

'Mary, the Path that Leads to Christ'

You can continue to help Bishop Kearney in his work for immortal souls.



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War Mania Grows in U.S.

Few of our editorials ever provoked such response as the one we wrote two weeks ago commenting on Vietnam.

The mere suggestion that U.S. citizens have a right to question the wisdom of escalating the war in southeast Asia prompted many readers to brand us as either blind or duped or both or naive collaborators of the Communists.

The fact that Pope Paul has insistently urged negotiation and the fact that President Johnson has probed to get such negotiation underway seems to strike many people as a very great disappointment.

They seem to revel in killing Communists — "the great enemies of the Church" — "the monsters that will devour our country."

That Vietnam is a complex problem, we will readily admit. That Communist aggression must be forcefully halted, we most emphatically agree.

But, like the Pope and the President, we think we must never become so totally identified with one method that we shut our eyes to other possible solutions of a less violent nature.

The correspondence and phone calls we received made us wonder if these self-styled "good Catholics" have ever read Pope Plus XI's magnificent expose of Communism in his 1937 encyclical or Pope John's updating of the Church's attitude in his encyclical Mater et Magistra.

Pope Plus and Pope John both pointed out that Communism festers in the galling poverty which haunts half the world's people — giving the Reds the right to claim, "You've got nothing to lose but your chains."

President Johnson, well aware that Communism is more than just a military menace, made his bold offer of a billion dollars in aid to southeast Asia if the war is halted. But that aspect of his Vietnam speech of three weeks ago has met with scant sympathy. It's the war that so many Americans want to push.

This war mania, we fear, can push us beyond a point of no return if those who prefer peace keep silence during these critical days.

Evidence that such mania has strong pushing power came to light this week when Josephite Father Philip Berrigan was fired from his seminary position because of protests against his participating in demonstrations opposing U.S. policy in Vietnam.

Numerous complaints — many of them anonymous — and two editorials in the Newburgh, N.Y., newspaper prompted Josephite superiors to transfer Father Berrigan, a World War II veteran, to a Negro parish in Baltimore.

Some who complained of his "peace now" activities said they'd inform parents a "Communist" was teaching their youngsters if the priest was allowed to stay on the faculty.

During an anti-war vigil conducted in New York, Father Berrigan was interviewed, along with other priests, nuns, ministers and rabbis, by newspapermen. At that time he said he was on the vigil line because "I could not live with myself otherwise . . . I cannot stand by while our nation risks another — and perhaps final — major war. Further, I don't believe we can pose as religious leaders or men of principle unless we are willing to take a public stand during times of crisis."

Father Berrigan is the author of a book, No More Strangers, published recently by The Macmillan Company, New York. It was dedicated to "my brother, Father Dan, S.J., without whom neither my priesthood nor this book would be possible." Father Daniel Berrigan, the Jesuit, has been as active as his brother in responding to the calls for peace issued by Catholic and Protestant clergymen.

The book carried an introduction by Thomas Merton, the famed Trappist monk. Father C. J. McNaspy, S.J., of America magazine gave this review of Father Berrigan's book: "No serious Christian can read this book without re-examining his social commitments and being shattered out of any comfortable adjustment to evil . . . on the implications of Christian witness, I have seen nothing in English to match it."

For wanting peace, now Father Berrigan is exiled. A Prince of Peace once had to endure more. So perhaps a penalty is not to be wondered at.

—Father Henry A. Atwell

The Catholic COURIER

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Vatican City — (NC) — This is the English text of Pope Paul VI's second encyclical, *Mense Maio*, asking prayers for peace and the success of the Vatican Council which will begin its final session this autumn.

With the coming of the month of May, a month which the piety of the faithful has specially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady, we are saddened at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world will soon be paying to the Queen of Heaven. For this is the month during which Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the gifts of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance.

This pious practice, which the Blessed Virgin is honored and the Christian people enriched with spiritual gifts, gladdens and consoles us.

Mary remains ever the path that leads to Christ. Every approach to her can only result in an approach to Christ Himself.

For what other reason do we continually turn to Mary than to seek for the Christ she holds in her arms — to seek in her, through her and with her the Saviour to whom men, in the perplexities and dangers of life here below, must of necessity have recourse, and to whom they feel the ever-recurring need of turning at to a haven of safety and an all-surpassing source of life?

Incentive to Prayer

It is precisely because the month of May offers a special opportunity for more fervent and trusting prayer, and because during it our petitions find their way more easily to the compassionate heart of Our Blessed Lady, that it has been a custom dear to our predecessors to choose this month, dedicated to Mary, for inviting the Christian people to offer up public prayers, whenever the needs of the Church demanded it, or whenever danger hovered menacingly over the world.

This year, we too, venerable brothers, feel the need of sending out a similar appeal to the whole Catholic world. When we look at the present needs of the Church or at the state of peace in the world, we have compelling reasons for believing that the present hour is very grave, that it makes a call for united prayer from the whole Christian people more urgent than ever.

