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Pray for U.S. POWs, Urges Bishop Hogan

Calling diocesan attention to the plight of 1,450 Americans listed as missing or imprisoned in Southeast Asia, Bishop Hogan has designated next Sunday, Father's Day, as a day of parish prayer for their release and for humane treatment from their captors in North Vietnam.

The Bishop also approved the further suggestion of the Priests' Association and the Diocesan Priests' Council that parishioners write letters to officials of the Republic of North Vietnam, to U.S. Congressmen and foreign Ambassadors in Washington who have contacts with the North Vietnam government.

An estimated 127 families in New York State have husbands, brothers or sons in the known lists of the prisoners of war or the missing in Vietnam action. Eight families in the Rochester area have servicemen relatives whose present status is unclear.

Mrs. Beverly Garcia and Mrs. Arthur Ismay of Rochester, promoters of the war-prisoner cause, said that as of March 5, this year nearly 400 men are known to be prisoners of the North Vietnamese.

Despite the Geneva Conventions, signed by the North Vietnamese in 1957 providing that all prisoners be allowed to communicate with their families, fewer than 100 of all the captured men have ever been allowed to send mail home. Many of the prisoners are presumed to be sick or wounded and it is not known how many have died in prisons.

The National League of Families of American Prisoners of Southeast Asia has charged that prolonged solitary confinement, denial of mail and packages, parading of prisoners and photographing them for propaganda purposes are other violations of the Geneva Conventions which should be nationally protested to the officials of North Vietnam.

Suggested addresses for letters urging that the Geneva Conventions be observed in the treatment of prisoners are: Office of the President, Republic of Vietnam, Hanoi, North Vietnam (airmail, 25c); Minister Xuan Thuy, Representative of the Republic of Vietnam, c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris, France (airmail, 20c).

Bishop Hogan's Father's Day Statement

Father's Day suggests an appropriate time to remember in a special way the plight of the nearly 1500 men who are listed as missing in action or who are suffering as prisoners of war in North Vietnam. Many homes today are fatherless because of this inhuman situation.

I therefore designate June 21, Father's Day 1970 as a special day of prayer in

all our churches on behalf of these men. I further designate the week of June 21-27 as a Week of Letter-Writing Action in support of their release and of humane treatment.

I request that all Pastors give directions to their people about appropriate addresses for these letters.

Joseph L. Hogan
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

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Appointment
Of Lodge
Hailed by
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