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During Council Recess

## Commission Studying Further Mass Changes

Rome — (NC) — The commission for implementation of the constitution on the liturgy met to study proposals to make the Mass and the administration of the other sacraments simpler and more readily understood by the people. The commission, headed by Giacomo Cardinal Lercaro of Bologna, began a week-long session (Oct. 18) when the ecumenical council was in recess. The 43-member body

includes Joseph Cardinal Ritter of St. Louis, Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta, and Bishop Joseph A. Martin of Nicolet, Que.

**HIGH ON THE agenda** for the meeting was a demonstration of a "new look" for the Ordinary of the Mass submitted by Msgr. Johannes Wagner, chairman of the committee on the Mass and director of the Liturgical Institute at Trier, Germany.

The plan developed by Msgr. Wagner's body would seek to restore "the noble simplicity" in the rite of Mass called for in the constitution on the liturgy, which was enacted by the council in 1963.

If the commission approves it, Pope Paul may permit its experimental use in a limited number of parishes and religious communities, as was done before the rite for concelebration of the Mass was given general approval.

**ON THE STRENGTH** of available information, it is possible to describe the general principles prompting the prospective reforms. What the commission is aiming for is to restore a proper balance in the Mass in line with the liturgy constitution's call for rites which are "short, clear and unencumbered by useless repetition."

Simplicity and intelligibility are to be achieved by eliminating additions made to the Mass over the centuries which have lost their significance. Greater emphasis is to be put on the essential parts, in which there now are a succession of somewhat disconnected prayers.

Some compression has already been done. But shortening is not the primary consideration. The individual parts should be properly related to the others so as to bring about a better unification of the whole rite. Repetitions can easily be eliminated without in any sense disturbing the basic structure of the Eucharist as both sacrifice and banquet.

**ONE PROPOSAL**, for instance, is for elimination of the initial prayers at the foot of the altar, which were shortened by the liturgy commission a year ago. With the omission of the Confiteor and other prayers, Mass would start with the entrance chant, and the celebrant after bowing before the altar and kissing it would take his seat to preside over the worshipping community.

As for the Scripture readings, in keeping with the constitution the texts of the Sunday Lessons and Gospels would be spread out over a period of years, instead of having the regular annual cycle. Some texts now in use could be eliminated entirely — for instance the Genealogies, which no longer convey the meaning they once did.

The basic structure of the Mass  
See Mass Changes, page 5A



Clare Huchet Bishop

## Danforth Lecture Set for Thursday At Sacred Heart

Danforth Lecture at Sacred Heart College by Clare Huchet Bishop, a Danforth Visiting Lecturer, will be on the campus of Sacred Heart College on October 28 and 29.

The visit of Mrs. Bishop is made possible by the Danforth Foundation and the Association of American Colleges. It is part of a program "to strengthen the intellectual, the religious and the cultural aspects of liberal education in the United States." This speaker is one of several scholars and specialists who have been chosen by the Foundation and the Association for their Arts Program to visit American Campuses during the current academic year.

At Sacred Heart College, Mrs. Bishop will speak at a formal convocation on Thursday, October 28 on the subject of *The Miracle of Reading*. This will be at 10:20 a.m.

She will give a public lecture at eight o'clock that evening on the subject of "Experiments for Tomorrow's Living." This will be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

On October 29 in classes and in informal meetings with the faculty and students she will discuss "Creative Writing" and "French Youth."



**"TRIUMPH OF THE LAMB"** — Mosaic in the dome of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., above the main altar will depict "The Triumph of the Lamb," as described in the Apocalypse. Designed by Millard Sheets, Claremont, Calif., the 4,000 square foot mosaic is being manufactured by the Ravenna Mosaic Co., St. Louis. It will link together mosaics being installed in the east and west apses. With other work in process, this will complete the decoration of the sanctuary area of the Shrine. Four groups of elders of the Church surrounding the Lamb (Apoc. 4:4), stand 14 feet tall in the mosaic.

## Larger Role For Laity in Church Courts

New York — (NC) — The planned revision of canon law may give laymen a bigger role in the work of Church courts, a presiding judge of the New York archdiocesan tribunal said here.

