

What to do about 'This Atrocious War'

# Negotiate Now! Pull Out! More Bombs!

The people of Vietnam like to think of their country as dragon-shaped — dragons being considered a sign of good luck.

The Vietnam dragon is a blistered, bleeding land today, stretching a thousand agonizing miles from near the equator north to China.

This week, President Johnson gave the order to bomb it harder.

Not all churchmen, however, said Amen.

Bishop Sheen repeated his July 30th proposal to withdraw U.S. military forces from Vietnam.

In an interview on CBS radio The World of Religion, he said American withdrawal would be an "example of reconciliation . . . such as never happened before in the world."

He claimed that were the President to withdraw

in some way from Vietnam, it would increase his prestige in the world. I think God would bless the nation, and we would give an example to all of the warring nations of the world that we were profoundly interested in peace."

The bishop compared the withdrawal with the Biblical counsel to turn the other cheek: If a man is struck on the right cheek and he offers his left, what will happen? he asked. "Maybe he'll be struck on the other cheek; maybe he will not be struck. And I believe that this example will be such as has never happened before in the world."

"America has already been, through its history, a sanctuary for the persecuted; then in World War I and II it was an arsenal for democracy. Since World War I and II it has been a pantry to the world, and now I believe it can be an example of reconciliation to the world."

Asked what such a withdrawal might mean to the South Vietnamese, Bishop Sheen said he wasn't "so sure that we must abandon the Vietnamese people to the Communists." But he added that "I think we will find some good will, a little good will (on the part of the North Vietnamese) to meet our great act of good will, and peace will come."

Another Vietnam peace proposal which gained ecclesiastical backing is the "Negotiation Now!" Campaign — an effort to sign up at least one million Americans to pressure the government to end bombing of targets in northern Vietnam and to negotiate a peace with Hanoi and the Viet Cong.

Rochester's Episcopal Bishop George W. Barrett and Presbyterian minister Rev. Robert S. Billheimer, formerly a pastor in Rochester, are two of the chief promoters of Negotiation Now!

Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta joined the growing number of Negotiation Now! advocates

termining it "the kind of realism that everyone responsible for our national course must employ." He also said the Negotiation Now! peace effort is "a practical ecumenism on an issue very much within the Judeo-Christian moral dimension."

Another voice for peace this week was that of Jesuit Father Hubert Schiffer, one of the few survivors of the world's first atomic blast at Hiroshima, August 6, 1945. Now in San Antonio, he said, "If we spent one-tenth as much on peace as we do on defense, the world would have fewer problems. . . . I trust the younger generation to find new answers for these problems — some different answers. Certainly our generation hasn't found them."

Pope Paul, at an audience for pilgrims from Vietnam, told them he had tried everything he could think of "to silence the clash of arms" in their homeland. But he sadly admitted there seems no end "to this atrocious war."

## Bishop's Philosophy Leads Cleric to Faith

Bishop Sheen's books and articles on philosophy paved the road for an Orthodox priest of Philadelphia recently to become a Catholic.

Father Michael B. Sisak, 58, credited the Bishop of Rochester as being a major factor in his conversion.

He also said Pope John was "an inspiration" for him, particularly in his convening of the Second Vatican Council.

"The idea of unity," Father Sisak said, "is now more than just a dream; it has come to pass. I decided I would like to share in the Council's blessings in my lifetime."

He was received into the Church in a brief ceremony in the private chapel of Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia.

## For High School Lads

# Priest Vocation Weekend Seminar

By FATHER LOUIS J. HOHMAN  
Diocesan Director of Vocations

The newly founded Pre-Seminary Program for the Diocese of Rochester will be activated at a retreat seminar to be given at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, August 27-29.

The seminar will initiate a continuing program of guidance and counsel in the area of vocational choice, for those boys of high school age who are interested in the priesthood as a possible vocational choice for themselves.

The program at the retreat house will run from Sunday evening, August 27, to Tuesday evening, August 29. It will be conducted by several priests of the Diocese in conjunction with diocesan seminarians. The program will consist of conferences by the priest vocation directors, discussions, recreation and prayer. It will afford the boys the opportunity of living and communicating with seminarians whose previous experience in the area of vocational choice should be invaluable. The cost of the two days will be \$10.

The question, "How do I go about choosing a vocation in life?" is one of the many complex problems facing teenagers today. The choices are so multiplied, the challenges so great and varied, it is no wonder that young people are confused and tempted to put off any decision until the last moment. No longer is it as simple as following in dad's footsteps or taking the first job open.

It is equally true that our teenagers are more eager for a life of service than most of their forefathers. The better among them want to make an impact on society, contribute to its welfare, make the world a better place in which to live. They desire to put their own imprint on the world that when they leave it, it will be a happier, more peaceful world.

