

Sees Pope Cautious Toward Rebel Faction

By BETTY TRASK

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"Pope John Paul II has left the impression that he wanted to give universal permission for the traditional Latin Mass, but feared the reaction of the progressives," the Rev. Hector Bolduc of the Society of St. Pius X told the Evening Citizen Friday.

"In other words," he continued, he has to be careful "that in giving us approval, he doesn't frighten away the other segment."

Follows French Priest

Father Bolduc is a follower of the 73-year-old rebel French priest Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was denounced by the former pope, Paul VI, for celebrating the Tridentine Latin Mass, which has been banned by the church since the Second Vatican Council of 1962-65.

Pope John Paul met about three weeks ago with the archbishop, Fr. Bolduc said, and the archbishop felt the "situation much improved. The archbishop said the meeting was extremely cordial and much headway was made. The pope didn't forbid the ordinations in June (30 new priests at the Society's headquarters in Ecône, Switzerland), nor did he forbid the archbishop to celebrate the Latin Mass...

"So," Fr. Bolduc reflected, "we're operating with the tacit permission of the Pope."

Slow Change

He explained that he didn't think the change would be quick, but that the Society's position is strong and will hold. "If we relax, our movement would die." He feels when the time comes for the approved return to the traditional Mass, the Society will be in a good position to help.

Fr. Bolduc remarked that the recent death of Cardinal Villot, the secretary of state, aided the Society's cause. The cardinal, he feels, was a stumbling block and since his death, things that were formerly misunderstood have been clarified.

Fr. Bolduc, who will meet with the archbishop when he arrives in Detroit next week, was home on his usual whirlwind trip. He spent two days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolduc of Gilford, and on Saturday, he officiated at the wedding of his niece, Kathleen Bolduc, at Tilton School Chapel.

Society Chapel Burns

The North American headquarters for the Society of St. Pius X is St. Marys College, St. Marys, Kans., which was purchased last June. Formerly a Jesuit compound, it was vacant for 11 years.

Much work has gone into the property over the last 12 months, an effort com-

lata Chapel. The stone walls still stand, but the stained glass windows looted as the finest example of Munich Gothic windows in the country were destroyed.

Workers sifted through the ashes for pieces of the windows. Fr. Bolduc then flew to Europe and found three men in their 90s who served as apprentices for the company that made the windows in 1908.

During the war, the window factory was bombed, but the book with the original drawings was saved. Original molds of cornices have also been retained and hopefully, Fr. Bolduc said, the chapel will be restored to its original glory within two years.

Challenging Life

In March, Fr. Bolduc was called to Switzerland with two other American priests. His appointment as Provincial Superior of the southern and western United States, Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii was announced by the archbishop. The United States was divided in two, with Fr. Bolduc in charge of half.

It's a busy and challenging life, and Fr. Bolduc enjoys every minute of it, even the thousands of air miles spent traveling from one of the Society's parishes to another.

Soon he will escort 100 pilgrims on the second annual two-week trip to Europe, where they will visit Ecône, Rome, Lourdes, and Assisi.

A summer youth program is conducted on the St. Marys campus for 50 boys from all over the country. They will help with renovations of the buildings and the cleaning of the grounds, as well as participate in sports and receive religious instruction.

In August Archbishop Lefebvre will arrive for a week of traditional Catholic convention and to re-lay the cornerstone of the chapel. Some 2,000 persons are expected.

The boarding school will start in September with a minimum of 200 students.

Farm Project

Another summer project is a 400-acre farm. Fr. Bolduc, who grew up on the Gilford farm of his parents, notes proudly that all food for the campus will be raised on the premises, including pigs, milk and beef cattle, and fruit. Beehives are also being set up.

"Hopefully, in a year we will be completely self-sufficient," he said.

Religious brothers and retired volunteers cheerfully work for nothing. "It seems God has sent us every skill we need," Fr. Bolduc said, "even a resident plumber."

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