



CCR

Committee on Chicano Rights, Inc

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

National City, CA

May 10, 1989

The naming of Bishop Robert H. Brom as bishop for the San Diego Catholic Diocese was labeled by Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR) chairperson Herman Baca as a "Racist decision and an insult to the $\frac{1}{2}$ million parishioners of Mexican ancestry who comprise over 50% of the San Diego Catholic diocese". The decision to name Bishop Blom over Aux. Bishop Gilbert Chavez who has served as the auxiliary Bishop for the last 15 years stated Baca "is not only a racist slap in the face to the Spanish speaking community but is also a clear manifestation that racism and colonialism which has historically afflicted the U.S. Catholic hierarchy is not only alive but continues to flourish". This degrading decision continue Baca is "a clear message to those who struggled in the late 60's and 70's for institutional change and equal representation within the Catholic church for the Spanish Speaking that conservative elements in the church hierarchy are now attempting to turn the clock back by reviving the practice of colonialism and racism as official church policy".

In concluding, Baca stated that "the conservatives have obviously captured the ear of the Pope as seen by the effort to canonize Father Junipero Serra and the Pope turning away from promises made to Chicano Bishops in Rome this year to institute a new deal and major changes for the spanish speaking in the United States".

END

For further information call Herman Baca (619) 474-8195

Chavez is second in U.S.

Mexican-American bishop full of plans to 'rally the people'

Rev. Gilbert Chavez is the second Mexican-American in the U.S. to be named a bishop in the Roman Catholic church.

In April, he was named bishop by Pope Paul VI.

"I WAS stunned," admitted the 42-year-old San Ysidro priest. When he first learned of his promotion as auxiliary bishop to the Most Rev. Leo T. Mahler of San Diego, he "couldn't sleep." The significance of the appointment, said the bishop, is "kind of overwhelming."

Bishop Chavez said his appointment represents successful efforts to bring more Spanish-speaking bishops into the church. The Priest Senate and Sisters Senate, as well as Chicano movements in San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, fought for this appointment.

By bringing more Mexican-Americans into the church, said the mild-mannered Chavez, Catholicism will become "more relevant" to its Spanish-speaking constituency. An estimated 35 to 50 percent of the U.S. Catholic population is Mexican-American, he said.

And in the southland, approximately 400,000 Catholics are Spanish-speaking. Giving these people visible Mexican-American leaders, he hopes, will encourage them to become active in the church.

AS BISHOP, the priest from Our Lady of Guadalupe, will visit southland areas "to organize and rally the people who want to work and support" the church.

One of his goals as bishop is to "be able to get lay people involved" in the Catholic church.

Bishop Chavez would like to see a council express laymen's ideas and views. "Once we have the people united," he feels, "we can solicit funds for different programs."

With this nucleus of church activists, believes Bishop Chavez, "the means and ways" of worthwhile programs will fall in place.

AS AN example of what he would like to see in the southland, Bishop Chavez pointed to the Padre Hildalago Center and Guadalupanas Assn. of San Diego. These associations with which he has been involved, work to develop leaders for the church community.



BISHOP GILBERT CHAVEZ

San Ysidro priest

Through women's vocational training, youth counseling, legal aid, and training for responsible parenthood, he said, "people can be given responsibility to grow and mature in their capacity as involved persons in their community."

Adults and youths should have positive values, believes Bishop Chavez. Parents should impart upon their children "something more positive, something more lasting than daily bread," he said.

Parents should also consider limiting the size of their family, believes Bishop Chavez, "to act as responsible parents to themselves and their community."

Programs similar to those offered in the church-funded San Diego center, he said, should spread to other communities.

BISHOP CHAVEZ anticipates moving on to San Bernardino and Riverside counties "to promote more programs, discover leadership in different communities and encourage them to develop and grow."

The border is another area drawing his attention. Bishop Chavez wants to put personnel at the border crossing to foster better relations between immigration agents and Spanish-speaking people passing through the gate.

Presently, the relationship at the border is "negative" and "authoritative," according to the bishop.

In his three years at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bishop Chavez related directly with the Spanish-speaking community and watched its leaders emerge.