This view was expressed by Msgr. Stephen J. Kelleher in commenting on a seminar for civil lawyers and priests held at Fordham University's law school. Theme of the seminar was "The Role of the Civil Lawyer in the Church Court."

"Almost all of the cases tried before the Church court have to do with the annulment or dissolution of marriages," Msgr. Kelleher noted.

"It is important that persons in unhappy marriages have an opportunity to seek relief in trying to obtain ecclesiastical annulments or ecclesiastical divorces.

"Qualified laymen, especially lawyers, can sometimes help such persons seek their rights by helping priest-advocates. For example, a lawyer may be of considerable help in obtaining medical records and in enlisting the cooperation of witnesses.

"This role of the layman can be implemented under the present law. It is possible that with the revision of canon law this role may be more extensive."

## POPE PAUL WEIGHING MAJOR REDUCTION OF FAST DAYS

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — Pope Paul VI is weighing the advice of representatives of the bishops of the world on a plan to reduce drastically the number of fast and abstinence days for lay people and parish priests.

The Pope decided to meet with the chairmen of the bishops' conferences of the world on Oct. 21 to hear their opinions on an apostolic constitution he proposes to issue on the penitential discipline in the Church.

The proposed decree would require fast and abstinence for all only on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the forenoon of Christmas Eve. Only Fridays of Lent would remain days of abstinence for everybody. But the current laws of fast and abstinence would remain in effect throughout the year in seminaries, and for Religious houses, including those of secular institutes — with the exception of priests who are engaged in parish work. They would be dispensed along with the secular clergy.

## National Shrine Mosaics Readied

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Work has been begun to complete the east apse, west apse and sanctuary dome of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here. When completed, the entire sanctuary area will be finished in every detail.

The work is very extensive, including marble finish for the towering walls, completion of five apsidal chapels dedicated to the joyful mysteries of the Rosary and five other apsidal chapels dedicated to the sorrowful mysteries, and the installation of three mosaics, each measuring nearly 4,000 square feet in expanse, 12 lifesize marble statues and six stained glass windows.

The east apse is the gift of the Franciscan priests, Brothers, nuns and tertiaries of the United States. The west apse is the gift of the Jesuits of the U.S. The sanctuary dome is being given by the episcopal committee for the chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

In the east apse, a 3,500-square-foot mosaic will present a 32-foot figure of St. Joseph as the Defender of the Church and a scene from Vatican Council II commemorating the inclusion of St. Joseph in the Canon of the Mass by Pope John XXIII. The artist is Austin

Purves of Litchfield, Conn. The mosaic is being manufactured by the Venetian Art Studios of New York.

**BENEATH THE MOSAIC** will be six lifesize statues of St. Joseph Cupertino, St. Anthony, St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Bonaventure and St. Lawrence Brindisi — all Franciscans. The east apse will contain altars dedicated to the five sorrowful mysteries.

In the west apse, another 3,500 square foot mosaic will present a 32-foot figure of Mary Immaculate, the woman clothed in the sun repelling the dragon. The artist is Dr. Joseph L. Young of Los Angeles, and the manufacturer is the Ravenna Mosaic Company of St. Louis. Beneath the mosaic will be lifesize marble statues of six Jesuit saints — St. Aloysius Gonzaga, St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Francis Xavier, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. John Berchmans and St. Alphonsus Rodriguez.

In the dome above the sanctuary, there will be installed a 4,000-square-foot mosaic that has unusual architectural as well as ornamental significance. This mosaic will heighten and enhance the central importance of the main altar with its imposing marble baldachin. It will likewise link together the three great mosaics of the north, east and west apses, giving final unity to the whole sanctuary area.

**THE DOME MOSAIC** depicts "The Triumph of the Lamb" as described in the Apocalypse. It has been designed by Millard Sheets of Claremont, Calif., and is being manufactured by the Ravenna Mosaic Company in St. Louis.

The architect estimates that the on-site construction and installation in this area of the shrine will take at least a year. A temporary barrier 20 feet high has been erected separating the sanctuary from the chancel, so that services can continue in the chancel during this period.