

WORLD & NATION

Vatican official predicts no new Marian dogmas

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Despite continuing requests for Pope John Paul II to proclaim new Marian dogmas, a Vatican spokesman said no such proclamation is planned or even being considered.

"This is not under study by the Holy Father nor by any Vatican congregation or commission," Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the papal spokesman, told Catholic News Service Aug. 18.

The pope will not solemnly proclaim Mary "Corredemptrix" (Co-redeemer), "Mediatrice" (Mediator) and Advocate, Navarro-Valls said. "This is crystal clear."

Navarro-Valls made his remarks Aug. 18, after publication of a *Newsweek* magazine article reporting on the number of requests sent to the Vatican requesting that Mary be declared Co-redeemer.

At the Vatican's request, an international theological commission studied the question beginning in August 1996.

Its unanimous recommendation against such a move was published in early June by the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

"The response of the commission, purposefully brief, was unanimous and precise: It is not opportune to abandon the road marked out by the Second Vatican Council and proceed with the definition of new dogma," the newspaper said.

Marianist Father Johann Roten, who served on the commission, said Aug. 18, "We simply talked about the Co-Redemption at this point."

Father Roten, who heads the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton, said the commission met two or three times in one week. He described it as "an impromptu consultation more than anything else."

He said he was not aware of any Vatican commission studying Marian dogma, but added if the pope were to make a declara-



"The Assumption of the Virgin" by Juan de Valdes Leal

tion about Mary, he would be likely to appoint a more formal study commission.

In June, *L'Osservatore Romano* published lengthy commentary on the theological commission's response.

Father Salvatore M. Perrella wrote that the documents of the Second Vatican Council, Pope John Paul's 1987 encyclical "Redemptoris Mater" and his recent audience talks explain why the term "Co-Redeemer" has been avoided for 50 years in papal teaching.

They all point out "that no creature, not even by her active cooperation, can be named on the level with the Word of God in his particular redemptive function," said Father Perrella, a professor at Rome's Marianum Theological Faculty.

In September 1995, Pope John Paul began an exhaustive series of weekly audience talks on Mary and her role in salvation history. He delivered the 59th installment of the ongoing series at his Wednesday audience Aug. 13.

The Vatican newspaper headline over the text of the 10th of his talks summarized a key point in the series: "Mary's place is highest af-

ter Christ."

During that Jan. 3 address, the pope said his series would sing the Virgin's praises, but in "the proper context."

"With regard to the measure and balance to be maintained in both Marian doctrine and devotion," he said, the Second Vatican Council "strongly urges theologians and preachers of the divine word 'to be careful to refrain ... from all false exaggeration.'"

"This exaggeration," the pope said,

"comes from those who adopt a maximalist attitude which seeks to extend systematically to Mary the prerogatives of Christ and all the charisms of the church."

Pope John Paul seemed to rule out the new Marian dogma when he said, "It is always necessary in Marian doctrine to safeguard the infinite difference existing between the human person of Mary and the divine person of Jesus."

At an audience in April, the pope said, "The church's teaching makes a clear distinction between the Mother and the Son in the work of salvation, explaining the Blessed Virgin's subordination — as cooperator — to the one Redeemer."

The *Newsweek* article named Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York as one of 42 cardinals who supported the effort to have Mary be declared Co-Redeemer.

The cardinal's spokesman, Joseph Zwilling, said that in February 1994 Cardinal O'Connor wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Kralis of Howe, Texas. The Kralises had sent the cardinal a copy of a book by Mark Miravalle, leader of the petition drive and a lay theologian at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Zwilling quoted from the cardinal's letter, in which he agreed to be an honorary member of the petition group's Cardinal Advisory Committee.

"The material you provide is impressive and seems to me to be theologically sound. Clearly, a formal papal definition would be articulated in such precise terminology that other Christians would lose their anxiety that we do not distinguish adequately between Mary's unique association with the redemption and the redemptive power exercised by Christ alone. I am pleased, therefore, to accept your offer to serve as an honorary member of the Cardinal Advisory Committee."

"I don't know what they expect honorary members to do," Zwilling said, noting that Cardinal O'Connor had never met with the group.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Religious Activities

■ **AUG. 22-24** — National Sacred Heart: Convocation; Radisson Plaza, the Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse; Fr. Albert Shamon, speaker; call 800/851-5320.

