

Law, Not War, Seen Way To Peace, Unity In World

Washington — (NC) — The following is the full text of the statement entitled "Peace, Unity — The Hope of Mankind," issued by the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States at the close of their annual meeting here:

Peace, Unity — The Hope of Mankind

Once again in our time the alarm bell is ringing in the night. The world, inured as it is to tragedy, is apprized of tragedy still more profound. In the events of this hour at which the Bishops of the American hierarchy meet in annual session, they and all men concerned with human welfare under God read the threat of catastrophe so dire as to destroy the last bulwarks of civilization.

One voice, urgent and clear, has made itself heard above the tumult of the nations. The Common Father of Christendom, Pope Pius XII, has spoken out with unhesitating forthrightness. To those peoples who have been made the victims of a brutality so gross as to defy historic comparison, he has addressed words of compassion which could only come from a father's heart. To those nations bent upon aggression and which have ignored the sacred rights of humanity and the instruments of justice upon which they rest, he has issued stern warning of their madness.

To all whether inspired by selfish interest or led astray by rash counsel, who would jeopardize the delicate balance of world peace he has recalled the primacy of law and order in the settlement of human disagreements.

In this crisis we can only add our voice to his. We echo his burning reproof of those who have dared to unleash the hounds of war in a world which has already suffered so long and so bitterly. With him we denounce with all our strength this fresh outbreak of aggression which sets at utter defiance the hard-won concord of the nations for the sake of a wing of international banditry. With him we plead for a renewal of that basic sanity among men and nations which will establish peace upon its only enduring foundations of justice and charity.

With him we urge upon the world not the counsels of despair which would describe the situation as beyond salvation, but the promise of a better hope implicit in the dawn of recognition of human solidarity under the universal fatherhood of God.

We share his anguish for those whose unmerited sufferings have again filled the cup of human misery to overflowing. Our eyes follow his as he surveys the ravaged cities, the desolated countryside, the charred ruins of a thousand homes and shrines. We count with him the ghastly casualties of modern warfare, the broken bodies, the dead in their silent windrows.

Foremost, inevitably, in our thinking are the heroic people of Hungary. For centuries they have been a bastion of Christendom against the outer perils, and for centuries their blood has been spilled for the ideal of a united Christian society. Now again they have received the full brunt of a calculated fury and have written a matchless chapter in the annals of freedom. To them, in their darkest hour, we offer the sympathy of our common faith and we pledge our unremitting efforts to help them achieve that ultimate liberty for which their sons and daughters have died, surely not in vain.

Grim Realism
It is not mere rhetoric to say, at this juncture the world is poised on the brink of disaster: it is grim realism. Yet war in modern terms would be a nightmare of unimaginable horrors. It can only annihilate;

Vatican Library Issues Bible Film

Rome — (NC) — A documentary film showing how the texts of the Gospels were transmitted through the centuries, from apostolic times to the present, has been completed here.

The film was made under the auspices of the Vatican Library. For the first time some of the most precious manuscripts of the New Testament will appear on the screen in color, among them the famous "Codex Vaticanus," a 14th-century Biblical Text, and the Carolingian Bible, a richly illuminated manuscript now kept at the Abbey of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls in Rome.

It has no power to solve our problems. If, in the ultimate resort, it is the duty of man to resist naked aggression, still it is obvious that every possible means consistent with divine law and human dignity must be employed and exhausted to avert the final arbitrament of nuclear warfare.

It has been the hope of humankind that a means adequate to the necessity might be found in the concert of the United Nations. This is neither the time nor the place to review its history or to pass judgment on its achievement. If there have been mistakes in its decisions and faltering in its procedures, that is no more than a commentary on our human condition. The fact remains that it offers the only present promise we have for sustained peace in our time; peace with any approximation of justice.

The implication of our Holy Father's recent impassioned messages, clearly revealed in their context, is that the nations must employ their unity with such revived strength and purpose as to banish the specter of war. It is division which tempts the aggressor; it is unity which gives him pause. Nothing could be conceived more disheartening for the cause of peace, nothing more discreditable to the honor of nations which have pledged themselves to peace, than the disunity which threatens to disrupt our immediate counsels and dissipates our strength.

With the Sovereign Pontiff we recognize the urgency of prompt and effective intervention to silence the guns of war and to enforce the pacific arbitration of conflicting claims.

With him, also, we emphasize the paramount need for a heightened concept of the universal validity of law among nations as among men. For unless God and His justice are acknowledged as basic to the very substance of law, there is no foundation upon which men may hope to build a lasting citadel of peace. There, for those who will read it, is the



Cardinal Wields Gavel

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Bringing down the gavel at the opening session of the annual meeting here of the American Hierarchy is Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York. With him are (l. to r.) Cardinal McIntyre, of Los Angeles, and Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

Our President, indeed, has set a pattern of vigorous leadership, and has emphasized many of the points which have been dwelt upon by Pope Pius XII. He too is alert to the overriding need of a developed reverence for international law, clearly mindful, as he stressed in his recent address to the American people, that without law there can be no peace. "If you wish peace," said the pagan axiom, "prepare for war." Christianity has revised that saying: "If you wish peace, prepare for peace." Though the hour is late in

deed, it is not yet too late. There is the Divinity which governs the destinies of this world, and the supreme folly is to leave God out of our reckoning.

