

Head Cover Still Must for Catholic Women

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship said Saturday women still must cover their heads in church.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Annibale Bugnini said reports on May 2 that the Vatican had ended the 1,900-year-old rule were "false, a terrible mistake."

Msgr. Bugnini said the rule for covered heads was in the canon law codes and had not been changed.

On May 2 the Vatican issued a decree of Pope Paul VI—titled *Missale Romanum-Roman Missal*—which listed many changes in the Mass instituted since the Vatican Ecumenical Council. The missal replaced one issued in 1570 by Pope Pius V.

Pope Paul's decree did not mention covering heads during Mass. Vatican experts said at the time that such an omission amounted to repeal of the rule. Father Bugnini had been among those quoted as saying so.

"This is absolutely untrue," Msgr. Bugnini said Saturday.

"The decree did not mention head covers because it had nothing to do with them. They are included in the canon law codes."

Canon No. 1262 of the code says: "Men in church or outside when attending a holy rite must be with their heads uncovered unless local traditions of the peoples prescribe differently or particular circumstances suggest they be covered."

"The women must have their heads covered and be dressed modestly, particularly when receiving the Holy Communion."

"This law has never been changed," Msgr. Bugnini said. He said the reports that the rule had been eliminated derived from misunderstandings.

The Vatican press spokesman, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fausto Vallaino, said the canon law codes now are being revised by a special commission.