

High Posts for Men Only

# Vatican Refuses to Accreditate Woman Envoy From Bonn

VATICAN CITY, Jan. 25 (Reuters).—The Vatican has refused to grant accreditation to a West German diplomat, because she is a woman, a Vatican spokesman said today.

Confirming reports about the rejection by the Secretariat of State of Mrs. Elisabeth Muller's application for accreditation, the spokesman said the Vatican made it clear it would prefer to respect the tradition by which only men hold high-ranking diplomatic posts to the Holy See.

The Bonn government had proposed Mrs. Muller, 44, head of the Bonn commercial delegation in Prague for three years, as "counsellor second class" in the West German Embassy to the Vatican.

Counsellors have frequent contacts with the Secretariat of State, headed by Jean Cardinal Villot, 64, and often attend receptions at which high-ranking prelates are present.

Vatican sources said the Dutch Embassy to the Holy See had a female attache, but pointed out that this was a lower-ranking post.

Two days ago, the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said that the Roman Catholic Church would cease to exist if it gave in to demands for women to be priests.

A front-page article by Father Divo Barsotti said Christ himself chose men, and not women, for such work.

The article was published 16 days after the Catholic Pastoral Council of Holland voted for the progressive integration of women into the priesthood.

Meanwhile, another woman, 19th-century Spanish nun Maria Soledad Torres Acosta, was today proclaimed a saint by Pope Paul VI in a solemn ceremony in Saint Peter's Basilica.

## Appointment Withdrawn

BONN, Jan. 25 (UPI).—West Germany has withdrawn its appointment of Mrs. Muller, the Foreign Ministry confirmed today.

Mrs. Muller will remain at her post in Prague. The position she was to have taken in the Vatican remains unfilled,