Excerpts from Pope Paul's Christmas Message

The following excerpts from the Christmas Message of Pope Paul VI to the world convey the theme that hopeless as the world may think itself in the troubles of the times, Christ remains our real and highest hope.

Courier Journal - Friday, Jan. 3, 1969

Today, man thinks, acts and lives by virtue of hope. Is not hope the interior mainspring of modern dynamism? Is not hope the root which nour ishes the immense task of the Word, as it reached forward toward its transformation and progress?

No one is any longer satisfied with what exists at present. At one time, the experience of the older generation was the guarantee of actual or desirable order. But now it is just that order which is attacked. And precisely because it is inherited from the past. It is overturned rather than conserved and renewed, in the blind hope that what is new will be fruitful for human progress. No further credence is now given to the stable values of faith, culture and institutions....

Two factors have concurred to gen erate this tension of hope. The discovery of ever-increasing possibilities of unforesceable conquests through cientific exploration and the technical domination of nature; and the observation of the conditions of meed in which, under so many aspects, the greater part of mankind lives.

Connequently, this two-fold discovery has awakened new and immense desires in human hearts. That is, the hope of using the riches of the means acquired to fill the lack caused by hunger, mivery, ignorance, insecu-ity and insufficiency, from which the man of our century still suffers.

It is, however, a hope in the kingdom of this earth, a hope in human self-sufficiency.

Progress itself, in some fields, cretes enormous fearful dangers for all of humanity. The use which modern man can make of the murderous forces which he has mastered raises on the horizon, not hope, but heavy clouds of terror and folly. The peace of peoples or in clearer words, the existence of man-upon the face of the earth, is put in peril.

Today's man has observed that the

sonality, of turning him into a mechanical instrument of the great machine of production. That machinery, while it provides numerous wonderful external improvements, subjects man to a colossal apparatus of domination.

In this way there will arise a society redundant with material well-being, satisfied, satiated, but lacking in superior ideals which give, meaning and value to life, and deaf, as it were, to the groans of the poor, near and far, who yet call themselves men and are in fact brothers.

The gaze of some young people in particular, of those who are usually clairvoyant and prophetic, has been darkened by their never being taught absolute principles, but the systematic spread of doubt and agnosticism. At a certain point, then, contesta-tion became the fashion, with the temptation of degenerating into rebellion, violence and anarchy, In this social and ideal field, too, human hope is being degraded and extinguished.

With sorrow do we see that because of these Ill-advised collective confusions, historical, cultural, moral -values which are still valid and worthy are being lost, with consequent damage to the entire civilized community.

Perhäps never before, as much in our day, literature, theatre, art, philosophical thought, have cruelly borne witness to the deficiency of man, his mental debility, his demonation by sensuality, his moral hypocrisy, his facile delinquency, his increasing cruelty, his possible abjection, his inconsistent personality. All of these self-satisfied accusations are based on a terrible and seemingly irrefutable argument: Such Is man, such is the great and miserable son of the century. This is the true-reality of life.

The experience of the desperate condition of human life, an experi-ence which modern progress, instead of suppressing, often sharpens and exacerbates, must call us back to admit an unavoidable seed which humanity, in various forms and degrees, has always preserved in its deepest consciousness - the need of being saved.

Indeed, all of us have meed to be

line the conviction of our radical incapability.

We can go even further, in virtue of man's conscience and that of history: We have need of a saviour, of a messiah, the name of Jesus means Saviour, and Christ means Messiah. That name, "Jesus Christ," is the proclamation of our salvation. It is the promise on which our hope 'is founded.

We have need of Christ. It is necessary that He have divine power. because no other power can overcome our ills. It is necessary that He have brotherhood with men, because if He were not a brother, could we understand Him well. St. Leo, the Great Pope of the mystery of Christ, says: "if (Christ) were not true God, He could not offer us a remedy. If He were not true man, He could not offer us an example."

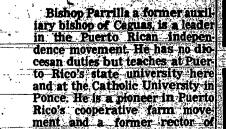
This proclamation is not vain, because the hope we place in it will not be in vain. On that blessed night, through the virginal motherhood of Mary, Christ-inserted himself into the history and destiny of mankind, and He still lives today. He lives in the fullness of a glory which for now we cannot properly name or imagine, in the life of heaven,

But he lives also here among us, being continually reborn, like a fountain from its spring, in His mystical body which is the Church, ever spreading throughout the world his truth and his grace.

