

# Moral Basis for Peace

New York — (RNS) — Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh predicted here that a major interreligious peace conference to be held March 15 to 17 in Washington, D.C., will reveal how much "fellowship" exists among religiously-minded Americans for the moral concepts of peace.

The prelate was interviewed at the House of Living Judaism as leaders of the upcoming meeting, the first National Interreligious Conference on Peace, planned its program. He is co-chairman with Dr. Maurice N. Eisenstadt, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (agency of Reform-Jewish congregations); Dr. Dana McLean Greeley, Boston, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association; Presiding Bishop John E. Hines of the Episcopal Church; Methodist

Bishop John Wesley Lord of Washington and Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America.

**BISHOP WRIGHT** said there is a "terrible necessity for reaffirmation of the moral concepts of peace." Those at the Washington conference, to be attended by more than 500 persons of many faiths, will bring to light "how many people are interested in discussing" the morality of peace in a society and age which has been "immunized by fear," he said.

Among those present at the top level discussion was former Minnesota Gov. Harold E. Stassen, former president of the American Baptist Convention. A keynote address at the meeting will be given by United Na-

tions Ambassador Arthur Goldberg.

"For many years I have had the uncomfortable and embarrassing feeling that efforts to build the peace have been operating in a moral vacuum," Bishop Wright told Religious News Service. "The existing organized channels for peace are like the International Postal Union — no one loves them. We need an atmosphere, a moral climate, in which the dry bones can take flesh and live."

Religious activity in the field of direct efforts to influence public policy on peace, Bishop Wright observed, "has been largely marginal."

As a Catholic, the bishop said, "I see that much of the activity of other groups has been concerned with resolutions on specific issues. I have some times found, as with Spain, that the religious factor is dubious."

Within the Catholic community, the bishop continued, there has been a "painful lag" in the past on the issue of peace. Civil peace efforts by Popes Leo XIII, Pius XII, John XXIII, Bishop Wright commented that "sometimes the Pope seemed to be talking alone" and "you asked yourself, is there a shared commitment?"



## Prayer for a Maryknoller

Maryknoll, N.Y. — (RNS) — The Most Rev. Daniel Tji, one of South Korea's newest bishops, prays at the grave of the man who baptized him as a child in Korea — the late Maryknoll Father Walter J. Coleman of Highland Falls, N.Y. Father Coleman served in Korea from 1930 to 1935. The 44-year-old bishop of Won-Ju knew many Maryknoll missionaries during his youth, including Father Joseph G. Gibbons of Yonkers, N.Y. still serving in Korea, who gave the prelate vocational counseling when he was 13 years old. The visit here was Bishop Tji's first to Maryknoll and to the United States.

## Polish Reds Riled by Bishops

Warsaw — (RNS) — The Polish Roman Catholic hierarchy came under new Communist fire when two leading papers here charged the bishops had ignored prelates from other Communist-ruled countries when they invited foreign prelates, including West Germans, to attend celebrations next May marking the millennium of Polish Christianity.

Named specifically were Czechoslovakia and Hungary. However, the secretary of the Polish episcopate replied promptly to the charges by stating that the bishops of Czechoslovakia had been "invited some time ago," and at the present time an invitation to the Hungarian bishops was being drafted.

Sounded by Glos Pracy, a trade union daily, and Trybuna Ludu, a top government mouthpiece, the new criticism came in the wake of earlier press and radio attacks on the bishops because of their letter last December, which, in inviting the German bishops, also urged German-Polish reconciliation in a spirit of mutual forgiveness. One upshot of this was a government ban against further travel abroad by Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland.

## Pope Paul Asks Food For Hungry of India

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI told pilgrims at his midweek general audience that "it is not war alone that is the object of our anxious and sorrowful thoughts... but also the serious problem of hunger in the world." He made special reference to starvation conditions in India.

"We see how much mankind has progressed," he said, "and how much power is his. Yet more than half the human beings in the world are in a state of suffering which we are bound to call ignoble and intolerable — suffering from hunger, literally from starvation."

Pope Paul said that "in a great country, and one that is dear to us, namely India, hunger has reached an extremely serious stage. Millions of human beings are in want of food and even threatened with death."

"We have not, indeed, in our hands the prodigious power of Christ to multiply loaves of bread, but we can have thought that the hearts of good people may be able to bring about this miracle. We are told that more than a million tons of grain have been granted by the United States of America and the press-speakers of Canada willingly sending help to India. But a still greater effort is needed."

