

# Marital Morality a Gift of God, Pope Says

Vatican City—(NC) — Pope Paul VI, calling the traditional marital morality "a gift of God," urged couples neither to grow discouraged nor to rebel should they fail to live up to it.

From a "radical realization of one's weakness begins all progress in the moral life," he observed.

Marital chastity, he said, is achieved "little by little."

He asserted, however, that the "demands of conjugal moral life which the Church recalls"—a clear reference to the norms of his 1968 encyclical against contraception—are "neither unbearable nor unworkable."

And he warned against a false dilemma that would make a couple choose between "sensuality" and abandonment of the sacraments, on the one hand, and a wrecked marriage, on the other.

## 'A Persuasive Sermon . . . A Man and Woman in Love, The Smile of a Child, The Peace of a Home.'

Pope Paul raised his appeal for courage during a talk to a pilgrimage of the Equipes Notre-Dame—literally, Teams of Our Lady.

This movement, now active in 25 countries of the world, bands from four to seven couples into "teams" to help one another find a spirituality of marriage. About 2,000 of the movement's 3,500 married couples heard the Pope speak.

Informed sources held that Cardinal Jean Danielou, French

Jesuit theologian, had a hand in the writing of the Pope's 7,000-word speech.

Time and time again Pope Paul warned against losing heart in the struggle to keep the laws of marital morality. In several ways throughout the speech he emphasized that these laws are helps rather than hindrances.

And he pictured the happy home as a figure of the love of God and a foretaste of its enjoyment:

"A man and a woman who love each other, the smile of a child, the peace of a home—here is a wordless but astoundingly persuasive sermon in which every man can already discern, as if shining through, the reflection of another love, and its infinite appeal."

Conscience, the Pope said, must be at once "respected, educated and shaped." This should be accomplished, he said, "in an atmosphere of confidence, not of anxiety."

He continued:

"When the husband and wife try, patiently and humbly—without letting themselves be discouraged by failure—to live in truth the deep demands of a sanctified love of whose existence moral rules are there to remind them, then moral rules are no longer cast off as a shackle but recognized as a powerful help."

He said that it is worth

shouting aloud that "neither anxiety nor fear should ever be found in souls of goodwill."

He called the achievement of conjugal chastity "a work of liberation."

The Pope said:

"To realize that one has not yet conquered his inner liberty, that one is still subject to the spur of his tendencies, to discover oneself almost incapable of respecting at the moment the moral law in so fundamental a domain, naturally arouses distress.

"But it is the decisive moment when the Christian, in his disarray, rather than abandon himself to sterile and destructive revolt, humbly attains the bewildering discovery of man before God, a sinner before the love of Christ the Savior.

"From this radical awareness begins all progress in the moral life."



Gas-masked Ohio National Guardsmen advance through clouds of tear gas during an anti-war rally on the campus of Kent State University of Ohio on May 4. Shortly after this photo was taken, troops opened fire with their rifles and four students were killed. The tragic killings climaxed three days of disturbances on the Kent State campus. (Religious News Photo)

## Help Young People, Pope Tells Media

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has urged the communications media throughout the world to take advantage of the opportunities it has "to help young people to be informed."

This appeal was contained in a message the pontiff issued to commemorate the fourth World Communications Day which was celebrated on May 10.

The potential of the media, according to the Pope, is predicated on their remaining "in actual fact means to an end, the one end worthy of the name: the service of the whole of mankind and of the whole man."

"Unfortunately," the pontiff continued, "all too often the contrary is the case. We witness young people and children, used as easily secured consumers by an industry that makes itself its own end, being dragged into the pitfall of ero-

ticism and violence or led along the perilous paths of uncertainty, anxiety and anguish."

Pope Paul said that it was essential "that all honest persons agree among themselves to launch a cry of alarm which would be capable of ending the corruptive practices in some communications media."