San Ysidro, he stated, does have leadership, though it is not quite united. Progress comes slowly, admitted the former chaplain of a state institution for drug addicts.

SAN YSIDRO is young, he continued, and is experiencing "pains of growth." External divisions among its leaders is "natural," he feels.

Bishop Chavez expects to see those pains reoccur in other Southern California communities. He accepts pain as part of growing up and believes that, "in time, this community will be very dynamic."

When community leaders emerge and become visible, he said, then people can begin to broaden their horizons and clearly see ideals.

Will the emergence of more Mexican-Americans mean a rift in the Catholic Church?

That, replied the bishop, depends on the eyes of the beholder.

"It's symbolic progress," he said. He looks at his appointment as an "answer to the prayers" of the Mexican-American community. For three years, explained, the soft-spoken man, people within the church have been trying to get more Spanish-speaking members into the diocese.

BISHOP CHAVEZ now believes that "sometimes Rome does listen. Once we have two," he said "referring to himself and a Mexican-American bishop in San Antonio, Texas), "other people in other dioceses in other states" will also be promoted.

People in New York, New Mexico, Chicago and Florida will soon begin asking for Spanish-speaking church leaders, he predicts.

"Some people can look at things and call it division," he admitted. "But the emphasis is trying to meet the needs of all persons."

Appointing Mexican-Americans to lead the church is sewing up a division felt by Spanish-speaking Catholics, he said.

"If you try to see things in a positive way, then you see unity."

Chicanos Not Happy With Choice of Bishop!

by Daniel L. Muñoz

Alcala Park - Stating that "it is not easy to leave the diocese of Duluth, where during the past six years he had come to know and love the priests and people," Bishop Robert H. Brom nevertheless said "I am happy to accept the appointment by Pope John Paul the 11nd to be coadjutor of the diocese of San Diego."

With that opening statement, it became official that Bishop Brom would succeed Bishop Maher when he resigns in July 1990 upon reaching his 75th birthday. This is in accordance with Vatican policies which set the mandatory retirement age of its priests at 75.

Pope John Paul II announced his appointment of Bishop Robert H. Brom with "right of succession" to Bishop Leo T. Maher on May 9th, 1989. The appointment was announced by the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, to the United States, Archbishop Pio Laghi at 6 a.m. (EDT) in Washington D.C.

The appointment was received with reservations by many in the Hispanic community. It had been expected that Bishop Gilberto

Chavez had been serving as Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego and Titular Bishop of Magarmel since April 16, 1974, would be appointed as coadjutor and succeed Bishop Maher upon his retirement. To Chicanos, the San Diego Diocese is a logical place to have a Hispanic Bishop. The Catholic population in San Diego is well over 850,000. Of this, 463,000 are registered in the rolls of the church. Of those registered, over 56% are Chicanos-Hispanics. The other are so call "social Catholics" i.e. they attend Easter and Christmas Services, weddings and funerals. The biggest inroads by the Evangelical churches in San Diego, has been with the "social Catholics". The Mexican American/Hispanic has been the most heavily proslytized group in the County and it shows in the growing rolls of the Evangelical churches.

He has denied him the power to carry out the duties and responsibilities of his office. Nor, has he provided him with staffing to do the job. For all intent and purposes, Aux. Bishop Chavez has been a captive prisoner of Bishop Maher." The regulation of the Catholic church say that the Auxiliary Bishop, the Vicar General is an Episcopal Bishop i.e. has all the powers, rights, facilities, staffing and financing necessary to service his vicariate. However, the Ordinary can and does have the authority to deny him his rights. As has well been documented, the Catholic Church is not a democracy. "Bishop Chavez has received little or no consideration from the Ordinary. This or course means that he doesn't consider us (the Hispanics) either. Bishop Chavez has been muzzled from the beginning. He has been denied all avenues to function as a Vicar. Perhaps it is because he subscribes to the "Theology of Liberation," which many of the Latino American Priests in the U.S. and Latin America subscribe to. Perhaps he fears him because of his support for the poor, for his struggle for

