

No Forgiveness 'Directly From God,' Pope Says

By DON A. SCHANCHE, *Times Staff Writer*

VATICAN CITY—Rebutting a belief widely shared by Protestants and a growing number of Roman Catholics, Pope John Paul II on Tuesday dismissed the "widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God" and exhorted Catholics to confess more often to their priests.

The pontiff issued a major document calling for "the restoration of a proper sense of sin" in a world "shattered to its very foundations" by evils ranging from social discrimination to nuclear stockpiling.

Officially called an "apostolic exhortation," the 138-page papal document focuses on the sacrament of reconciliation and penance, informally known as confession—an obligation of all Catholics that has increasingly fallen into disuse, especially in the industrial countries.

Changing life styles, particularly in advanced countries such as the United States, have led some priests to administer "general absolution" of whole congregations instead of hearing traditional individual confessions.

But the Pope warned against that trend, saying, "This form cannot become an ordinary one." The papal document said general absolution can be applicable only in

special circumstances or in places where there is no permanent priest.

"Confession of sins must ordinarily be individual and not collective, just as sin is a deeply personal matter," the papal document said.

"The restoration of a proper sense of sin is the first way of facing the grave spiritual crisis looming over man today," the pontiff wrote, linking many of the evils of the modern world to sin "in man's inmost self."

Touching Other Themes

Although the document is primarily devoted to individual confession of sins, the pontiff used it to expound, as well, on social and political themes that often have concerned him in the past.

He deplored the "stockpiling of conventional or atomic weapons" as well as human rights abuses, terrorism, torture, violence and discrimination. He also condemned the Marxist concept of class struggle, raised by liberal theologians in Latin America and other Third World areas in defining the church's mission to the poor and downtrodden.

"Class struggle, whoever the person who leads it or on occasion seeks to give it a theoretical justifi-

cation, is a social evil," John Paul wrote in the new document.

The church formally condemned Marxist elements of so-called liberation theology in a major pronouncement in September by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the pontiff elaborated on the theme during visits to Canada and the Dominican Republic in September and October.

In the document made public Tuesday, the Pope added, "Likewise, obstinate confrontation between blocs of nations, between one nation and another, between different groups within the same nation—all this, too, is a social evil."

He encouraged "dialogues with one another for the sake of reconciliation in the midst of the many conflicts."

The apostolic exhortation, which was defined by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini of Milan at a press briefing as an "authoritative papal statement," was the outgrowth of a worldwide conference of Catholic bishops called by the Pope last year to study the sacrament of reconciliation and penance. It was issued in Latin, Italian, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, English and Polish.

**HERE IS THE BIBLE PROPHECY TELLING ABOUT THE ABOVE MENTIONED.
WE ARE NOT TO BE TROUBLED UNTIL WE SEE THIS HAPPEN.**

CHAPTER 2

NOW we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

PROPHECY FULFILLED BEFORE YOUR EYE'S

(II Thes. 2:1-8)

THIS HAPPENED WHEN THE LARGE DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES JOINED THE ONE-WORLD CHURCH WHICH IS HEADED BY THE ANTI-CHRIST (THE VATICAN).