"All have a duty to relieve it for this is a phenomenon of our times that brings the sufferings of any one part of the world to common knowledge of all. None today can say, 'I did not know,' and, to a certain extent, none today can say, 'I could not help, I was not obliged.'"

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## United Church Joins Dialogue

French Lick, Ind. — (RNS) Church of Christ participation in the theological dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and Churches of the World Presbyterian Alliance was voted here by the UCC Executive Council.

The talks were initiated last year by Catholic and United Presbyterian Church leaders. In January it was decided to broaden the Protestant participation by inviting Churches belonging to the World Presbyterian Alliance's North American Area Council to take part in future sessions.

The next session of the Presbyterian-Catholic dialogue is scheduled for May 12-14. In addition to a theological examination and comparison of Catholic and Protestant views on Christian baptism and the role of church renewal, work will continue on the development of a common book of worship and Bible study for Catholics and World Presbyterian Alliance Churches.

## Congregation Decides Time

Cayce, — (RNS) — Father Thomas Reilly, a native of Wichita, Kans., has started Venezuelans by his democratic ways.

Recently arrived in the city of Barquisimeto to found the Roman Catholic parish of St. Augustine, Father Reilly decided to find out what would be the most popular hour for Sunday Mass by taking a vote among the people. The parish applauded the American's democratic ways and everyone turned out to vote.

The incident was so novel in Venezuela that the story made the page one of Caracas dailies.

Incidentally, the people picked six o'clock in the evening as the most desirable hour for Sunday Mass.

## Brooklyn Church to Lead War on Poverty

Brooklyn — (NC) — "We are all convinced that the Church should lead in the war on poverty." With this assumption Bishop Bryan J. McEnegart of Brooklyn outlined a massive program to root out the conditions and causes of want within the bounds of his economically heterogeneous See. He spoke to an all-day gathering of 150 priests representing 75 parishes at St. Joseph's College here.

Asserting that priests should "go out into the marketplace," he urged his clergy to "use your imagination to the fullest" and to "work in full harmony with other churches and social agencies" against the common enemy of many Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

The bishop pledged the diocese's financial support and sketched a basic structure of "area associations for program planning" that has proved successful in other urban dioceses.

The major strategy proposed for implementation by clergy includes community organization to conduct voter-registration drives and to handle housing complaints; setting up credit unions, storefront welfare clinics, information centers and "rhythm" family planning clinics; and an adopt-a-parish plan whereby a more affluent parish would aid a less fortunate area.

Bishop McEnegart cited accomplishments of previous efforts and explained that the prospective "ear-round assault" would be organized through existing Catholic charities.

He told the assembled priests that "this is God's war on pov-

## Prelates Oppose Abortion Law

London — (RNS) — Britain's debate on abortion, always controversial, now has sharp religious overtones.

The Roman Catholic Primate of England and Wales spoke out against a report issued by an Anglican board that upheld abortion in some instances.

In another case, an Anglican bishop walked out of a debate before Parliament, protesting that the sanctity of the unborn child was being diminished.

Both incidents spotlight the fast developing controversy in Parliamentary, legal, religious and social circles over the question whether (and when) a pregnant woman should be subjected to legal abortion.

## Archbishop For Alaska

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has established a new archdiocese at Anchorage, Alaska, and has named Msgr. Joseph T. Ryan the first archbishop. Msgr. Ryan, a 52-year-old priest of the diocese of Albany, has been serving as national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

The archdiocese of Anchorage will comprise 138,985 square miles with 130,000 inhabitants, of whom 17,000 are Catholics. It will have 21 priests and 30 Sisters for eight parishes, six missions and seven stations.

The city of Anchorage has a population of 44,237 and is an important military base, a seaport and a hub for air and rail traffic.

## God's World

# The Meaning of Covenant

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

In the heart of the Mass there occurs a word which many of us pass over without adverting to its meaning.

The word in question is "Covenant." It is found in the formula of consecration which the priest, in Christ's name, pronounces over the chalice: "This is the Chalice of My Blood of the new and eternal covenant..."

A covenant is a compact, an agreement entered into between two or more persons. The history of salvation revolves around this idea of covenant.

In humanity's beginning God sought to enter into a compact with Adam. God promised happiness both here and hereafter if man would pledge his obedience in return. As we know, Adam refused to ratify that covenant.