Chicanos Voice Opinions On Bishop's Appointment

(Con't from pg 1)

for Hispanic catholics. A few months ago he met in Rome with Aux. Bishop Gilberto Chavez, Bishop Joseph Madera, Fresno Diocese, Aux. Bishop Juan Arzube and Armando Ochoa, Los Angeles Diocese, Aux. Bishop Alfonso Gallegos, Sacramento Diocese and the Vicar for the Spanish Speaking in Orange County, Tomas Clavel and once again stated his support to strengthen the Hispanic church in America. His naming of Bishop Brom along with his cannonization of Father Juniper Sierra, who is considered the biggest slayer of Indians, demonstrates the falsity of his statements," said Baca.

To, Baca and other Chicanos, the appointment of Bishop Brom is a clear manifestation that racism and colonialism as a policy is alive and well in the U.S. Catholic church. "The conservative American Catholic church is attempting to turn the clock back," said Baca. "It took the American Catholic Church over 500 years to recognize the Virgin of Guadalupe." It took them just a little less than that to ordain and appoint Hispanics to the church hierarchy. Now local conservative Bishops are attempting to eliminate the gains that Chicanos and Hispanics have made within the Catholic church." Baca ended by noting that perhaps it was time to resurrect "Los Catholics por La Raza," which galvanized the

Hispanic Catholic to move against the church and force it to heed his needs in the 60's and 70's.

Father X said "This appointment does not come directly from the Pope. He relies on the selection by the Congress of Bishops, in Rome. In turn, the Congress of Bishops is sent nominations by Archbishop George Mahoney, Los Angeles diocese, from Bishop Leo T. Maher, and the Pro-Nuncio, Pio Lehi who sends on the recommendations from these two. It is our understanding that Bishop Maher personally went to Rome with substantial amounts of money for the Congress in order to ease the selection of Bishop Brom," he said.

According to Hispanic Catholics of this Diocese, over a 100 letters were sent to

ArchBishop Mahoney, who has the most say in these matters requesting that a Spanish-speaking Bishop be designated.

Failing that, to appoint a Bishop that was familiar with the Hispanic culture, the language and the relationships between Mexico and the U.S., in particular the border regions. Bishop Maher did not ask for any opinions from the Hispanic community.

The retirement of Bishop Maher in 1990 presented a prime opportunity for the church to show committment to the 20 million Hispanics of America. . . It failed to do so. The next time there may be an opening is not until 2013! By that time, many in the Hispanic community may no longer care. The Shepard may have lost his flock by then.

E. Chavez who had been serving as Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego and Titular Bishop of Magarmel since April 16, 1974, would be appointed as coadjutor and succeed Bishop Maher upon his retirement.

To Chicanos, the San Diego Diocese is a logical place to have a Hispanic Bishop. The Catholic population in San Diego is well over 850,000. Of this, 463,000 are registered in the rolls of the church. Of those registered, over 56% are Chicanos-Hispanics. The other are so call "social Catholics" i.e. they attend Easter and Christmas Services, weddings and funerals. The biggest inroads by the Evangelical churches in San Diego, has been with the "social Catholics". The Mexican American/Hispanic has been the most heavily proslytized group in the County and it shows in the growing rolls of the Evangelical churches.

"Participation of Hispanics within the diocese is down. Part of the reason lies in the fact that Aux. Bishop Chavez, who is the Vicar for the Spanish speaking in this diocese, has not been allowed to function," stated Father X (name withheld at Priest's request for fear of retribution). The Ordinary (Bishop Maher) has not provided him with the funds to service the Hispanic commu-

social justice, for social causes," pointed out Father X.

To this reporter it was obvious that something was remiss when it became known that Aux. Bishop Gilberto Chavez was not present nor invited to the press conference announcing the appointment of the Very Reverend Robert H. Brom of Duluth, Minn. to become Coadjutor Bishop of the See of San Diego.

This was perceived as a direct insult to Bishop Gilberto Chavez and the Hispanic community. A serious blow to the aspirations and hopes of the Hispanic Catholic community has been delt.

Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights (CCR), who in cooperation with many catholic groups and individuals in the 60's and 70's protested against the racist and discriminatory policies of the Catholic Church, calls the selection of Bishop Brom a racist decision.

"The appointment of Bishop Brom points out that racism is alive and flourishing in the Catholic Church. Pope Paul 11'nd traveled throughout the Southwest and met with thousands upon thousands of Mexican American catholics. Upon leaving here, he said that a new deal would be in offering

(See Chicanos, pg 6)

Religion

Racism involved in selection of Brom, Chicano group says

By Robert Di Veroli
Tribune Religion Writer

A spokesman for a Chicano organization says racism was involved in the selection of a non-Hispanic as next bishop of the San Diego Catholic Diocese, but two San Diego Mexican-American priests deny the charge.

Herman Baca, spokesman for the Committee on Chicano Rights, says the naming of Bishop Robert Brom of Duluth, Minn., as coadjutor bishop of the San Diego Diocese constitutes "an insult" to Hispanic Catholics.

Baca called Pope John Paul II's appointment of Brom over San Diego Auxiliary Bishop Gilbert E. Chavez "a racist slap in the face to the Spanish-speaking community...."

Numerous telephone calls to Chavez went unanswered. As coadjutor, Brom has the right to succeed San Diego Bishop Leo T. Maher when Maher, who reaches the mandatory retirement age of 75 on July 1, leaves office.

Brom's appointment is "a clear message to those who struggled in the late '60s and '70s for institutional change and equal representation within the Catholic Church for Spanish-speaking that conservative elements in the

church hierarchy are now attempting to turn the clock back by reviving the practice of colonialism and racism as official church policy," Baca said in a prepared statement.

But the Rev. Ramon Marrufo, associate pastor at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, said race was not a factor in the appointment.

"I don't think it's a racially inspired decision at all," said Marrufo, a second-generation Mexican-American.

"I don't know Bishop Brom that well. I just know him from the retreat he conducted last year for San Diego priests, and I was really impressed with the man in his sensitivity to people, especially in regard to minorities.

"I think he greatly expressed that when he stated that his first priority in coming to San Diego was not only to learn how to speak Spanish, but to understand the culture of the Hispanic person.

"I think Mr. Baca's statement comes from another hidden agenda and certainly does not express the sentiments of most Hispanic priests or people."

Marrufo said he hasn't heard any clergy or lay complaints about Brom's appointment from his own parish, which is 70 percent Hispanic, or the neighboring Our

Lady of Guadalupe parish, which is almost 100 percent Hispanic.

A Mexican-American priest who did not wish to be identified questioned the implication that Hispanics will respond positively only to an Hispanic bishop.

"You don't have to be a Mexican to work with Mexicans," he said. "You don't have to be Chinese to work with Chinese. I think Brom's going to be a wonderful, excellent bishop for all Hispanics. I don't know why people say things like that."

Baca estimates the number of Catholics of Mexican ancestry in the San Diego Diocese at 500,000, but the San Diego Catholic Diocese lists only 460,000 Catholics for the entire diocese, which covers San Diego and Imperial counties. A diocesan spokesman said he did not know how many were of Mexican ancestry.

A 1979 study conducted for the diocese indicated that 22 percent of Hispanic Catholics regularly attended Sunday Mass.

Dan Muñoz, publisher of the Spanish-language weekly, *La Prensa*, said Hispanics are disappointed that Chavez, named an auxiliary in 1974, was not named Maher's suc-

cessor.

"This man (Brom) knows nothing about Hispanic culture, nothing about Latin-America, nothing about the issues that confront the 20 million Latinos in American society," Muñoz said.

"This is an attempt to throttle Hispanic Catholics, to maintain the growing Latin-American population on this continent in the position of flock, but never shepherd."

Brom announced last week he will spend about three months studying Spanish and Hispanic culture before taking up his duties here, probably in late October. He said he was looking into the possibility of studying at a school in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Several members of the American hierarchy are Hispanics, notably Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio. Among the other Hispanic prelates are Bishop Rene Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas; Bishop Joseph Madera of Fresno, Calif.; Bishop Manuel Moreno of Tucson, Ariz.; Bishop Raymundo Pena of El Paso, Texas; Bishop Arthur Tafoya of Pueblo, Colo.; Auxiliary Bishop Juan Arzube of Los Angeles; and Auxiliary Bishop Alphonse Gallegos of Sacramento.

