



City Bus — A Prayer

They're in every city. They stop on every corner. And they're slow, although a bit faster than their retired grandfathers, the streetcars.

A bus is a small world on wheels. It's enough to have your eyes open just a wee bit to be able to contemplate this rolling world of humanity. And here you are, Lord, in the midst of stepped-on toes and those occasional shoves that make up the world of the bus.

Pardon me — you weren't by chance that fellow with the greasy face and hands, and clad in dirty overalls who had to be awakened at the end of the line?

Look, I've seen your face before. You couldn't be that old man whom no one helped to climb those two high steps at the entrance and whom no one wanted to sit with because they were afraid that the grime of his toil would smudge off on their neatly pressed suit?

Lord, I know you. You've stood up desperately clinging to the hand strap, a baby in your arms.

You've fallen to the pavement getting off by the rear door, because the driver was impatient and started too soon.

But I've also seen you more than once driving a bus. I noticed the smile with which you gave change to the passengers. It was you, Lord, disguised as always.

You travel. You travel a lot from one end of the city to the other. You get off in the neighborhoods of cardboard huts and run-down tenements, in the neighborhoods of those who, like, you, have nowhere to lay their heads.

You're always unknown. In that way no one genuflects before you or begs a blessing. One day a worker, the next a wandering orphan; but still many other times the father of a large family.

But, because of your worn-out secondhand shoes, because of the poorly placed patch, because of the indications of hunger and sleepiness which show on your face, you are easily found.

Dear Lord, when I get on the bus, help me to pass through the turnstile by own effort. And may I prefer to stand up. That way I'll always be sure not to have taken your seat. (Catholic Press Features)

From—Sidewalk—Reflections and Images, a collection of 25 modern prayers written by William Barbieri, S.J.; illustrated with photos by Algimantas Kezys, S.J.; published by Maryknoll Publications, Maryknoll, N.Y.

U.S. Catholic Agency Helps Cambodia Refugees

Saigon—(NC)—Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the overseas aid agency of U.S. Catholics, is assisting about 200,000 refugees from the war in Cambodia, the agency's local director said here.

Father Robert L. Charlebois, of Gary, Ind., CRS program director for Vietnam, said the agency is now negotiating with the Cambodian government to establish a relief and rehabilitation program for all refugees in that country.

Approximately 96,000 persons are crowded into 20 refugee camps in Cambodia.

In South Vietnam, CRS is helping to feed and clothe

some 94,000 Vietnamese who left Cambodia at the start of the fighting there. The agency has helped to resettle 5,000 refugees in the Phu Cuong diocese north of Saigon.

So far, CRS has given \$250,000 worth of food, medicine and clothing to the refugees and is spending \$3,000 a day in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, to buy food for them.

The aid has come from private sources and institutions. Contributors include Pope Paul VI; OXFAM, an ecumenical relief agency in England; Australian Catholic Relief; the New Zealand Catholic Aid Committee and CRS itself.

Pope Asks for Renewal Of Missionary Activity

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has called for "a vigorous renewal of missionary activity" in the Church, activity conceived in "broad and modern terms."

In a special message addressed to the Catholic world, the Pope noted that "those who really wish to live their Christianity" should ever be mindful of the fact that it is intrinsically ordained to communicate itself to all men.

But the particular circumstances of today, he said, seem to be signs calling for "a vigorous renewal of missionary activity." Today — in the light of increased communications and the growth of international relations — "the world offers a far wider and more inviting field" for missionary endeavor, "though certainly not an easier one," he observed.

Stressing that the renewal activity "must be conceived in broad and modern terms," the 72-year-old pontiff pointed out that a new approach was required in the matter of "underlying theological principle," as well as in "publicity, recruitment, and training in actual missionary methods and organization."

The Pope then called attention to two fundamental concepts, evangelization and development, which, he said, must be considered in any "re-thinking" about the general direc-

tion that renewed missionary activity should take.

"By evangelization is meant strictly religious activity, aimed at the preaching of God's Kingdom, at the preaching of the Gospel as the revelation of the plan of salvation in Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit."

