FARES • GROUP TOURS • EUROPE PKGS • LAS VEGAS • FLORIDA • JACK TAR VILLAGES

Mayer's Cider Mill

Now Open for the Season

Fresh Pressed Sweet Cider & Cherry Apple

Great Selection of Pumpkins, and a variety of eating apples

We also carry everything in wine and beer-making equipment

WEBSTER 600 Five Mile Line Rd. (1 mi. N. of 104) 877-1885 Open 7 days 9-6

HILTON 2025 Hudson-Putnam T.L. Rd. (1 1/2 mi. W. of Hilton) 852-9148 Open 7 days 9-6

THE HARLEY SALE

October 26 10 am-6 pm
October 27 10-3 (Super Sale)

Winter Clothing for All, Furniture, Household Goods, Books, Antiques & Collectibles, Boutique, Sporting Goods

A Sale you can't afford to miss!

The Harley School
1981 Clover Street, Brighton

BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto

Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue - Rochester, NY 14606
conveniently located near 390

(715) 254-5400