

FULL TEXT OF RULES BY POPE ON DRESS

12 Orders Form First Definite Outline of World-Wide Pol- icy on Women's Garb.

TODAY'S FASHIONS SCORED

Pius XI Several Times Called for Reform in Feminine Apparel —Bishops Also Aroused.

INSTRUCTIONS ARE ON WAY

Prelates and Laymen Commanded to Bring Change in Attire of Cath- olic Women and Girls.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
ROME, Feb. 16.—Pope Pius XI has on several occasions strongly condemned current feminine fashions and similar action has been taken by Catholic Bishops both in Italy and other countries, but the papal criticism has never been accompanied by regulations to remedy the situation. The instructions now being sent to Catholic Bishops and laymen by the Sacred Congregation of the Council, which controls the observance of precepts of the Church, are important as being the first definite outline of policy by the Church in the matter of women's dress.

Following is a translation of the complete text of the instructions, a summary of which was printed in THE NEW YORK TIMES Saturday:

INSTRUCTIONS TO ORDINARIES OF DIOCESES ON WOMEN'S IMMODEST FASHION OF DRESS.

By virtue of the supreme apostolate which he wields over the Universal Church by Divine will, our most holy father Pope Pius XI has never ceased to inculcate, both verbally and by his writings, the words of St. Paul [I Timothy, xi, 9, 10], namely, "Women * * * adorning themselves with modesty and sobriety * * * and professing godliness with good works."

Very often, when occasion arose, the same Supreme Pontiff condemned emphatically the immodest fashion of dress adopted even by Catholic women and girls, which fashion not only deeply offends the dignity and adornment of woman but is conducive to the temporal ruin of the said females and, what is still worse, to their eternal ruin, miserably dragging others in their downfall. It is not surprising, therefore, that bishops and other ordinaries, as is the duty of ministers of Christ, should all in their own dioceses unanimously have opposed this depraved licentiousness and promiscuity of manners, often bearing with fortitude the derision and mockery leveled against them for this cause.

Therefore this Sacred Council, which watches over the discipline

of clergy and people, while cordially commending the action of the Holy Bishops, most emphatically exhorts them to persevere in their attitude and increase their activities in so far as their strength permits, in order that this unwholesome disease be definitely uprooted from human society.

Twelve Rules on Dress.

In order to facilitate the effect which is desired, this Sacred Congregation, by the mandate of the most Holy Father, has decreed as follows:

1. The parish priest, and especially the preacher, when occasion arises, according to the words of the Apostle Paul [Second Epistle to Timothy, Chapter IV, Verse 2], should insist, argue, exhort and command that feminine garb be based on modesty and their ornament be a defense of virtue. Let them likewise admonish parents to cause their daughters to cease wearing indecorous dress.

2. Parents, conscious of their most grave obligations toward the education of their offspring, especially religious and moral, should see to it that their daughters are solidly instructed since their earliest childhood in Christian doctrine, and they themselves should assiduously inculcate in their souls, by words and example, the love of the virtues of modesty and chastity; as to their family following the example of the Sacred Family, they must rule in such a manner that all its components brought up in the domestic walls should find reason and an incentive to love and preserve modesty.

3. Let parents keep their daughters away from public gymnastic games and competitions, but if their daughters are compelled to attend the same, let them see that they are fully and modestly dressed. Let them never allow their daughters to don immodest garb.

4. The head mistresses and teachers in girls' schools must do their utmost to instill the love of modesty in the hearts of maidens confided to their care and urge them to dress modestly.

5. The said head mistresses and teachers must not receive in their colleges and schools immodestly dressed girls, and should not even make an exception for the mothers of their pupils. If, after being admitted, girls persist in dressing immodestly, then the pupils should be dismissed.

6. Nuns, in compliance with the letter dated Aug. 23, 1928, by the Sacred Congregation of Religious, must not receive in their colleges, schools, oratories or recreation grounds, or, if once admitted, they must not tolerate girls who are not dressed with Christian modesty; the said nuns, in addition, should do their utmost so that in the hearts of their pupils there should become deeply rooted the love for holy chastity and Christian modesty.

7. It is desirable that pious organizations of women be founded, which by their counsel, example and propaganda should combat the wearing of apparel unsuited to Christian modesty, and should promote purity of customs and modesty of dress.

8. In the pious associations of women, let those not be admitted who dress immodestly, but if, perchance, they are received, and after being admitted fall again to their error, let them be forthwith dismissed.

9. Maidens and women dressed immodestly are to be banned from Holy Communion and from acting as godmothers in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation and, if it be an extreme case, may be even forbidden to enter the Church.

Urges Prayers for Modesty.

10. During the year there occur feast days which give special op-

portunity to instill Christian modesty, especially the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parish priests and priests of the pious unions and associations of Catholic women should not neglect to exhort them to adopt a Christian mode of dress. Moreover, every year on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, special prayers should be said in all cathedrals and parish churches together with, if possible, opportune exhortations to the people in solemn sermons.

11. The Diocesan Council of Vigilance, of which mention was made in a declaration of the Holy Office of March 22, 1922, should at least once a year seek the best means to preserve the modesty of feminine dress.

12. In order that this salutary action should be even more efficacious and have more satisfactory results, on every third year Bishops and other ordinaries, together with their report on religious instruction, of which mention was made in the motu proprio letters, "Orbem Catholicum," dated June 29, 1923, should likewise report to this Sacred Congregation with precise reference to conditions in regards to the mode of dress as well as on measures taken according to our instructions on this subject.

Given at Rome in the palace of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, on the twelfth of January, on the Feast of the Sacred Family, in the year 1930.

DANATO CARDINAL
SBARRETTI, Prefect.