Noting the ever-increasing trend toward pornography and violence, the pontiff asked all men through the world to remind those in the fields of communications of their responsibilities to the young "before history and God Himself."

However, Pope Paul also stressed that, as important is the work of all these organizations, their efforts would have little effect if parents and teachers did not help youth to evaluate the material which is presented to them by the communications media.

## Church Leaders Criticize Invasion

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Union, saying both had committed "very grave errors."

The paper editorially alluded to the failure of Communists to negotiate fruitfully at the Paris peace talks.

"This is the reason for U.S. troops in Cambodia . . . responsibility rests with both sides."

In Washington, the Catholic Church's first official statement on the crisis questioned U.S. military action in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Supporting the right of dissenting Americans to "reach and express" conclusions against the war, it called on both supporters and opponents of President Nixon's policy to "refrain from words and actions which will further complicate the search for a just resolution."

The statement by the U.S. Catholic Conference's international affairs committee—whose eight members include five archbishops and bishops—said:

"Now that the war has assumed vast new dimensions, it is all the more imperative to have the answers to such questions (as to whether just-war principles are being followed)."

In a separate and stronger statement released simultaneously, the director of the USCC international affairs committee, Msgr. Marvin Bordelon, said that the reasons for American military involvement in South-

east Asia "seem frequently to have shifted" over the last few years and that U.S. combat in Cambodia was "at least questionable."

He noted that official government spokesmen have said at various times it was a fight to counter communism, or to protect defenseless people, or to serve "vital American interests," or to save lives by shortening the war.

"At the very least it seems that a compelling answer to the very question of why we are fighting in Southeast Asia at all is long overdue," said Msgr. Bordelon.

Commending American young people who are asking the question of whether President Nixon had a constitutional right to escalate the war without congressional authorization, he said: "I note with sorrow that government has not yet answered it to their satisfaction."

In New York City, Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council of Churches, described the action as taking us "even further from any hope of peace."

In a strongly-worded condemnation, which did not mention the President by name, the NCC leader said the U.S. "once again acted unilaterally to seek advantage and solution by military measures."

But the managing editor of an NCC journal which covers

the activities of religious bodies in Communist areas has assured President Nixon of his "continuous support" in resisting Communist aggression.

Dr. Blahoslav Hruby of "Religion in Communist Dominated Areas," called on the President to "give all possible aid to Cambodia and Israel."

He sent the following wire to Mr. Nixon:

"Please give all possible aid to Cambodia and Israel. Freedom is indivisible and the future of the United States and the West depends on our will and courage to resist Communist aggression."

Dr. Hruby, an American citizen who is a native of Czechoslovakia, is a clergyman of the United Presbyterian Church.

The related slaying of four Kent State, Ohio, students by National Guardsmen, drew heated comment from Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress.

He scored Ohio Gov. James Rhodes for calling out rifle-bearing troops "to confront unarmed students."

He said that the United States should make clear its rejection of "shoot to kill" as an answer to dissent.

Father Theodore Hesburgh, the president of Notre Dame University, called the military move "another step into the quicksand."

He proposed to students a joint declaration of protest against "this and all current wars."

He also told students he deplored "violence here at home" as the "worst possible reaction to violence you abhor in Southeast Asia."

In one of the most unique protests, the entire population—students, faculty and janitors—of the Quaker Haverford College in Philadelphia decided to transfer operations for one day to Washington, D.C.

Joined by 50 coeds from Bryn Mawr, 265 from Haverford went to Washington in buses for one-day seminars on the war.

Referring to the President's characterization of some campus dissenters as "bums", Haverford President John R. Coleman said, "I feel reasonably certain that the school will show that these are not bums but concerned students."

At Kent State, the Rev. William Jacobs, director of the United Christian Fellowship supported by eight Protestant denominations, said:

"Adults do not really understand how strongly students feel about issues such as the war. Many are alienated from their churches . . . but their understanding of divinity and of humanity is that they just cannot destroy human life."

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