Bishop Brom 'not to be pushed around'

By Robert Di Veroli *E.T. 5/10/89*
Tribune Religion Writer

Those who have worked with Roman Catholic Bishop Robert Brom or lived in his Diocese of Duluth, Minn., say he leaves no doubts about who's running things.

How that will play in the San Diego Diocese when Brom assumes his new role of coadjutor this October will be determined in the months and years ahead. But today, a picture emerges of a gentle, deeply spiritual, thoughtful bishop, who charitably, but firmly knows how to assert his authority.

"Bishop Brom is definitely not a guy to push around," said one Duluth Diocese priest. "He will not tolerate that sort of thing, period. He just won't.

"He's a man who allows you to operate within the broad parameters of

the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), but if you have a problem with those and you want to do your own thing, he will not permit it."

Brom, who was introduced at a news conference yesterday at the diocesan offices here, said in an interview later that he rejects the authoritarian label.

"I prefer 'clear,' instead, clear on the official teachings of the church," he said.

He said he does not hesitate "to call dissent dissent... I won't waffle on that. There are some on the other end who think that's authoritarian, but I think it's just simply being clear about what the church teaches."

Brom, 50, will be installed as coadjutor of the 392,000-member San Diego Diocese July 24 at the Immaculata Catholic Church. He said he

will study Spanish and Hispanic culture for about three months before assuming his full-time duties.

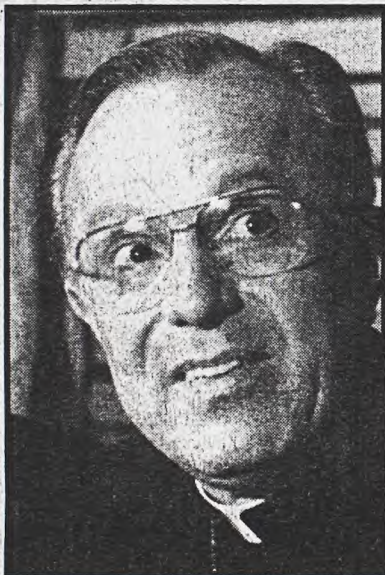
As coadjutor, Brom has the right to succeed San Diego Bishop Leo T. Maher July 1, 1990, when Maher reaches the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Mahe he will remain the bishop in charge, but he will consult with Brom on all major matters.

Although he is months away from assuming his San Diego Diocese duties, Brom already appears to have made his presence felt.

He announced yesterday that he will live at St. Francis Seminary rather than the \$507,000 house in Kensington purchased for him by the diocese and which Maher said yesterday is now for sale.

Mahe said later in an interview *Please see BROM: B-8, Col. 1*



BISHOP ROBERT BROM
Knows how to assert authority

Metro news

BROM: *Papal loyalist on church teachings*

Continued From B-1

that when he retires in 1990, he will live at the Nazareth House Retirement Home, operated by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth, on property near Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá.

He said the bishop's three-story Sunset Boulevard residence will be sold.

Brom is regarded as a papal loyalist on birth control, abortion, women priests, homosexuality and other church teachings and believes in following church practices or in seeking to change them through accepted procedures.

One such practice that has surfaced in many dioceses — the use of altar girls — was widespread in the Duluth Diocese before he went there in 1983. Another is the substitution of

general absolution for private individual confession.

Brom said he put an end to both when he took over in Duluth because they violated Vatican directives and were causing "disharmony" in the diocese.

The Duluth Diocese priest said it would be "interesting" to see how Brom handles the question of priestly homosexuality in San Diego, which some San Diego priests claim is a serious problem.

"When he first came here, he told his priests you've all taken the vow of celibacy, and I expect you to keep it," he said. "If you have any problems with that, we'll deal with it one way or another."

"He won't tolerate a priest who's not going to live according to the vows he's taken. It'll be interesting to

see how he does out there."

