



Glad Tidings of Great Joy—

CHRISTMAS

My dear People of God:

May the Love of God which shone forth in the Babe of Bethlehem fill your hearts and give you inspiration for the New Year.



Fulton Sheen
 Bishop of Rochester

Pope's Appeal Echoes The Prince Of Peace

By PATRICK RILEY
 (NC News Service)

Vatican City —(NC)— Pope Paul VI, a man of hope if there ever was one, has urged a weary world to make a fresh start toward peace in the New Year.

Coming a few days before Christmas, the Pope's urgent plea echoed the spirit of the Prince of Peace, whose birth the Christian world will celebrate next Monday.

"To proclaim peace is the same as to announce Jesus Christ," the Pope insisted, linking his peace challenge to the very core of the Gospel.

The Pontiff proclaimed New Year's Day as a Day of Peace for all Catholics, requested that all men of good will celebrate it as such "every year," as if it were their own initiative.

(Complete text of the Pope's address will be found on page 4A of this week's Courier-Journal.)

Catholics will have "the duty of observing" the Day of Peace with "the religious and moral expressions of the Christian faith," the Pope said.

He expressed the hope that "the exaltation of the ideal of peace may not favor the cowardice of those who fear it may be their duty to give their life for the service of their own country and of their own brothers when these are engaged in the defense of justice and liberty, and who seek only a flight from their responsibility."

At a press conference arranged by the Holy See, an official of the Papal Secretariat of State asserted that this could not be taken as a condemnation of conscientious objection. The official, Msgr. Paul Poupard, referred to Paragraph 79 of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, which encourages laws providing for "those who for reasons of conscience refuse to bear arms."

The Pope further declared: "Peace is not pacifism. It does not mask a base and sly concept of life but it proclaims the highest and most universal values of life: truth, justice, freedom, love."

Maurice Cardinal Roy of Quebec, president of the Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace, said at the same press conference that pacifism "does not carry the positive element of reconstruction." He said the Pope "puts us on our guard against a negative attitude."

(Msgr. Poupard observed that

"everybody distinguishes between pacifism and conscientious objection.")

The Pope's exhortations were contained in a 2,000-word message dated Dec. 8 and made public one week later, after copies of it had been sent to various international organizations and heads of state.

The first and somewhat larger part of the message was addressed "to all men of good will," including governments, international bodies, religious institutions and "youth, whose perspicacity regarding the new paths of civilization is more lively." The second and final part was addressed to the bishops and the faithful of the Catholic Church.

In the first part the Pope declared that the international organizations that have been created to foster international respect, collaboration and development "must be supported by all, become better known, and be provided with authority

and the means fit for their great mission."

He warned that peace cannot be founded on false and flashy words "which are welcomed because they answer to the deep, genuine aspirations of humanity but which can also serve—and unfortunately have sometimes served—to hide the lack of a true spirit and of real intentions for peace."

Such words sometimes "mask sentiments and actions of oppression, and party interests."

Foundations of Peace

On the same note he asserted that there is no peace unless the foundations of peace are respected. As far as international relations are concerned, he named these foundations as sincerity, justice and love. For relations among the people of the same nation and between them and their rulers, he added liberty as a foundation of peace.

Without such foundations "it is not peace which will exist—

even if perchance, oppression is able to create the external appearance of order and legality—but an unceasing and insuppressible growth of revolt and war."

In the part addressed to Catholics, the Pope explained why he constantly hammers away at the need for peace.

"This we do, not giving way to a facile habit or taking advantage of the mere interesting topic of the moment, but because we believe this is demanded by our duty as a universal pastor."

He also cited the urgency of the situation, speaking of "intimations of terrible events which may prove catastrophic for entire nations and perhaps even for a great part of mankind."

In further explanation of his unceasing calls for peace, he said it has "finally become clearly evident that peace is the

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THEY'RE PRAYING, TOO. Battle-fatigued American GI's pause for a pre-Christmas religious service in the combat zone.

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Pope To Broadcast Christmas Message

Vatican City —(RNS)— Pope Paul VI will broadcast his traditional Christmas message to the world at 8 p.m., Rome time, on Saturday, Dec. 23, it was announced here.

Arrangements have been made to relay the message throughout the world by various radio networks.