

Pilgrim Pope to Pray for World's Needs Food for Poor, Religious Unity, Peace

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI, in his first Christmas message, addressed not only to Catholics, but to all men of goodwill — described widespread hunger as the most serious problem confronting the world. He warned that unless this heart-rending situation is relieved by opportune remedies, we must foresee that it will grow worse, not better.

At the same time, the pontiff uncompromisingly rejected artificial birth control as a solution to "this intolerable and threatening problem," saying: "Instead of increasing the supply of bread on the dining table of this hunger-ridden world, as modern techniques of production can do today, some are thinking in terms of diminishing, by illicit means, the number of those who eat with them. This is unworthy of civilization."

In his message, delivered over Italian television and subsequently broadcast by the Vatican Radio in 30 languages, including Russian and Chinese, Pope Paul also stressed the need for helping new nations, especially in Africa and Asia.

This, he said, should be done in a spirit of genuine cooperation and brotherhood and not out of a self-serving paternalism.

The Pope spoke at length of his forthcoming pilgrimage to the Holy Land, declaring that its nature and purpose were "truly religious." He said "Our good intentions will embrace all the peoples of the world, those far and near, with sentiments of respect and love, wishing them happiness and peace."

Pope Paul devoted much attention also to "another pressing need of mankind—peace," stressing that "the developments and controversies of our time force us continually to consider the nature of peace, its forms and weaknesses, its needs and progress."

He said a parallel need of contemporary man was a unity of minds. He cautioned that as long as men lack unity in their principles, in their ideals and in their view of life and of the world, and so long as they are divided "they will continue to be ignorant of one another, to hate and to fight against one another."

In this connection, the Pope declared that "the true sociology of human peace takes its rise from Christian religious unity. It is this unity, in reduced

by Christ into human thought and history, that we earnestly desire for the peace, concord, mutual understanding and happiness of all men of goodwill."

The Pope said his Christmas greeting was directed "especially to those whom we believe to be most ready to receive it; to Christians still separated from us and to Catholics happily united. Ut unum sint, that all may be united: that was Christ's sublime and final prayer before His Passion. We make it our own on this day, which commemorates His coming."

In speaking of world hunger, the Pope said: "We know that the problem of population growth, when unaccompanied by sufficient means of sustenance, is very grave and complex, but "it cannot be admitted

that the solution to this problem consists in the use of methods contrary to divine law and to the respect that is due both to marriage and to new-born life."

This, he said, "gives us added motivation to look with profound sympathy at the multitudes of men who suffer hunger and to observe with anxious attention the manner in which men study and handle the enormous problems connected with this tragic situation."

Declaring that "we are... especially in favor of everything that is being done today to help those who are devoid of the goods required for the elementary needs of life," the Pope praised "great projects of international aid... launched to give witness to a fresh flowering of human nobility, and to offer generously to entire masses of unknown peoples the spontaneous and well-organized gift of indispensable good."

"It is also gratifying," the Pope said, "to observe that some of these initiatives come from Catholics owing to the merits of persons endowed with Christian genius, of worthy pastors who sustain these noble undertakings, and of so many of the laity who give heart and money to the cause."

Pope Paul went on to stress the necessity of helping those new nations, especially in Africa and Asia, that "are now reaching that sense of identity, that dignity, that ability to function that are peculiar to free civil states."

"We know," he said, "that these new nations are justly proud of their economic liberty and that they can no longer admit the domination of another state over them. But we know also that these nations have not yet reached that degree of self-sufficiency that is required to enjoy all the cultural and economic benefits of a complete modern state."

"It is clear then that our charity this Christmas, in its search to discover the great needs of the world, recognizes the necessity of helping these emerging nations, not with humiliations and self-seeking beneficence, but with scientific and technical assistance and the friendly solidarity of the international world—brotherhood in place of paternalism."

The Pope expressed a special wish that the Catholic missions may always find a friendly welcome among the new nations, and may always know how to render devoted and loyal service to promote their spiritual, moral and material development.

He said it was his desire for these countries "that they may enter as brothers into the family of nations."

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1963's Turmoil Fails to Dim World's Hopes

By Religious News Service

Church leaders will look back on 1963 as a year marred by tragedy and turmoil but brightened by a dynamic international ecumenical upsurge among Protestants, Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox that was seen as opening a new era of Christian history.

In the United States, the year was darkened by racial ferment, with religious forces caught up in a burgeoning non-violent campaign for Negro civil rights that met determined opposition in many pro-segregation communities.

Of major national significance was a Supreme Court decision on June 17 barring Bible reading and devotional prayers in public schools.

Death wrote two of the biggest stories of the year. On June 6, the passing of Pope John XXIII, beloved by men of all faiths, stirred a new era in papal history. Less than six months later, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic to become President of the United States, again plunged the entire world in sorrow. In countries everywhere, leaders of all faiths mourned his death.