For Vatican Council

The first reason for this appeal is suggested to us by this historic moment in the life of the Church, the period of the ecumenical council. This momentous event confronts the Church with the immense problem of how to renew herself in accordance with the needs of the times. On its outcome will depend the future of the Spouse of Christ and the destiny of innumerable souls. It is God's great hour in the life of the Church and in world history. In this regard, although the amount of work happily brought to completion is great, heavy tasks still await the next session, which will be the final one.



Typical of scores of such ceremonies during May is this rite at St. Hyacinth's Church, Auburn, Friday, April 30, the same day the Vatican announced Pope Paul's encyclical on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary for world peace and the success of the Vatican Council. Jacqueline Wawrzaszek placed a crown of flowers at the statue of our Lady. Her attendants are Julie Krajewski, Barbara Sleskanowicz and Mary Rybarczyk. (Tarby Photo)

After that will follow the equally important period of implementing the council's decisions, which likewise will demand the united effort of clergy and faithful for the effective and beneficial development of the seeds sown during the council.

To obtain God's light and blessings on this great volume of work ahead of us, we place our confidence in her whom we had the joy of proclaiming Mother of the Church at the last session. From the beginning of the council she has been unflinching in her loving help and will certainly not fail to continue her assistance to the final stage of the work.

For World Peace

The other reason for our appeal comes from the international situation which, as you are well aware, venerable brothers, is darker and more uncertain than ever, now that grave new threats are endangering the supreme blessing of world peace. Today, as if no lesson had been learned from the tragic experiences of the two conflicts which shed blood in the first half of our century, we have the dreadful spectacle in certain parts of the world of increasing antagonism between peoples, and recourse to arms instead of negotiation to settle the disputes of the opposing parties. This means that populations of entire nations are subjected to unspeakable sufferings, caused by agitation, guerrilla warfare, acts of war, ever growing in extent and intensity, which could at any moment produce the spark for a terrible world conflict.

In view of these grave dangers to international life, and conscious of our duty as supreme pastor, we judge it necessary to make known our anxieties and our fear that the disputes will become so embittered as to degenerate into a bloody war. We beg all who hold responsibility in public life not to remain deaf to the unanimous desire of mankind which wants peace. We ask that they do all in their power to preserve the peace that is threatened and continue at all times to foster and encourage conversations and negotiations at all levels so that the dangerous resort to force with all its lamentable consequences, material, spiritual and moral, may be halted.

Along the lines marked out by law, let efforts be made to single out for recognition every true and sincere yearning for justice and peace. Through this recognition let such yearnings find encouragement and fulfillment, and let confidence enrich every loyal act of good will so that the forces of order may prevail over those of disorder and ruin. Unfortunately, in this painful situation we are forced to recognize with a heavy heart that all too often respect due to the sacred and inviolable character of human life is forgotten and that recourse is had to methods and attitudes which stand in open revolt against the moral sensibilities and customs of a civilized people. In this respect we cannot fail to raise our voice in defense of the dignity of man and of Christian civilization. We cannot fail to condemn acts of guerrilla warfare and of terrorism, the practice of holding hostages and of taking reprisals against unarmed civilians.

These are crimes which not only reverse the development of the sense of what is fair and humane, but also embitter even more the hearts of those in conflict. These outrages can block the paths still open to mutual good will, or at least can render more difficult the negotiations which, if conducted with openness and fairness, could lead to a reasonable settlement.

These deep concerns of ours, as you well know, venerable brothers, are dictated not by any narrow interest, but solely by the desire to protect all who are suffering and to promote the true welfare of all peoples. We hope that awareness of personal responsibilities to God and to history will be powerful enough to impel governments to continue their generous efforts to safeguard peace and to remove as far as possible those obstacles, real or imagined,

which interfere with the achievement of secure and sincere agreement.

A Gift from God
But peace, venerable brothers, is not merely of our own making. It is a gift from God. Peace comes from heaven, and it will truly reign among men when we finally deserve to receive it from Almighty God who holds in His hands not only the happiness and the destinies of peoples, but also their very hearts. Therefore, we will do our utmost to obtain this incomparable blessing by prayer, praying indeed with constancy and watchfulness, as the Church has always prayed from her earliest days, and in a special way calling on the intercession and protection of the Virgin Mary, who is the Queen of Peace.

Let our prayers then ascend to Mary in this month of hers, to implore her graces and favors with increased fervor and confidence. And if the grave faults of men weigh heavily in the scales of God's justice and provoke its just punishments, we also know that the Lord is "the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort" (2 Cor. 1, 3), and that Mary Most Holy is the generous bestower of the treasures of His mercy.

May she, who knows the sufferings and troubles of life here below, the weariness of everyday work, the hardships and privations of poverty, the sufferings of Calvary, bring help to the needs of the Church, heed the appeals for peace rising to her from every part of the world, and enlighten those who rule the destinies of men.

May she prevail on God, Lord of the winds and storms, to still the tempests in men's conflicting hearts and "grant us peace in our time, true peace based on the solid lasting foundations of justice and love — of justice granted to the weakest as well as to the strongest and of love which prevents egotism from leading men astray, so that each one's rights may be safeguarded without the denial of the rights of others.