On another issue of wide concern in the American church, Brom said he believes a bishop has the right to superintend the teaching of faith and morals at a Catholic college or university.

He said he does not believe, as many Catholic university officials have contended, that this would constitute an unwarranted outside interference in the internal affairs of such a university.

"I think it's at the heart of Catholic education," he said.

Brom said he expects his work will be basically the same in San Diego as in Duluth, though on a larger scale. "given the size of the diocese and pluralism in terms of racial and ethnic groups and so on."

San Diego's next bishop named

Brom, 50, appointed coadjutor by pope



Duluth News-Tribune photo

BISHOP ROBERT BROM
Hands-on, take-charge priest

By Robert Di Veroli

Tribune Religion Writer

Bishop Robert H. Brom of Duluth, Minn., described as a hands-on, take-charge priest who advocates strict adherence to church teachings, has been appointed coadjutor bishop of the San Diego Roman Catholic Diocese by Pope John Paul II.

As coadjutor, Brom, 50, will become bishop of San Diego when the position is vacated by Bishop Leo T. Maher, it was announced today in Washington, D.C., by the pope's ambassador, Archbishop Pio Laghi.

Maher, San Diego bishop since 1969, will reach the mandatory retirement age of 75 on July 1, 1990.

Brom has been bishop of Duluth, a 22,354-square-mile diocese with 100 parishes, 88,380 Catholics and 110 priests, since March 25, 1983. In San Diego, he will help lead a 9,439-square-mile diocese with 98 parishes, 392,709 Catholics and 363 priests.

San Diego diocesan sources said Brom already has displayed his independence by announcing that he will not live in the \$500,000 Mediterranean-style Kensington Park home purchased for him by the diocese at Maher's instigation and will live at St. Francis Seminary in Alcala Park instead.

A San Diego priest said that apparently the house "is just not his style."

Please see BISHOP: A-6, Col. 1

E.T. 5-9-89

BISHOP

Continued From Page 1

Minnesota sources said that when Brom went to Duluth in 1983, he sold the large bishop's residence there and moved into a modest single-family residence, where he lives alone and cooks his own meals.

Brom, a native of Arcadia, Minn., went to Duluth after nine years as a professor and rector of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn.

He graduated from St. Mary's College in Winona, studied in Rome at the Gregorian University and North American College and was ordained in Rome on Dec. 18, 1963.

In Winona, Brom was chairman of the diocesan liturgy commission, president of the Priests Senate, vocations director, director of continuing education of priests and vicar general.

He was rector of the Winona cathedral from 1979 until his appointment as Duluth's bishop.

Minnesota sources said Brom knows Italian and Latin, but not Spanish.

A Duluth Diocese priest who did not wish to be identified by name described Brom as papal loyalist, "a man of fidelity, hard work and strength" who does not shrink from the proper use of episcopal authority.

"Brom is very loyal to the Holy Father," he said. "He would always seek to carry out the wishes of the Holy Father."

He has also been described as a man of courage and one able "to stand on his own" against criticism when he believes he is in the right.

Brom is seen as a doctrinally orthodox bishop and admirer of the pope who supports traditional church teachings against contraception, abortion, female priests and homosexuality. It is said he does not, however, go out of his way to speak out on those issues or to seek confrontation over them.

One of his first moves in Duluth was to prohibit excessive use of general, or mass, absolution as a substitute for individual private confession and absolution for sins. He is also known to be against the use of altar girls.

The Vatican does not permit altar girls and allows general absolution only when insufficient priests are available to hear confessions.

Friends and critics agreed that Brom will not tolerate homosexually active priests in a diocese where homosexuality among the clergy has

Pastor recalls Brom's story

Keillor's 'storm child' tale left impression of bishop's compassion

There was something about Duluth, Minn., Bishop Robert H. Brom that stayed with the Rev. Robert Campbell.

The occasion was the 1988 retreat for priests of the San Diego Diocese that Brom conducted at the University of San Diego.