As the Bishops of the United States we solemnly call upon the faithful throughout the land to pledge themselves to a veritable crusade of prayer. Let it be for the specific ends that international sanity will triumph over war; that justice may be vindicated by the nations united under law; and that our own beloved country, under God, may lead the way to that better hope for all mankind. Nor let us forget those who have suffered and who suffer now; that out of the crucible of their sacrifice may come the mingled gold of freedom. We stand with the Vicar of Christ and our prayer is for peace for our country and all the world — a peace with justice and charity.

Signed by the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference, in the name of the Bishops of the United States:
Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit.
Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.
Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.
James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles.
Francis F. Keough, Archbishop of Baltimore.
Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington.
Joseph E. Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis.
John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Archbishop of Philadelphia.
Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.
Leo Binz, Archbishop of Dubuque.
Matthew F. Brady, Bishop of Manchester.
Emmet M. Walsh, Bishop of Youngstown.
Thomas K. Gorman, Bishop of Dallas-Forth Worth.
Michael J. Ready, Bishop of Columbus.

Church Marks Gains In South Carolina

Greenville, S. C. — (NC) — The Catholic population of South Carolina has increased from 17,000 to 27,000 in the past six years. An average of one building month has been built, including churches, schools and other structures. This was revealed by Bishop John J. Russell of Charleston, whose diocese embraces the entire state. He gave the sermon here at a Pontifical Mass offered at the re-dedication of St. Mary's Church, which is a completely remodeled edifice. Bishop Russell, detailing the growth of the diocese, said that in the past six years, 30 priests have been added to the 102 there previously, and 106 Sisters have also been added to 230 in the state.

BOOK SHELF

Margaret Of Hungary

St. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

MARGARET, PRINCESS OF HUNGARY, by S. M. C. Blackfriars, London, '45 and '54, 56 pp.

ACHIEVING PEACE OF HEART (Controlle Cerebrale), by N. Irala, S.J., Wagner, N. Y., '54, 223 pp. Available at Trant's.

Despite the horrors of the present, Hungary must have a great destiny, for it has as protectors great fiery-hearted saints, who have undergone severest agonies. There is Queen Elizabeth, a queen of charity, cast out with her hapless little ones and dead at twenty-four; there is Cardinal Mindszenty and his "second death" of sorrow; and there is the little niece of Queen Elizabeth, the Duchess Margaret, who became Sister Margaret the "Lamb," and died at twenty-eight of all those practices of penance by which she spelled out her love of Jesus.

She lived and died for the welfare of Hungary, since her royal parents dedicated her even before birth, in a terrible national crisis, as an expiatory offering to God by some miracle the invading enemy, the Tartars of 1242 might, be driven back.

THE MORNING after the vow, the Tartars began their return to Asia, recalled from their long year's raid by the death of their chief—and the moment the child could ratify her parents' offering, she did so.

At four she discovered the meaning of the Crucifix, wrapped her little arms around it, weeping, and cried, "O Lord, me too!" That year she won the privilege of wearing the Dominican habit.

At seven, she claimed the right to wear a habit. At twelve a vowed nun. Three times she opposed calmly and successfully her father's change of heart and refused marriage to royal personages; at seven, at eighteen, at twenty-four. She was a great beauty, and her suitors did not take dismissal easily.

Gradually she found out all the ways to be the servant of all, and to suffer. Always she did so with a sudden royal, beautiful smile, with a noticeable joy. No, not quite always; when she had trouble winning permission for penances, she wept unashamedly and persistently until she got it; and when she wished another Sister to administer the discipline, the whip, to her, she turned Duchess and gave the order. There was no recourse against it.

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High Court Upholds Tax Funds For Religious Homes

Pittsburgh, Pa. — (RNS) — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled here that tax money may be paid to religious institutions for the care of neglected children.

It upheld a 1955 decision of the Allegheny County Common Pleas Court that overruled an opinion rendered a year earlier by a lower court which held such action to be contrary to constitutional provisions.

THE APPEAL to the Supreme Court was made by five Pittsburgh taxpayers who contended that such payments violate the separation of Church and State. The high court's ruling affects the welfare of more than 15,000 children who are in religious institutions because the state has no place of its own for them.

The great bulk of payments in recent years have been made to eight Catholic orphanages by the Allegheny County Institution District, which was a co-defendant in the suit. However, several Baptist and Methodist institutions also have received such payments.

At hearings on the appeal in September, Joseph R. Doherty, counsel for the Catholic institutions affected by the suit as well as for the Pittsburgh Catholic diocese, warned that chaos would result in the field of child welfare if the payments were declared illegal.

HE ARGUED that the pay-

institutions merely for convenience, he said. Joining Mr. Doherty in defending the long-established practice was Assistant County Solicitor Maurice Louik. He also argued that there was no other way to care for the state's homeless and dependent children.

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