In contrast, "development" means "the human, civil, temporal promotion of peoples" — through contacts with modern civilization — "to higher levels of culture and prosperity."

However, the pontiff warned, "a correct relationship" must be established between the two concepts.

On the one hand, he said, it would be unthinkable that believers should so concentrate on "earthly realities" as to lose sight of the "essential end" of missionary activity, namely, "to bring all men to the light of the faith, to give them new life in baptism, to incorporate them into the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, to teach them to live like Christians, to hold out to them the hope of an existence beyond this earthly one."

On the other hand, the Pope continued, it would be inadmissible for the Church's missionary activity "to neglect the needs and aspirations of developing peoples and, because of its religious orientation, to

omit the basic duties of human charity."

Referring to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul noted that, although the specific purpose of missionary activity is evangelization, this purpose can be advanced by activities concerned with "the temporal and human development of the peoples being evangelized."

Pope to See West Germany's Chancellor

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI will receive West German Chancellor Willy Brandt on July 13. The head of the Bonn government will be on an official visit to the Italian government.

There is speculation that the Pope and Chancellor Brandt will discuss conflicting claims of West Germany and Poland to territories east of the Oder-Neisse River line. At the end of World War II, the Soviet Union acquired a large chunk of Poland and, with the consent of the allies, compensated Warsaw by giving it former German lands east of the Oder and Neisse rivers, pending a final peace settlement. East Germany recognized this new border and Poland demands that West Germany do the same.

The Polish bishops have been bringing pressure on the Pope to appoint permanent resident Polish bishops in the "regained" territories. (At present these are administered by Polish bishops who report directly to Rome.) However, following traditional Vatican policy, Pope Paul has decided not to accede to the wishes of the Polish hierarchy until the status of the territories is settled in a formal international agreement.

Protestant Clergy Back Catholic Bishops' Stand

Belfast — (RNS) — The Church of Ireland (Anglican) joined the Presbyterian Church here in endorsing a statement by Northern Ireland's Catholic bishops condemning the use of violence and "all forms of intimidation."

In an historic action, Archbishop George O. Simms of Armagh, Anglican Primate of Ireland, updated a statement against violent action made by the Anglican General Assembly prior to the Catholic bishops' plea. He said he welcomed the statement of the Catholic bishops and asked for a "repudiation of individuals or groups who may appear to be interested in a continuation of violence."

Just prior to Archbishop Simms' statement, the Rev. James Haire, new moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, told that Church's General Assembly that North Ireland's Catholic prelates spoke of "the sanctity of human life and how violence always falls

heaviest on the least protected members of the community."

"I cannot see how we can do anything other than fully support these views," he told the Assembly. He noted:

"The Roman Catholic bishops bade their people love their neighbors — their Protestant neighbors — who, they said, 'are our fellow Christians united with us in the love and worship of the same God and the same Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ', and we clearly say no less on our side."

Church Serves And Governs, Pope Declares

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul IV has declared that the Church's obligation to make its government a ministry of service does not nullify its power to govern.

"The fact that Jesus Christ wanted His Church to be governed in a spirit of service does not mean that the Church is not to have a power of hierarchical government," the Pope told a general audience (June 17).

"The Keys conferred on St. Peter mean something. They mean a great deal."

Pope Paul said the divine authority given by Christ to His Apostles is "always pastoral and destined for the good of the church."

But such authority, he said, is invested "not through election by all its members, or through commission of the community, but through apostolic transmission by means of the sacrament of Holy Orders."

An exact understanding of the function of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, he said, requires that it be seen within the "wider problem of the service function of all the Church's members."

Catholic Academy Rented to City

Dubuque, Iowa — (NC) — Public school officials here will lease space and equipment in the closed Academy of the Visitation to provide for more than 650 parochial school students in a shared-time program.

The academy, a girls' school conducted by Visitation nuns here for 99 years, closed this year because parents indicated they were unable to pay more tuition.

The Dubuque Community School District agreed to lease part of the academy for \$60,000 a year, and rent specialized equipment for an additional \$6,000. The space will be used as a junior high school annex, where seventh and eighth graders from three parishes will take part in a shared time program in English, science, mathematics, art, crafts and music.

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