One of the most important ways a young man can lead a life of service is in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Yet today there is almost panic about the current decline in priestly vocations. Experts agree that one of the important factors in the decline is the aforementioned multiplicity of choice which faces young people. The priesthood must be presented very clearly as a possible vocational choice.

The minor seminary of the diocese was closed recently be-

cause it was recognized that very few boys of high school age are able to make a meaningful commitment to seminary or priesthood. The newly formed Kings Preparatory School, founded by Bishop Sheen, is meant to help in making the choice of a service vocation. But for boys living outside Monroe County and many who live in the county, attendance at King's Prep is impossible.

The Pre-Seminary Program is meant to fill this gap. After attendance at the retreat house seminar, the applicant for the program is assigned or chooses a priest counselor in or near his home parish, to whom he goes for guidance and counsel on a regular basis (monthly or bi-monthly). There will also be semi-annual meetings of pre-seminarians on a regional basis. From these associations should come a firm decision as to vocation.

Boys of high school age who are interested in the priesthood as a possible vocation are urged to apply for the Pre-Seminary Program.

To do so, he should contact his pastor or one of the Diocesan Vocation Directors: Rev. William Graf, Ithaca College; Rev. John O'Connor, St. Michael's, Newark; Rev. Albert Cason, Sacred Heart Church, Auburn; Rev. Thomas Nellis, St. Mary's, Elmira; Rev. Timothy Wieder, St. Vincent's, Canisius; Rev. Louis Hohman, Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Road, Rochester 14618.



## Lots More to See

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THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

78th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1967

Price 15 cents

A GI's Thanks For Girls' Cookies Sent to Vietnam

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Rochester's Father Thomas O'Brien chats with Bolivian workers at factory gate before work or with a father and son at mission supper at day's end.

# Our Two Priests in Bolivia

What ever happened to our two diocesan priests sent last summer to the missions in Latin America?

They've completed their apprenticeship with veteran Maryknoll missionaries and are now about to launch out on their own in a parish in La Paz, Bolivia.

A year ago, when the pair left U.S. shores, it was said they were on their way "to bolster the sagging faith of Latin America."

Now their Maryknoll mentors of a year predict the two will be "a welcome shot in the arm" to mission work in Bolivia.

So Father Thomas O'Brien and Father Peter Deckman are faced with some mighty perils to fulfill.

They are the first priests of the Rochester Diocese to be assigned mission posts as part of an official diocesan foreign mission project.

Bishop Kearney asked for volunteers during the Spring of 1966. Fathers O'Brien and Deckman were picked from the more than score who applied for the new frontier-of-faith jobs.

They joined other-Maryknoll missionaries at the order's headquarters near New York City last summer for a final blessing and set out for a mission training school in Cochabamba, Bolivia. There they made an in-



Father O'Brien and Father Deckman received their departure blessing at dramatic Maryknoll rite a year ago.

tensive culture and language study for seven months.

With this preparation behind them, the two priests were then each assigned to a Maryknoll outpost in the LaPaz area of Bolivia. And so it came to be that here, 13,000 feet above sea level, two Rochester priests gained the needed experience to start a parish of their own, to be supported by the Rochester Diocese, almost 5,000 miles from home.

FATHER O'BRIEN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. O'Brien, Colebrook Drive, was especially eager to answer Bishop Kearney's call since he has wanted to do mission work since his seminary days. Now his tenacity to such an ambition has been daily tested as he made his rounds in San Pedro parish in LaPaz.

For in addition to the problems with which even the state-side priest must contend, ministering to the people of La Paz presents a few more of its very own.

In this community of 50,000 Father O'Brien answered two questions: What is the message which he and his confreres should be bringing to the people of the barrios and how is this message to be presented.

Father O'Brien has found that the personal approach is the

best one for solving the problems in South American mission lands. He writes:



Father Peter Deckman discovers a black sheep can be as good as a white sheep on mountain farm near his mission outpost in Bolivia.

"We have met them on a very personal and human level. We have tried to break down the

many prejudices which they have about the church—especially the idea that it is only interested in the rich. This notion has a powerful backing here."

The liturgy of the Church in Bolivia is largely irrelevant to the needs of the people. Superstitious practices abound and most worship centers around devotion to a favorite saint. There is a gap to be bridged between the lives of a people in a collapsing social structure and the church. Father O'Brien says: "There is no question of recalling them to their Christian duties. What has to be done is to awaken in them the desire to be Christians."

Two hours away by jeep, living with the Indians on the Altiplano, lived Father Deckman, the son of Mrs. Clarence Deckman and the late Mr. Deckman. Here, Father Deckman with the help of a Maryknoll priest, learned to understand the Indian mentality.

He writes: "I feel sort of like a white man living in Harlem since I'm the only gringo in town. Perhaps the biggest problem of all is trying to understand the Indian with all his superstitions. Men who have been here 15 years still find this a difficulty. As a result, there are no immediate results and the frustration can run pretty high."