In Every Parish
We beg, therefore, for special prayers in each diocese and every parish during this coming month of May, devoting in a special manner the feast of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven, to solemn public prayers for the intentions we have mentioned. We would point out that we rely particularly on the prayers of the innocent children and the suffering, for their voices more than any others reach heaven and disarm God's justice.

And since this is a fitting occasion, do not fail to lay careful stress on the saying of the Rosary, the prayer so dear to Our Lady, and so highly recommended by the supreme pontiffs. By this means the faithful can most pleasingly and most effectively carry out our Divine Master's command: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened" (Matt. 7, 7).

With these thoughts, and in the hope that our exhortation will be readily received in the souls of all, we grant to you from our heart, venerable brothers, and to all the faithful in your care, our apostolic blessing.

Council 'Enhances' Devotion to our Lady

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

The Second Vatican Council's teaching on the Blessed Virgin should enhance the devotion of Catholics toward the Mother of Christ.

This is because the Council's "Constitution on the Church" and its chapter on Mary stress her as inseparable in God's plan from the Redeemer.

This is the consensus of U.S. prelates whose comments on the Council's teaching about Mary were gathered by the N.C.W.C. News Service through a questionnaire and a survey of formal remarks.

Several prelates took sharp issue with what they called conclusions that the Council sought to downgrade the role of the Blessed Virgin in the Church.

Archbishop John J. Krol of Philadelphia, who is an under-secretary of the Council, noted the "prolonged applause" from the Council Fathers when Pope Paul VI declared Mary to be the Mother of the Church. This step had the "wholehearted approval" of the Fathers, he said.

The prelate also noted that the Fathers were "equally gratified" when Pope Paul emphasized the "universality of the devotion to Mary" by concelebrating Mass during the Council with bishops in whose dioceses are located major Marian shrines.

Bishop James E. Kearney of Rochester, N.Y., made one of the most determined responses to reports that devotion to Mary is being diminished.

He denounced "extremists" on Church reform, including "extreme liturgists" (who) ask us to minimize devotion to Mary and the saints," and said that to counter such voices 1965 in his diocese was to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin as Mother of the Church.

Similarly, Bishop Marion F.

Port of Dodge City, Kan., said "an attempt has been made to downgrade our Blessed Mother" and that "most of the trouble has centered upon the attempts of a few to use terms that are extravagant, that would make it seem that a person believes that Mary was herself divine."

"Who are we, sinners all, to

belittle the honor and the glory that belongs to Our Blessed Lady?" he asked.

Joseph Cardinal Ritter of St. Louis asked about inclusion of the Council's treatment of Mary in the Constitution on the Church, called this "highly appropriate."

"It would seem well-conceived to restate the venerated position of the Virgin Mother of God, while affording new insight into her position as the first of the redeemed and the type of the member of the Church," he said.

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Text, Symbol Third Sunday after Easter

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of devotion to Christ, and that our expression of homage to Mary in no way makes her equal to Christ."

Bishop Charles H. Helmsing of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., when asked about exaggerations in devotion to Mary, replied that "I believe that most of our Catholic people have had a true and proper devotion to Mary."

"They understand that she is for them a model of virtue. They understand her role as one to be invoked as their advocate. They understand her all powerful intercession with God. The stress on the place of Mary in salvation's history and the use of Scripture in describing her role in the Church should eliminate any so-called exaggerations or problems that we must sometimes meet," he said.

Asked the effect the Council's teaching on Mary may have on other Christians, Bishop Nicholas T. Elko of the Pittsburgh-Byzantine rite diocese, saw it having "little effect" on Protestants because "their objections are against the practice rather than the well-explained doctrine."

Bishop John J. Wright of the Latin rite Pittsburgh See, saw "few, if any immediate effects from this point in isolation from others."

"I must confess," said Bishop Wright, "that I find the reciprocal roadblocks or blind spots or psychological hazards here to be — more often than otherwise — on the level of cultural conflicts rather than of theology in any fair and effective sense; I strongly feel that the theological consensus will be more easy to discover and to develop when the inherited cultural patterns (many of them on all sides with minimal theological elements) have relaxed a bit."

He said the Church professes a true esteem for the body, which it knows to be the temple of the Holy Spirit and so destined to be resurrected at the Last Day.

"Thus," he continued, "the Church cannot but applaud all those things which tend, through the practice of sport, toward the education, development and strengthening of the human body and so conduce to a greater perfection of man's personality."

Sports Aid 'Perfection'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, at an audience to representatives of 34 nations taking part in the First International Congress on Sports Psychology held in Rome, said the Catholic Church has always shown a keen interest in sports as "an instrument in the development of both physical and moral perfection."

Noting that his visitors included psychologists, doctors, psychiatrists, sociologists and teachers, the Pope, speaking in French, said he was delighted to meet such a select group of experts "inspired by the same love for man in whose service they intend to collaborate with the contributions of their researches."

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