Social Activity

■ **SUN, AUG. 31** — Italian festival: St. Rocco's Church, Hulberton Rd. (between Rts. 31 & 104), Hulberton, Orleans Co.; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Chemung Schuyler

Religious Activity

■ **SAT, AUG. 23** — Performance Mass: "St. Francis in the Americas," by Glenn McClure; 3 P.M. Mt. Saviour Monastery, 271 Monastery Rd., Pine City.
■ **THROUGH AUG. 30** — Presentation: of Genesee Crucifix; Mt. Saviour Monastery, 271 Monastery Rd., Pine City; 4:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. daily.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Pancake breakfast: St. Michael's Parish Hall, 869 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester; 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; to benefit church roof fund; Mass (9 a.m. English, 11:15 a.m. Spanish) and tours of church; \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors/kids 2-10 yrs.; tickets at door or by calling 716/325-4040.

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Yard sale: to benefit St. Peter and Paul Church; at the Susan B. Anthony Festival, 5 King St., Rochester; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

■ **SAT, AUG. 30** — Chicken barbecue: sponsored by "Creations Great & Small, Inc.," Sam's Club, 1600 Marketplace Dr., Henrietta; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; \$6 donation.

Meetings

■ **MON, AUG. 25** — Meeting: of the Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI Rochester); Lutheran Reformation Church, 111 N. Chestnut St., Rochester; 7 p.m.; for more information call 716/423-1593.

■ **THU, AUG. 28** —

Meeting: of B.U.S., for anyone touched by adoption; Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave., Rochester; 7 p.m.; for more information call 716/359-2544.

Religious Activities

■ **THU, AUG. 21** — Evening of prayer: reflection, and sharing for anyone impacted by HIV/AIDs, their friends and families; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7:30-9 p.m.; for more information call 716/473-6893.

■ **FRI, AUG. 22** — Farewell ceremony: for the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima; Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Pk., Rochester; noon-5:30 p.m.; bring a white handkerchief to wave; reception following in Sacred Heart Parish Hall; for more information call Lita, 716/482-5273.

Social Activities

■ **AUG. 23, 24** — Summer fest: Basil Marella Park, English Rd., Greece; craft booths, food booths, children's activities, live entertainment.

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Festival: Susan B. Anthony Festival, Madison St., off W. Main St., Rochester; with the St. Thomas More Singles Club;

meet at 1:30 p.m. in front of Susan B. Anthony Home.

■ **MON, AUG. 25** — Free admission: to Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; as part of the 1997 New York State Safe Summer Campaign; for more information on Safe Summer activities in Rochester, call 716/325-4153.

■ **THU, AUG. 28** — Blue and White: kick-off picnic; sponsored by BK Sports Booster Club; Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway, Irondequoit; 6 p.m.; \$1 per person, \$5 per family; beverages, hot and hamburgers provided; bring a dish to pass; for more information call 716/342-4000.

■ **THU, SEP. 11** — Class reunion: Aquinas Institute Class of 1937; for information call Len Austin, 716/381-5437 or Jack McDonald, 716/247-6464.

Seneca Cayuga

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Chicken/pork chop: barbecue; St. John's Church, 32 Rochester St., Port Byron; starting at 12:15 p.m.; take-outs available.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Meetings

■ **SAT, AUG. 23** — Breakfast meeting: of the Divorced/Separated/Bereaved Support Group of Macedon; Log Cabin Restaurant, Rt. 31F, Macedon Center; 9 a.m.; for details call 315/597-9558.

Religious Activities

■ **WED, AUG. 27** — Family faith formation: session; St. Januarius Church, 180 N. Main St., Naples; 7-9 p.m.; \$10; for information or registration call 716/374-2414.

Social Activities

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Golf: sponsored by Finger Lakes Social Ministry D/S/B groups; Big Oak Golf Course, Packwood Rd., Geneva; 3:30 p.m. Sundays; call Les, 315/789-9419, Carl and Alma, 315/539-2284, or Claire, 716/394-6722.

■ **SUN, AUG. 24** — Concert: Rochester Scottish Bagpipe Band; Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum, 7606 Ontario St., Sodus Point; 3 p.m.; free.