



# CATHOLIC COURIER

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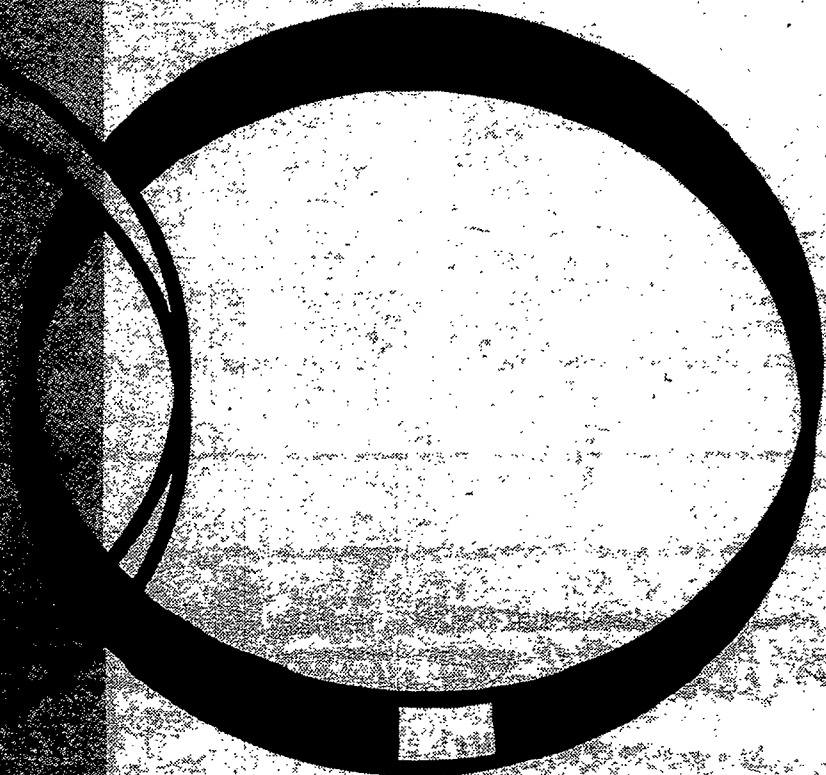
Graduation '92

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## MARRIED PRIESTS



priests in one of the Eastern-Rite Catholic Churches. But those who married after their ordinations may not serve as Catholic priests in either Latin- or Eastern-Rite churches.

Thus, many Czechoslovakian men who had served the Roman Catholic Church as priests — many for decades, and often at risk to their safety — may no longer do so because they are married.

On learning about the status of the married Czechoslovakian priests, many Catholics might believe

the Vatican issued the ruling because the Roman Catholic Church simply does not ordain married men.

But that is not always the case — at least not in the United States.

In fact, approximately 70 former Episcopal priests

who are married currently serve the U.S. church as Roman Catholic priests.

Under the conditions of a 1980 "pastoral provision" issued by the Vatican, the married former Episcopal priests now function in the U.S. Roman Catholic Church as married priests, according to Father James Parker, director of the Office of Prayer and Worship for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

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