

# Bishop Sheen's Pastoral Letter on Eucharist



Bishop Sheen celebrates Holy Thursday Mass with priests of the Diocese at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

(Continued from first page of this section)

These formulas for the prayer of the faithful that are given in approved available petitions should not always follow a rigid pattern, but should reflect the needs of the local community, thereby allowing for freedom.

2. While acknowledging that the Mass is a communion with God, we recall that the "People of God" are made up of persons and, therefore, there is something personal in liturgy which involves every individual. This is clear from a consideration of the Cross and its relation to the Sacrifice of Calvary.

On the Cross Our Lord was alone; in the Mass, we are with Him. On the Cross, He nobly redeemed all humanity; in the Mass, we actualize that redemption in a definite place, at an appointed time, and with a personal involvement. As the Vatican Council put it: "All persons their proper part in the liturgical service, and indeed all in the same way, but each in that way which is appropriate to himself." (Decree on the Church No. 22). We are the human nature which He took from Mary and which is now glorified in Heaven; in the Mass, we offer to Him our human nature, to die with Him in order to be glorified with Him. (Rom. 8:17). His Passion, Death, Resurrection and Glorification is the model or pattern, according to which each of us is to be stamped, as coins for the Realm of the King.

The Mass is communal because we offer it as the People of God; it is personal because each and every one of us is responsible for his participation in that Sacrifice and Communion. We are not saved by the barrel load, each one must individualize his communion. Present Paul said: "And my precious life is not that of the old man" (Gal. 2:20). "Every day we experience something of the death of Jesus so that we may also know the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours." (2 Cor. 4:11).

We do not, therefore, attend Mass as we attend a crowd may watch an operation performed in the Mass personally as a mother is involved in the birth of a child, and as a husband is in the death of a wife.

Those who crucified Our Lord on the Cross acted for a group or a community; they rejected themselves, they involved themselves in His Act of Love and Forgiveness. Just as death isolates us and makes appear before God in our individual worth, so the Mass, which is the Death of Christ, personalizes our share in His Death.

While assisting at the Sacrifice of Mass, therefore, be diligent to say with Christ to the Heavenly Father, "This is my body; this is my blood. I unite myself with Your death. I care not if the species or the accidents of my life remain and daily rotting—but what I am most intimately, I give entirely to you, so that sharing in Your Passion I may share in your life." (St. Ignace of Loyola, "The Spiritual Exercises," p. 35. St. Ignace tells us: "If we die, let us rise and live our new lives with Him." (Rom. 6:5).

3. We should make thanks-

If we were invited to dinner with a King and given a side table, we would hardly describe it as the "most noble place" nor, if we put a chair for ourselves at the main table and placed the King at a side table, we would be wanting not only liturgical protocol, but a humility which betrays the distinction between the King's servant and the King himself. We, therefore, urge all pastors in the building of new churches, and in the renovation of old churches, not to place the Tabernacle on the side of in any "noble place" in the sanctuary, where it can be "most honored" by adored.

Thus, we will fulfill the mind of the Church that the priest ministry "deals principally with the Eucharist" as the source of perfecting the Church. (Decree on Missions, No. 39). May our visits to the Blessed Sacrament, prayer is not only speaking to the Lord, but also listening to Him.

In conclusion, our ideal in regard to liturgy is expressed in the Latin prayer of Lent: "I want to be with you, O Lord, in that I would bring together to you, what now lies broken apart." The cruel divisions among people, the breakdown and the disrespect for personal value scatters us like broken pieces with the faith as living cells in the Body of Christ, enjoy a Church that is right, not when the world is wrong, but right when the world is wrong. "Come under the Cross, O Lord, with all benediction, thus fulfilling the prayer of Our Lord at the Last Supper—"Father, that they may be one as we are One."

With my blessing, I remain  
Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Rochester

## Translation into Reality

some people or some clergy-men," the bishop said. "But these are exceptional and I think we should not lose sight of the fact that the great mass of Catholic people are relatively uninformed about the Council and its directives."

Experimentation within the Church is needed, he added, "because it is a matter of vital importance that the deliberations of the Council be known and implemented and translated into action programs in the parishes. We must do that we have a variety of programs."

