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U.S. Bishops Urge:

Attack Poverty at Its Roots

POVERTY
POCKET
USA



American bishops in their Labor Day statement advocate a drive against the causes of poverty in the United States. Typical of impoverished areas in this, the richest of nations, is this Appalachian ramshackle home in southeastern Kentucky. (RNS).

Washington — (NC) — The Catholic Church is urged to confront the causes of poverty rather than merely treating its effects.

This prompting is contained in the 1969 Labor Day Statement issued by the Division for Urban Life, Department of Social Development, United States Catholic Conference, which also listed a basic four-point Church strategy plan for combating social ills.

The statement observes that "history has shown that repression will not still the woes of those suffering oppression." Yet, it adds, the past year "has seen in the United States the development of a strong, yet still diffuse, reaction against the increasing demands of minority group citizens."

The statement challenged American Catholics to make effective use of their power.

"The duty of the Church to undertake true service of mankind is not an optional program, but a responsibility that Christ demands of all his followers."

(The Courier-Journal has learned that Father P. David Finks, recently director of the Urban Ministry among the poor of the cities of the diocese, and now on the staff of the Urban Life Division, was the author of the Labor Day statement, as "ghost-writer" for Msgr. George Higgins of the national office.)

What seems to be lacking in the social struggle, the statement says, "is a national determination to solve our problems by creative and positive action."

It notes that leaders in both the public and private sectors are aware of social development, "yet no one seems able to arouse the national will to form the broad coalitions to get the needed massive development program under way."

The Division for Urban Life listed "a practical strategy for the Church's support of human development," which, it said, should be utilized immediately.

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Smoldering Anger Persists Beneath Shaky Belfast Calm

By JAMES C. O'NEILL
(NC News Service)

Belfast, Northern Ireland — Buildings are no longer burning in Belfast, but the fires of religious, social and political fury are not extinguished, only banked, and not very well at that.

This capital of Northern Ireland is outwardly quiet a week after Catholic and Protestant factions rioted, burned and looted for almost three days beginning Aug. 14.

The city is quiet but it is nervous. And with good reason. It reminds an American of the explosions in Watts, Detroit and other U.S. cities.

About 500 houses and shops have been irreparably damaged, as well as at least six large factory buildings. Barricades made of overturned trucks, burned-out autos, paving stones and debris from junk yards still block parts of the city's streets, although others have been cleared after a fashion.

An estimated 4,000 persons have fled their homes and at least eight persons are dead because of the riots.

There is a quiet in the city mainly because British troops have taken over security duties throughout Northern Ireland. Before British Prime Minister Harold Wilson sent in British troops, Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary and the constabulary's volunteer "B Specials" were the riot police.

To Catholics of the region, the Specials are a "hostile partisan militia" composed exclusively of Protestants, armed and implacably against the Catholics. Those who champion the Specials, or the Ulster Special Constabulary as its title is, maintain it was not armed until after elements of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacked the regular police force of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The Specials form one of the key problems to the whole confusing, bloody and tragic situation of Northern Ireland today. Because Belfast Catholics and others believe the Specials and regular forces are hostile, they maintain that their faith in the normal police force protection has broken down. This has led to a "self-defense mentality," and smoldering hatred is fed by fear of further attacks.

The Specials, with a membership of approximately 8,400 men, all Protestants, have become a bitter point in Catholic-Protestant relations in

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Bernadette Devlin, member of Parliament from Northern Ireland, speaks from the hood of a car at a rally in New York held by the National Association for Irish Justice. The pickets, who marched outside the offices of a British commercial firm, were launching a boycott of British goods and services in protest of Britain's position in the current Northern Ireland crisis. (RNS).

Bernadette in U.S.: 'We Are Not Violent'

By DORIS R. PETERS
(NC News Service)

New York — In her first week in the United States, Bernadette Devlin, Northern Ireland's "Joan of Arc" and at 22, the youngest member of the British parliament, kept New York's newsmen and ardent flowers hopping.

A jammed-full itinerary that included several speaking engagements, a press conference and a ceremony in which she was given a key to the city by Mayor John Lindsay, did not keep her from joining pickets outside the British Overseas Airway Corporation.

Standing on top of a parked car on New York's Fifth Avenue, she asked the crowd: "How would you feel if New York police came down Fifth Avenue and machine-gunned us for holding this demonstration? That is what the police of the Unionist government do to people back home."

Later in the day, she was interviewed in the office of the National Association for Irish Justice, the group sponsoring her tour in search of \$1 million to be used for the victims of the fighting in Northern Ireland.

The pert, tiny veteran of the Londonderry riots had kicked off her shoes and admitted she was exhausted. She said, however: "Will power keeps me going. It's taking a lot out of me, but it's taking a lot out of the people at the barricades. If I collapse, someone will put me to bed and treat me nicely. If they collapse, they are lost."

Asserting what she has repeated many times since her arrival, she said: "We are not fighting Protestants. We are fighting a corrupt system of government that created the divisions between Catholics and Protestants."

"We want peace and justice. There can be no peace if there is no justice. We do not want to get up in the morning and shoot a Catholic or a Protestant. We want to get up and go to decent

jobs and come home to decent houses that our families have been safe in all day."

"It's a struggle of ordinary people for a decent life, free of fear and intimidation," she told her sympathetic audience. "Unless the problem is solved it could well become a civil war," she added.