The time came when, with Abraham, God made another effort toward a covenant. In return for Abraham's fidelity, God promised to be with him and his descendants, who would be more numerous than the stars. Abraham ratified the covenant and sealed his commitment by offering sacrifice to God.

Centuries later, God led Abraham's descendants out of their slavery in Egypt. It was then that God made the great covenant with Moses on Mt. Sinai. This people would be God's chosen people. He would be with them in peace and war. He would give them a land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites, for their part, must agree to keep the laws which God placed in Moses' hands.

Moses came down from Sinai and gathered his people together to ratify the covenant with God. The sealing of the covenant took place around an altar on which young bulls were sacrificed. Upon the altar Moses splashed half the blood drawn from the bulls. Then he read to the people the laws which the Lord had given. The people cried out, "All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do!"

Then Moses sprinkled the other half of the bullocks' blood upon the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant

of the cross and upon us in the Mass.

Each of us became a participant in this covenant when, in baptism, we were made one with Christ. Thereafter in the sacrifice of the Mass Jesus gives us the opportunity to renew, again and again, our personal ratification of this everlasting covenant between God and man. We do so as we unite ourselves with Jesus in His offering of Himself (and of us) to the Father.

Our personal renewal of the covenant is at its fullest if we receive Holy Communion. At the foot of Mt. Sinai seventy years ago, representing all the people, ate of the flesh of the sacrificed victims. But in the sacrifice of the new covenant, there is no need for us to be represented by another. Each of us can and should partake of the Victim.

Salvation history is the story of God's love in stubborn pursuit of man. The pursuit reached its climax on Calvary where, in the person of Jesus, humanity was irrevocably committed to God. In the Mass we accept and we return that love.

"I am all Yours, God. I embrace Your will as my sole guide to action. Please help me to keep this pledge." Assisting at Mass in this spirit, we place our personal seal on the new and eternal covenant.

## Charity, Goal For Bankers

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, at an audience given to a delegation of Italian bankers, told them they should always "keep charity and spiritual values in mind."

Stressing what he said were the interlocking actions of moral, economic and administrative laws, the pontiff said: "These laws should not work only in the private interests, but to the public good. By attending to those in need, money loses its selfish character and is an instrument of public good and His blood upon the altar and industrious beneficence."

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**Cancer Fund Drive in April**

Dr. James Grace of Roswell Park, Buffalo, and Dr. Daniel T. Burdick, president of the New York State division of the American Cancer Society, recently met with Mrs. Harper Sibley of Rochester to plan recruitment of volunteers for the April fund drive. The nationwide campaign will seek \$155,000,000 for cancer research and for aid to cancer victims.

**Sui**

Detroit — (RNS) communication between the bishop and his primate and between the archbishops emerged from findings of a ducted in the Detroit archdiocese.

Conducted at the Archdiocese — John Detroit, the survey sponsors from 61 the archdiocese's.

It dealt with clerical toward the hierarchy, assistants and even housekeepers.

A chancey "there is undoubtedly desire on the part that report be selves and the archbishop. This by the fact that (of those answers) this as an identifier.

There were some suggestions of tensions between the and priests might

**'Many Bo Link Cath Anglicans**

New Orleans — bishop Philip M. New Orleans said Anglicanism and share "many bon ship" in doctrine which must be ap life.

Speaking at the convention of the Episcopalian Church, the Episcopalian Archbishop Hann bonds of collaboration between churches existed the Vatican Council.

He noted that ecumenism decrees the Anglican complies a special place to the Roman See ship, he added, by the shedding the Uganda Martyr century — Anglican laymen who "died testimony to their lies."

These common doctrine of our duty — singular lives these doctrines the mystery of the We strive to realize in that way of St. Paul: "I live but Christ lives in

**'A Mirac For Unit**

Vatican City — Paul VI said "all of the Lord" bring about "but perhaps this is the prayer is vitally

The pontiff spoke of pilgrims gate Peter's Square.

Before leading the devotion of the noon he referred to Unity Octave (during which Catholics were being urged "all may be one

"Today," he pray in the spirit we are observing Christians will into the one vis Christ. As you item of the unity within the unity is of great importance.

"We must face if we meet many needed; really, all from Our Lord is perhaps the hour is the reason — vitally important that the truth of radiate its divine to attract a

**Women's At Cath**

Portland — (R spoke from the Mary's Catholic for the first time attended by Protestants, Catholics.

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