

Theologians

Continued from page 4

The North American statement went through nine drafts before it was sent to CTSA members for their vote. Although the statement addressed some of the same issues and reached similar conclusions, it generally avoided the polemical and confrontational tone of the Cologne Declaration.

Specifically, the North American theologians criticized the Vatican for:

- Selecting bishops more on the basis of "adherence to prescribed positions on a few issues" than on "pastoral experience" or local pastoral needs.

- Bypassing or publicly criticizing local bishops in local church affairs, rejecting their "mature pastoral judgments" and questioning and impugning the authority of bishops' conferences — in general, taking various actions "not compatible with the

teaching of Vatican II on episcopal collegiality and the local churches."

- Making cooperation between bishops and theologians "more difficult by a series of actions and statements" which cast suspicion on "serious theological scholarship" and cut off discussion of still-debated questions.

- Ignoring "the hierarchy of truths acknowledged by the council" by presenting diverse teachings "as carrying the same authority."

- Adopting "a limited view of women's 'proper role'" in marriage and family life, a view that, according to the statement, fails to "reflect the experience of married persons or contemporary scholarship."

- Dealing with the "intensified theological reflection on the possibility of the church's ordaining women" by ordering bishops not to support groups that promote women's ordination and by screening episcopal candidates "to insure their unqualified opposition to the ordination of

women to the priesthood."

- "Consistently" viewing feminism "with suspicion" and neglecting possibilities for "the further development of legitimate public roles for women in the church."

- Harming ecumenism by an "authoritarian style of acting" which "cannot be reconciled with the council's vision of the church" and which creates new obstacles to Protestant, Anglican or Orthodox acceptance of the pope as a servant of unity.

- Acting too slowly, and at times without "the theological sophistication of which Catholic theology is capable," on the results of ecumenical dialogues.

The North American theologians said that "the renewal inspired by Vatican II" has "taken hold among our people" and brought new vitality to "many areas" of church life.

They acknowledged that "Catholics in North America are not immune to the sins

and temptations of their own culture" and that "we theologians have at times fallen short of our duty in these years of renewal."

But they recalled "the council's teaching that the church is in continuous need of reformation."

Especially in North America, they said, "an arbitrary and authoritarian style of leadership is foreign to our experiences and traditions."

If the church is to meet the challenges it faces in the United States and Canada, they said, it "must be persuasive and credible to North Americans."

Father Principe said that because the balloting on the statement was conducted outside the yearly CTSA convention, "it is not an official statement of the society. Yet it records the views of the members better than would a vote at a convention meeting since only about 250 or 300 members can usually be present at such meetings."

TGA

Continued from page 3

nerous."

Another apparently successful experiment in this year's TGA is the special-gifts campaign. In this drive, 110 volunteers contacted 550 donors who had given substantial contributions to the TGA in the past.

Seeberg said early figures indicated that these donors had already pledged \$79,000 more this year than they had in previous years. He projected that the effort would produce an increase of \$100,000 in pledges from these donors.

With the parish phase of the appeal essentially completed — a few parishes

have yet to report final results of their efforts, Seeberg noted — the diocesan development office will now assume responsibility, as it did last year, to garner contributions from more people.

Last spring, development office personnel contacted 13,000-14,000 individuals who had not contributed during the parish-run phase of the 1989 TGA. Through this effort, the development office realized more than \$140,000 in contributions from 4,000 people.

As a result of these test results, Seeberg said, the development office will contact approximately 30,000 people this year.

The diocesan-run phase of the 1990 TGA continues until June 30, 1991, the end of the current fiscal year.

New budget

Continued from page 3

its operation with money from the Catholic Family Center's general account while waiting to receive the state money.

On Dec. 13, Lucy Dechaine, director of the disabled services department, notified the department's two part-time employees that their jobs will end Jan. 17, 1990, and told its two full-time employees that they would be reduced to part-time status.

Dechaine said the reduced staffing will

force the department to cut back on a number of services to the disabled in the Rochester community. "We're talking about hundreds of people who are not going to get services," she said.

Dechaine was scheduled to meet with officials from the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities earlier this week to see if any other funds are available to fund the department's services.

"We have to look for other sources (of money)," Dechaine said, adding, "Realistically, I'm pessimistic."

Woman

Continued from page 6

there "was probably some subconscious guilt there."

Although she was often criticized by the dancers and the patrons for what they saw as her "hypocrisy," Meyer said that many of them eventually converted to some form of religion after working or drinking at her bar.

"(The dancers) would be dancing and dancing," she said. "They would turn and look at the Lord's picture and they would get some kind of message ... I had so many

girls quit the go-go business."

Meyer herself eventually quit the business about five years ago, selling the bar and leaving her abusive lover at the same time. One thing that she did not leave behind, though, was her faith in God. Her philosophy could be summed up in the words a priest told her and her dancers once, she recalled.

"It doesn't matter what you've done in the past — God forgives," she said. "Different people get in different circumstances because of difficult life situations, but it doesn't mean you can't change."

Sister Jean Collins, SSJ, 45; school teacher and principal

Sister Jean Collins, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for 27 years and a diocesan school teacher since 1967, died at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary on Monday, Dec. 3, 1990. She was 45-years-old.

Sister Jean's brother, Father Robert L. Collins, pastor of St. Thomas More Church, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for her in the SSJ motherhouse chapel on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

A native of Rochester, Sister Jean lived with the local community at Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton. Friends said they will remember Sister Jean as someone with wit and a great zest for life. Those character traits became even stronger as she faced cancer, friends recalled.

Sister Jean's enthusiasm for sports became a focus of the press in Rochester the past year. A columnist for the Rochester Times Union wrote about her attending a game of the Buffalo Bills — one of

her favorite teams — thanks to a gift by her friends at Nazareth Hall. Last June, she attended a Rochester Red Wings baseball game at Silver Stadium.

Sister Jean was a graduate of Nazareth College, and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1963.

In 1967, she began her teaching career in the Rochester diocese. Sister Jean taught at the following schools: Blessed Sacrament, Mother of Sorrows, St. Ambrose, all in Rochester; and St. Michael's, Penn Yan.

Sister Jean was principal at St. Mary's School, Dansville, and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brighton. She also served at Trinity Montessori School and was vice principal of Nazareth Hall.

In addition to Father Collins, Sister Jean is survived by another brother, Joseph Collins; one sister, Eileen Collins; a niece; two nephews; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Sister

Continued from page 10

envisioned by the council have not yet been implemented.

"I didn't expect it to happen overnight," she acknowledged. "I had the sense to know that we have great quantities of recalcitrant people."

Despite some resistance to change, Sister Tobin asserted that a shift in thinking has

taken place in the church.

"I don't think (the effects of the council) can be done away with, because of the documents and because of all the people who have been educated on those documents," Sister Tobin stated. "Once you get into the notion of the authority of the human person, then you have all kinds of possibilities that come from that."

"I think the council gave us that notion," she concluded. "That's the council's great accomplishment."

School releases cookbook to help alumnae association

ROCHESTER — The Our Lady of Mercy Alumnae Association recently published "Mercy Morsels," a cookbook designed, developed and prepared by alumnae of the school.

Featuring recipes for main dishes, soups, salads, appetizers, desserts and more, the cookbooks can be purchased at any of the following locations: Our Lady of Mercy Alumnae office, Village Green Bookstore (Monroe Avenue), Parkleigh

(Park Avenue), French Confections Bakery (Monroe Avenue), For Someone Special (Country Club Plaza) and Delights (Lakeville, N.Y.).

All proceeds will benefit fundraising activities of the Alumnae Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School. Call 716/288-2610 for information.

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