"We may well be in a lull before the storm. The British forces have moved in to protect the people living behind the barricades, from the forces of law and order."

"The British Army must remain. Our short-term demand is that the British must disarm and disband the constabulary and the special police, which are instruments of the Unionist Party that dominates the six northern counties," Miss Devlin continued.

A united free Ireland, Miss Devlin said, is the final solution to the Irish crisis, which has pitted Catholics against Protestants.

But she said it should not be based on the Irish Republic, which Miss Devlin contended was economically too weak to absorb the six depressed northern industrial counties.

Synod Agenda Is Outlined

Vatican City — (RNS) — An outline of the agenda for the second international Synod of Bishops, to be held here in October, deals largely with the "place of national or regional episcopal conferences in the Church."

The 30-page document, distributed by the Synod's secretariat last May 30, is based on suggestions sent to the Vatican by episcopal conferences. It was drawn up by Father Willem Bertrams, S.J., a Dutch theologian who is a consultant of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Precautions against the divulging of the document's contents have been unusually strict. The bishops' conferences reportedly are forbidden to discuss the contents of the agenda with their clergy or laity before the Synod and the document also stresses the need for conducting the Synod's discussions in secrecy.

The document considers the relations between the faithful and the hierarchy, episcopal collegiality and the relations between the episcopal conferences and the Vatican. It stresses the need for more frequent contacts between the Vatican and the bishops' conferences, particularly recommending consultation with the Vatican before an episcopal conference makes a major decision such as the publication of a collective pastoral letter.

Vatican Nails Rumor of Papal Trip

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican City daily, putting the damper on reports that Pope Paul VI will visit Japan, observed that without an official invitation from "the competent authorities" he cannot visit any country.

Pope Paul has no invitation from the Japanese government, although he has been urged by various persons to visit Hiroshima on the 25th anniversary of the atom-bombing of that Japanese port city.

The Vatican City paper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the Pope "is desirous of visiting certain places and certain countries," but is unable to "for obvious reasons." This may refer to Pope Paul's thus far unfulfilled hope of visiting Poland, whose communist government has proved hostile to a papal visit.

The notice in L'Osservatore Romano was almost certainly approved by the papal secretariat of state and was probably written there.

2 New Texas Dioceses Established by Pope Paul

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul this week created two new dioceses in Texas, accepted the resignation of 77-year-old Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Forth Worth, and shifted five prelates to new posts.

With the resignation of Bishop Gorman, the Vatican split his diocese to form the separate dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth.

Bishop Thomas Tschoepe, until now Bishop of San Angelo, Texas, received the See of Dallas (Catholic population of 110,000 out of a general population of 1.2 million) and former Auxiliary Bishop John J. Cassata became Bishop of Fort Worth (Catholic population of 75,000).

It was also announced that Bishop Hugh A. Donahue has been transferred from the Diocese of Stockton, Cal., to become Bishop of Fresno, and Bishop Leo T. Maher has been moved from the Diocese of Santa Rosa, Cal., to be Bishop of San Diego.

The chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Msgr. Leo T. Brust, has been named Auxiliary to Archbishop William E. Cousins in Milwaukee.

Bishop Gorman was editor of The Tidings, newspaper of the Archdiocese.

New Liturgy Practices Not Due Until Spring

Coadjutor Archbishop Leo C. Byrne of St. Paul-Minneapolis, chairman of the Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, announced that the effective dates for the publication or use of the new lectionary, the ordinary of the Mass, and the services for baptism and marriage, cannot realistically be expected "until next Lent or even Easter."

Courier Plans New Column

A new column, ESSAYS IN THEOLOGY, by Father Richard McBrien from Pope John XXIII Seminary, Weston, Mass., will begin in the Courier-Journal next week, offering readers' lucid and well-balanced discussions of theological topics and problems.

A Doctor of Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and working-professor of theology, Father McBrien is competent in tradition and youthful of view. We will welcome the opinion of readers on the style and ideas in this new feature.

case of Los Angeles, when he was named Bishop of Reno in 1931. He succeeded to the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth in 1952.



This church is torn in half by the destructive winds that accompanied Hurricane Camille and caused "enormous damage" to churches and religious education facilities. As the number of deaths reached near 200, Camille was considered one of the most destructive storms ever to hit the North American continent. (RNS).

Bishops Give \$25,000 For Disaster Relief

Washington — (NC) — Catholic bishops dug into their United States Catholic Conference emergency fund and gave \$25,000 to be used for relief in hurricane-ravaged Mississippi.

Most of the money is expected to be given to the Natchez-Jackson diocese in Mississippi where most of the damage is located. Some of the money will go to other dioceses in the disaster area and probably to Virginia, which suffered its worst flood since 1936 as a result of Hurricane Camille's aftermath.

The money was turned over to the National Catholic Disaster Relief Committee, which will determine how it will be allocated.

Want to aid hurricane victims? See Page 6.

Father Ray Hebert, director of Catholic Charities in the archdiocese of New Orleans, is acting as liaison between the dioceses and the disaster relief committee in determining where the money should be spent.

In another development, Catholic Relief Services announced that it has 10 tons of baby food, five tons of new infants' and children's clothing, and 1,000 dozen children's T-shirts available for distribution in the disaster area.

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