Among many notable Protestant tributes to him was one from Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., who declared that although his time in office had been short, it had been "long enough to make it abundantly clear that those who feared a Roman Catholic President misunderstood both the man and his Church."

Other top developments of the year were the issuance of a monumental social encyclical, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) by Pope John three months before his death; the election of his successor, the former Giovanni Battista Montini, Archbishop of Milan, who took the name of Pope Paul VI; the second session of the Second Vatican Council (Sept. 26-Dec. 4); the overthrow of South Vietnam headed by President Ngo Dinh Diem, a Catholic, following mounting protests against alleged religious persecution of the country's Buddhist majority; an apparent easing of anti-religion policies in Iron Curtain countries attributed largely to the persuasive influence of Pope John; and the announcement by his successor of plans for a Christmastide pilgrimage to the Holy Land, an ecumenical initiative that evoked warm response in

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Protestant and Orthodox as well as Jewish quarters.

Among the first to hail the Pope's pilgrimage was Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch (Continued on Page 3)

Review Of 1963 By Months

Here are some of the events of 1963 of special significance to Catholics in the United States:

January — More than 70 national religious groups meet in Chicago to examine moral religious principles on which racial justice is based, under auspices of the National Conference on Religion and Race.

February — Soviet Russia releases imprisoned Ukrainian prelate Archbishop Josyf Slipyi.

March — Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of American Sisters of Charity, and first born in U.S. to be so honored, is beatified in Rome.

April — Pope John issues eighth and perhaps greatest encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, dealing with world peace.

May — Pope John dies. He had convened the first Catholic world council since 1870, raised the College of Cardinals to full strength and enlarged its international character, spoken out repeatedly against dangers of nuclear war, and adjured world leaders to strive for peace; appointed a papal secretary of state, a post vacant 14 years.

June 21 — Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini) is elected.

August — Pastoral letter of Catholic bishops urging faithful to take active part in drive for race equality is read in most churches of U.S. dioceses.

September 29 — Second session of Vatican Council begins.

October — Bishop John Nepomucene Neumann, first male (naturalized) U.S. citizen so honored, is beatified in Rome.

November — U.S. bishops issue annual statement, "Bonds of Union" stressing the historical and religious heritage of American Catholics.

December — U.S. bishops return as second session of Vatican Council ends 709th day, December 4; Pope Paul promulgates first constitution since 1870 authorizing wide use of mother tongue in Mass and other services and calling for sweeping reforms in Church worship; also decree stressing vitality of press and other mass media.

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The Deaf Hear'... In Sign Language

Newark — (RNS) — Father John P. Hourihan, director of the Newark archdiocese's Mount Carmel Guild Center for the Deaf, conducts a Christmas service in sign language for some 600 deaf people. The priest used sign language throughout the whole service, which included Benediction and a sermon. The service was held in connection with a Christmas party sponsored by the Guild at Newark's St. Francis Xavier Church.



Newark — (RNS) — Deaf children listen with rapt attention as Gladys Winter, volunteer chairman of the Newark archdiocese's Mount Carmel Guild Center for the Deaf, "speaks," with sign language. The occasion was an inter-religious party sponsored by the center at Newark's St. Francis Xavier church.

To Ease Tensions

Stress Duties, not Rights

Miami — (NC) — Intergroup tension would be eased if Christians and Jews emphasized the common ground of their "rights" less and their duty to love their neighbors more, Bishop Coleman F. Carroll told a Jewish audience here.

Bishop Carroll received a standing ovation following his hour-long report on the Second Vatican Council, presented at the invitation of the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

The bishop said there has been a change for the better in the relationships which exist between men throughout the world as a result of the almost "miraculous" influence of Pope John XXIII and the sessions of Vatican Council II.

Pope Paul VI, he added, shows the same charity and concern for all people of the world that Pope John manifested.

REPLYING TO a question, the bishop said it was "a disappointment" that many Council Fathers there was no vote



New Year's Day, a Holy Day

On Jan. 1, Catholics begin the New Year with the celebration of the Mass for the Octave of Christmas (formerly known as the Feast of the Circumcision). In this photo the priest makes the Sign of the Cross with his thumb on the Gospel text relating to the circumcision of Jesus: "At that time: The eighth day came, the day for his circumcision, and he was named Jesus, the name by which the angels had called him before he was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2: 21).

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Freedom in Education

Aid to All Forecast

Washington — (RNS) — Congressional passage of aid to church-related as well as public colleges clears the way for federal aid to all secondary and elementary schools, public, private and church-related, it was predicted here by officials of Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF).

Dr. Mark Murphy, CEF president, and David Za Brivens, the group's executive director, issued a statement forecasting such U.S. assistance following passage of the Higher Education Aid Bill. The CEF is a non-sectarian organization favoring federal aid to church-related schools; a majority of its membership is Roman Catholic.

Their statement charged that there was a last-minute effort to kill the college aid bill by certain groups of public educators, including the American Association of School Administrators, the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Education Association's Division of County and Intermediate Unit Superintendents.