Christianity has the power to infuse hope and give life, not only in its own order which is that of religion and the supernatural, but also in the profane and natural order. For when that order links its own earthly and therefore fallacious hopes to that unshakeable hope which descends from the kingdom of heaven, it no longer doubts that its work may be

in vain.

Christianity lives in the reality which Christ works among us: the candid pious innocence of children, the sufferings offered by the sick; the healthy deep love of families, the generous unselfness of youth, the humble invoking patience of the poor, the yearning struggle for greater justice of workers, the silent active charity of the good, the unceasing prayer of the community of the faithful.



Puerto Rico

Said Still

'Colonial'

Athenseum, here.

Ponce's major seminary. "There are two sets of condi-tions in our Island which amount to a critical violation of human dignity," he said.

"One is the continuation of colonialism, however disguised under attractive names, and in spite

of a certain automony in the public administration. The burden of such stigma is worsened by the act that other peoples have been decolonized.

"The other set of conditions, resulting from the first, is paternalism, which keeps our people in a state of inferiority in all fields-political, social, economic, cultural and religious."

Bishop Parrilla asserted that paternalism "permeates all as pects of our lives: the home, where parents neglect to raise children in the proper use of freedom; the school,-subservient to the established order; the factory, an irritant in industrial relations.

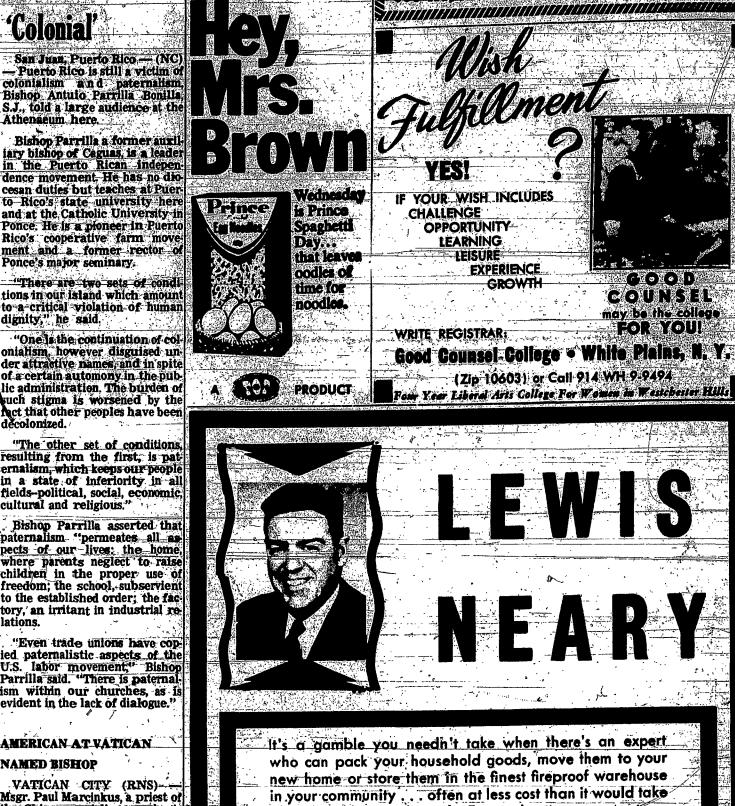
"Even trade unions have cop-ied paternalistic aspects of the U.S. labor movement," Bishop Parrilla said. "There is paternalism within our churches, as is evident in the lack of dialogue."

AMERICAN AT VATICAN

NAMED BISHOP the Chicago archdiocese who is on the staff of the Vatican Secretariat of State, has been raised to the episcopacy and assigned to the titular Diocese of Orta by Pope Paul VI.

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Tokyo (RNS)-Christians now

number 959,602 among Japan's population of 100 million or

nearly one per cent of the total,

according to figures made pub-

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Some words of comf the Navy officer arri Mr. Hodges son, Dua intelligence ship



By FATHER PATRICK (NC News Service

Saigon - The willingne olic Sisters to serve the V people in dangerous areas to the morale of U.S. ti Msgr. Andrew Landy assis tive director of Catholic vices (CRS), the overs agency of U.S. Catholics-

After finishing an exte to Vietnam to evaluate (Msgr. Landi said, "Officer whom I met say that if the particularly the Sisters, co tarily to dangerous areas less reason for the troops t about the discomforts."

While in the country, M visited the six teams CRS the country at Go Vap and in Saigon, Hue, Kontum, and An Giang in the Mel

Nam Hai-and Cam Ran gee projects to afford bo