It was there that Campbell, associate pastor of St. Joseph's Cathedral, said he gained some insight into Brom, who was introduced today as the successor to Bishop Leo T. Maher when Maher retires as head of the San Diego Diocese next year.

It all began, Campbell said, when Brom told the priests he was a fan of Garrison Keillor, the humorist who made Minnesota rural life and Lake Wobegon famous.

"He told us a Garrison Keillor story that was highly significant," said Campbell, who is a Dominican order priest.

It was Keillor's "storm child" story.

"He told about how the storms would sometimes get so bad up there in Minnesota that kids couldn't find their way home after school," Campbell said. "As a result, they were assigned a home in the immediate neighborhood where they could stay," he recalled.

been described as "blatant" by some priests.

"I'd say he absolutely would not tolerate active homosexuals in the priesthood," said a Minnesota Catholic layman who knows Brom.

The Duluth Diocese priest said Brom also would be unlikely to approve lectures by dissenting theologians on a Catholic college campus.

"Bishop Brom is definitely not a

"The people who work with him will have no doubt eventually about who's in charge," one of the laymen said.

Liturgically, Brom is regarded as avant-garde. He is said to be cool toward the Tridentine Latin Mass, for instance. This may be of concern to the 300 to 400 Catholics who attend a Sunday Latin Mass at the Holy Cross Cemetery Chapel. Another

"He told us of how Garrison goes to this house, and family takes him in and gives him milk and cookies and all the rest of it, something that made a terrific impression on him.

"I remember the bishop said that ever since he retold that story, whenever someone comes to his door asking for help he thinks of that person as his storm child," Campbell said.

The story was "very, very significant" because it showed that Brom not only understood compassion theory, but "in its immediate practical sense," Campbell said.

"I found it very helpful to me personally, because since the bishop told us that story, I've tried to think of every one that comes to our doors as a 'storm-child,' and we give a lot of them."

Campbell said the downtown cathedral, because it is next door to Catholic Community Services, sees a great many homeless and other "storm people."

"It (the Brom story) helps you to see the person in quite a different aspect," Campbell said.

— Robert Di Ver

San Diego diocesan sources said Brom already has displayed his independence by announcing that he will not live in the \$500,000 Mediterranean-style Kensington Park home purchased for him by the diocese at Maher's instigation and will live at St. Francis Seminary in Alcala Park instead

guy to push around," he said. "He will not tolerate that sort of thing, period. He just won't."

However, a lay source said Brom would probably do "nothing" about such appearances.

He said Brom is more likely to identify with the conservative wing than with the liberal wing of the American hierarchy, though he has kept a low profile as a member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Brom is widely viewed as a man of great personal charm and appeal, but also as a bishop who does not hesitate to assert his authority.

such Mass is sponsored by the Latin Liturgy Association monthly at different locations.

Brom met many San Diego clergymen when he conducted their annual retreat last year at the University of San Diego.

"His orthodoxy came through very strongly, so much so that some of the younger liberal priests criticized him," one San Diego priest said. "That's a good sign right there."

"I had a chance to talk to him and was very impressed. He's very personable, easy to talk to."

The priest said Brom is known as a "hands-on" bishop who takes an ac-

tive interest in his priests' work.

"The Irish priests here are not happy about it, because apparently in his diocese he doesn't let the priests get away with much," he said. "He keeps close tabs on them, and they don't like it. They're not used to something like that here."

The Duluth Diocese priest said San Diego clergymen will find Brom easy to work with unless they cannot accept authority.

Said the priest: "He's a bishop who says, 'These are my guidelines, and as long as you operate within my guidelines, you're OK. If you don't, you're in trouble.'"

A longtime Minnesota priest said that, "by and large, I think people have liked him in Duluth." In particular he praised Brom for his "courage" in helping find places in other seminaries for several seminarians who felt unwelcome at the liberal diocesan seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

In the process, Brom antagonized St. Paul Archbishop John R. Roach, the priest said.

"I think what he did took courage," he said. "Of all the bishops in Minnesota, he probably is the most orthodox."

"When you're a bishop, you have to get along with other bishops. On the other hand, I think this man has enough courage that he can stand on his own without picking a fight with somebody."