

CONTINUED...

continued from page 1

"The right balance between the universal church and the particular churches has been destroyed. This is not only my own perception; it is the experience and complaint of many bishops from all over the world," he said in an article published last December.

He invited other bishops to join the debate, in anticipation of the May 21-24 consistory of the world's cardinals and a synod this fall on the role of the bishop in the church. Rochester Bishop Matthew H. Clark had broached the subject as far back as August 1997, with an article in *New Theology Review*.

Cardinal Kasper's arguments represent a challenge to the pronouncements of other Vatican officials, in particular Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In a cordial and intellectual way, these two German theologians have locked horns in a round of fervently argued lectures and written commentaries. In April, the Jesuit magazine *America* published a translation of Cardinal Kasper's December article, which addressed the issue in unusually frank language.

Bishops today feel pulled in two directions, by Rome and their own faithful, Cardinal Kasper said.

"If the bishop attempts to enforce the general norms ruthlessly — as his Roman superiors sometimes expect — his effort is likely to be useless, even counterproductive. If he remains passive, he is quickly judged disobedient," he wrote.

The solution, he said, is to grant the bishop enough freedom to make responsible decisions — after all, the local church is not a "province" of the universal church, and the local bishop is "not the delegate of the pope but is one sent by Jesus Christ."

The Vatican, however, keeps moving toward greater centralization, on matters ranging from liturgical translations to the acceptable forms of interreligious dialogue.

Cardinal Ratzinger first responded to

Cardinal Kasper's arguments in a speech at a jubilee-year conference on the Second Vatican Council. Citing Scripture and other early church writings, he said it was wrong to deny the primacy of the universal over the local church, or to place them in opposition.

Cardinal Ratzinger said the concept of the church cannot be reduced to its local communities. The universal church, he said, is always a transcendent reality, as seen in baptism, the Eucharist or the ministry of bishops.

Moreover, he said, it was an erroneous "interpretive leap" to identify the universal church with the church of Rome — the pope and the Vatican —

and said this reflected widespread suspicion of Rome these days.

Cardinal Kasper responded that Cardinal Ratzinger "regretably" had approached the problem from a purely abstract point of view, without taking into account concrete pastoral situations or the way the church has developed in history.

Cardinals Ratzinger and Kasper have known each other for many years, and the two do not communicate only through theological treatises. They have also spoken together about these issues, Cardinal Kasper said, especially since their two Vatican departments must work together at times.

Cardinal Kasper also warned that unless the church does a good job promoting diversity within unity — with the pope leading the way — ecumenical dialogue may falter.

What has made the exchange more interesting is that Cardinal Kasper was named by Pope John Paul II to the College of Cardinals one month after writing the article. The 68-year-old prelate now speaks with even more weight.

Is such a high-profile debate good for the church? And should others join it?

Yes to both questions, Cardinal Kasper told Catholic News Service in late April.

"This is not a dangerous debate for the church. The relationship between the universal church and local churches is an urgent one and should be addressed. A tension exists, it is true, but it is a positive tension and not a destructive one," he said.

"So I think it would be a good thing if other bishops write about this problem. Because, from experience, I know that many bishops are worried about it," said the cardinal, who spent 10 years as head of the large German Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart.

He said he intends to keep prodding fellow church leaders on theological and pastoral questions, in what he calls a "friendly style," because "a polemical style helps no one."

In Bishop Clark's *New Theology Review* article, more than three years prior to Cardinal Kasper's intervention, the bishop discussed the tensions lamented by Cardinal Kasper in these terms: "For some, among both the laity and the hierarchy, this dialogical notion (that a bishop must listen for the Word of God in the words of all of his people) is uncomfortable because it seems to deny a fixed au-

thority which must simply be obeyed. But the Church from the beginning has used open dialogue in meetings, letters and in ecumenical councils to discover its faith and to secure its practice. Our belief is that the Holy Spirit is given to the whole church and not just to the hierarchy or even one small part of the hierarchy.

"Why then do we still act in ways that leave so many of our people feeling that we treat them like children?" Bishop Clark continued. "Why in their eyes do we seem afraid to consult them on matters of faith and pastoral practice? Why can we not trust that the Holy Spirit will bring about a 'consensus ecclesiae'? Why can we not openly dialogue about the ministry of women, the meaning of sexuality and the condition of homosexuality, the situation of the divorced and remarried? Why are bishops, who are called vicars of Christ and servants of local churches, so often excluded from processes which lead to pastoral strategies which will deeply affect their own communities?"

Also in his *New Theology* article, Bishop Clark asserted: "I would suggest that the proper roles of the pope and the diocesan bishop will never be understood correctly until the church begins to live out more fully the principle of subsidiarity. In his social teaching Pope Pius XI used the concept of 'subsidiarity' to describe how all social bodies exist for the sake of the person, so what individuals are able to do, societies should not assume. Consequently, he taught that it was improper to 'transfer to the larger and higher collectivity functions which can be performed and provided for by lesser and subordinate bodies' (*Quadragesimo anno* 79). Both Pius XII and Paul VI applied this principle to the church with the caution that the divinely instituted hierarchical order had to be respected. It is in no way unfaithful to the Church, then, to suggest that the millennium-old centralizing process, by which much of the freedom of the local church to order its own life and worship has devolved to the Holy See, should be reversed."



COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Coordinator for Urban Youth Ministry (City of Rochester, NY) - Pastoral Center

Seeking applications for an individual to create and coordinate programs throughout the City of Rochester specifically designed to involve urban young people in Catholic faith-based parishes in comprehensive Youth Ministry efforts that build their personal assets. During the first year, the groundwork will be laid for the continued development and enhancement of services for the Catholic youth of the city of Rochester.

Send cover letter and resume to:
Barbara Pedeville

1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 716-328-3210 or e-mail: pedeville@dor.org
Deadline for applications is June 30, 2001.

Director of Spiritual Care

Catholic Health System has a need for a Director of Spiritual Care for our Acute Care Facilities. The director promotes excellence in the delivery of spiritual care services for patients, family and staff served by the Catholic Health System hospitals. Enhances collaboration with parishes and local communities to provide holistic care to all that are served. Our candidate will possess a NACC/COC certification, Masters degree in Theology or related field, Roman Catholic Chaplain, with three years experience as a Director of Spiritual Care. Must possess a commitment to the principles of the Catholic Health system, awareness and respect for faith traditions other than Roman Catholic, ability to collaborate with other disciplines and the ability to delegate authority, creative visionary leadership, excellent communication skills; interpersonal, verbal and written, organizational skills, including team building and candidates must be able to motivate and be flexible.

Please send cover letter and resume: Catholic Health System, Workforce Planning, 565 Abbott Road, Bflo., NY 14220. Fax 716/828-3685. EOE

Need a classified?

advertising@catholiccourier.com

HOUSEKEEPER (for 12 Weeks) -duties will include dusting, sweeping, mopping, waxing, vacuuming, and other light house-keeping responsibilities, etc. 20 hours a week in a mid-size rectory. Send resumes to: Barbara Pedeville, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST - PART TIME 12 Hours per week - Monday morning and all day Friday - must be computer literate with good telephone presence and skills in a mid-size Catholic church. Send cover and resumes to: Barbara pedeville, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

TELEPHONE SOLICITOR AM/PM: Will train. Call locally for our national Catholic magazine. Earn \$9 on each paid sale. Average 3 sales an hour. Ideal working conditions. Call Mr. Luba 412-782-0848, 1-800-782-0848.

International company honored for its humanitarian efforts is expanding in our area. Learn how you can earn a substantial part or full time income while helping others.
Call now 1-800-484-7099
CODE 5960

There are elderly people in our community who are having difficulty dealing with the day-to-day tasks of personal care, laundry, meal preparation and light cleaning. If you want to help, we can provide you the skills you need to be the person who can make a big difference in the quality of their lives! Our Home Health Aide Training Program will prepare you help these clients meet the challenges they face with dignity - enabling them to safely remain in their homes. Interested? You can be part of "The Team"! We have a training schedule that will meet your needs! We can be reached Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at **Rural/Metro Medical Services (716) 546-2393**

Announcements

ADOPTIONS The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 716-328-4340. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

House for Rent

FOR RENT IN GREECE family home. Nice location off Elmgrove Road. Spencerport schools. 716/594-02 58, 716/594-0210.

Ceiling Repair

TEXTURED/SWIRED CEILINGS: 9' x 12' ceiling only \$59! Water damaged, stained, poorly textured/swirled ceilings repaired, re-textured, re-painted, or made flat again. Any size dry-wall/plaster wall repairs. No job too small. 716/392-5076.

House Cleaning

HOUSE CLEANING: Dependable, reasonable rates, or care for elderly lady. Call after 4 p.m. 716/247-2901.

Masonry

MASONRY REPAIRS: All types. Brick and cement step repairs. Brick, block, concrete, patchwork. 40 years experience. Al Meyvis Sr. 716-323-1007.

Moving and Storage

K-D Moving & Storage, Inc.
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries.
Big or Small, We do them All!
473-6610/473-4357
23 Arlington St. Rochester NY 14607
NYM019657

Painting & Wall Covering

AL MEYVIS, JR.: Painting interior/exterior. Basement walls repaired / painted / wet basements. Carpentry, powerwashing, decks, etc. All types home repairs. Small jobs welcome. (I do all my own work. No sub-contractors.) Certified. 392-4435, 323-2876.

BURGMASER PAINTING/PAPERHANGING, textured ceilings, walls, ceilings repaired, rugs shampooed. Insured, powerwashing. Dan Burgmaster, 716/663-0827.

Home Improvement

Ask yourself is your repairman too expensive, unreliable, unpredictable?

#1 IN REPAIRS

- Roof
- Gutter
- Chimney
- Masonry
- Siding
- Doors
- Windows
- Carpentry
- Insulation
- Ventilation
- Chimney Liners
- Basement Walls
- Painted/Repaired
- Water Proofed
- Gutters Cleaned

TOP-TO-BOTTOM
EXPERT EVALUATION • FULLY INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES • GUARANTEED • SENIOR DISCOUNT
Since 1988
Johnathon A. Geer
338-9865
For 24 Hour Emergencies; Call 764-8204
www.toptobtm.com

Travel

PILGRIMAGE TO CANADIAN SHRINE'S
(Sponsor: Church of Assumption, Fairport)
JULY 12-16

Montreal - St. Joseph's Oratory
Notre Dame - Cap De La Madeleine - St. Anne de Beaupre

For reservations, more information call
Josephine Di Risio 377-8589 or Mary Basil 398-0535
Deposit, \$50 • Double pp \$270