Discussing the Catholic press, Bishop Shannon said: "It is quite evident the Catholic press today is professionally more mature and sophisticated regarding its journalistic techniques"

"We are hearing a lot about the Catholic press, we are hearing about it from the intellectuals and from the journals, and in some very dramatic instances from different diocese news from different protests from

## Development of Peoples

The development of peoples has the Church's close attention. The development of peoples who are striving to escape from hunger, misery, endemic diseases and ignorance; of those who are looking for a wider share in the benefits of civilization and a more active improvement of their human qualities; of those who are appealing for the completion of the Second Vatican Council's demands of the Church. The development of peoples makes it her duty to help them grasp their serious problem in all its dimensions and to cooperate in that solidarity action at the same point in human history is a matter of urgency.

## Social teaching of the Popes

Our predecessors in their encyclicals, Pius XI in Rerum Novarum, Pius XII in Quadragesimo Anno, and John XXIII in Mater et Magistra and Pacem in Terris—not to mention the messages of Pius XII to the world—did not fail in the duty of their office of shedding the light of the Gospel on the social questions of their times.

## The principal fact

Today the principal fact that we must all recognize is that the social question has become worldwide. John XXIII stated in this Council's opening address, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. This teaching is important and its application urgent. Today the people in hunger are making a dramatic appeal to the Popes blessed with abundance. They cry out and call for help. They give a loving response of charity to his brother's cry for help.

## Our journeys

Before we became Pope, two journeys to Latin America in 1960 and to Africa in 1962, brought us into direct contact with the acute problems pressing on continents full of life and hope. Then on becoming Father of the Holy See and Pope of the Holy See, I saw and virtually touch the very serious difficulties besetting peoples of long-standing civilizations who are at grips with the problem of development. While the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council was being held in Rome, I was permitted to address in person the general assembly of the United Nations, and we pleaded the cause of poor peo-

# The Pope's New Encyclical

This is the full text of Pope Paul's Easter encyclical 'Populorum Progressio' --- The Progress of Peoples'. The letter is an eloquent appeal for people who 'have' to aid the 'have not' people to share in the good things God has made to make life on earth a happy preparation for eternal life.



Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI signs the fifth encyclical of his reign, called Populorum Progressio (On the Development of Peoples), after the first two words of its Latin text. The Pope urged immediate social and economic action to fight poverty around the world and to aid underdeveloped countries. With the pontiff is Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State.

desire to carry out the wishes of the Council and give specific expression to the Holy See's contribution to this great cause of peoples in development, we considered it our duty to set

## Justice and Peace

Then quite recently, in our

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are essential for holiness in adoring the Holy of Holies. We recall four basic truths concerning the Eucharistic Liturgy:

1. The Eucharist is indeed a communal act of worship. In this connection there are some reflections to be made on the subject of the Prayer of the Faithful. According to the Vatican Council's teaching, the Holy Mass and the Eucharist are various needs, for all mankind.

This is the full text of Bishop Sheen's pastoral letter on a more personal devotion at Mass and to the Blessed Sacrament.

time, so as to further the progress of poorer peoples, to encourage social justice among nations to offer to less developed countries their own progress, and to further their own progress in their own name, which is also its program, is Justice and Peace. We think that this can and should bring together men of good will with our Catholic sons and daughters Christian brothers. So it is to all that we address this solemn appeal for the completion of development and the development of all mankind.

## Part I

### Complete Development: Data of the Problem

6. Men's aspirations Freedom from misery, the better aspects of finding employment, health and food, responsibility without oppression of any kind and in security from situations that do violence to their dignity as men; better education — in brief to seek to do more, know more and live that which men aspire to now when a greater number of them are condemned to live in conditions that make this lawful desire illusory. Besides, people who have recently gained national independence experience the need to add to their economic growth, social and moral growth, and to take their rightful place with other nations.

### 7. Colonialism, imperialism

Though insufficient for the task, the means inherited from the past are not lacking. It must be recognized that the "colonizing powers" have often furthered their own interests, power or glory, and that their departure has sometimes led up for instance with the production of one kind of crop, produce market prices are subject to

and for the salvation of the entire world. (I Tim. 2:12). To this end, the Prayer of the Faithful is to be said at public Masses offered in the Diocese on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Its use at daily Masses is to be left to the discretion of the celebrant, but is recommended wherever a fairer large congregation is present (Continued on last page of this section)