



Protest Reform of Liturgy

Catholic traditionalists from several European countries march across St. Peter's Square for an all-night sit in beneath the Pope's apartment windows. The group came to the Vatican to show its opposition to reforms in the liturgy, including offering the Mass in the vernacular. (RNS Photo)

Pope Paul, Lodge Meet in Vatican

Vatican City — President Nixon's new envoy to the Vatican, Henry Cabot Lodge, and Pope Paul VI had their first meeting here last week.

The two reportedly discussed the tense world situation with emphasis on the Vietnam War and the Mideast confrontation.

Lodge, who is serving as President Nixon's personal envoy without compensation, said he would stay in Rome for about a month.

When the White House announced Lodge's appointment on June 5, it stated that he would make two or three visits a year to the Vatican, staying in Rome two to four weeks each time.

The White House also said

that Lodge, a Presbyterian, would have no permanent residence in Rome. He has no formal title, diplomatic rank, or formal accreditation at the Vatican.

To emphasize that Lodge's mission to the Vatican is distinct from the United States diplomatic representation in Italy, he will live and work at the Grand Hotel, four blocks from the United States Embassy.

Lodge's staff here consists of an assistant, a secretary and a driver.

The assistant is Robert F. Illing, a Foreign Service official who has just ended a two-year tour of duty as a political officer at the United States Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Illing said he, like Mr. Lodge, is not a Roman Catholic, but denied that there was a policy of not assigning Catholics to the Vatican mission. "The State Department doesn't even know the religion of Foreign Service members," he remarked.

Vatican informants suggested the Pope would almost certainly use the new Vatican-Washington channel to urge the United States to increase aid to underdeveloped countries.

The gap between rich and poor nations was worrying Pope Paul greatly, the sources declared.

Lutheran Synod Raps Abortion

Milwaukee — (RNS) — The South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod elected the Rev. Karl L. Barth, 45, pastor of a suburban congregation here, as its president and went on record opposing abortion.

Mr. Barth, although favored to win, surprised observers by the ease of his victory, which came with a majority on the opening or nominating ballot, a write-in that was open to all pastors. The size of his margin was not announced.

He succeeded the Rev. Herbert W. Baxmann, 68, who is retiring after 17 years in office.

Delegates also approved a resolution declaring "all abortions to be contrary to God's will except . . . emergency action to save at least one life in the process."

Irish Clergy Urge Restraint

Belfast — (RNS) — In the wake of the recent outburst of violence and rioting in Northern Ireland, leaders of the four major Churches in Ireland issued a joint appeal to all Christians to redouble their prayers and "give an example of tolerance and restraint."

Despite their pleas, violence broke out again last Friday night when a Catholic crowd confronted British troops in Belfast.

The crowd tossed two grenades at the troops who fired back. After an exchange between the troops and snipers, five were left dead, all civilians.

Making the plea were William Cardinal Conway, Archbishop of Armagh, Northern Ireland and Catholic Primate of All Ireland; Anglican Archbishop George Otto Simms of Dublin and Primate of Ireland; the Rev. James Davidson, president of the Irish Methodist Church; and Bishop James Haire, of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

In the previous outbreak here, six persons were reported killed by gunfire and more than 200 wounded. Elsewhere, skirmishes flared, with snipers and arson adding to the growing tensions and rage.

The current rioting began when Miss Bernadette Devlin, Catholic civil rights leader and member of Parliament, was imprisoned for six months on riot charges stemming from violence last Summer. News of her arrest and imprisonment sparked violent outbursts by her followers.

From her jail cell in Armagh, Miss Devlin appealed for calm. "Have they all gone mad?" she said. "This is not the way to handle things."

'CREATIVE REVOLUTION'

Des Moines, Iowa — (NC) — "Creative revolution" in marriage, the family and the Church will be the theme of a regional Christian Family Movement convention Aug. 21-23.

The meeting for couples will begin with an address on family revolution by Father Walter Imborski. He is Cana conference director for the archdiocese of Chicago advisory group on family life to the United States Conference of Bishops. "Creative revolution in the Government" will be discussed by Rep. John Culver, a Democrat from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and, an outspoken critic of U.S. involvement in Indochina.

Bishop Hogan's Pastoral Letter

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There is no law, no human authority, no medical or economic or social reason, that can justify deliberate and direct destruction of an innocent life which God has begun. Abortion must be strongly condemned because it kills a developing human life and therefore frustrates the plans of God for the potential destiny which this life contains.

Underneath the casual attitude toward life which today accepts abortion-on-demand is a two-fold blindness in our society. First, the birth of children is such a routine statistic that even people of some consciousness of God have lost the wonder of conception. Because of his own scientific prowess modern man has no awe for the intervention of God in human affairs.

On the other hand, we have become so hardened to death from the wars and violence of our times that there has been a decline in the belief in the preciousness of human life. Without the essentially religious view that each human being is a symbol of divine order and a proof of divine love, even thoughtful people are apathetic about the most monstrous tragedies, whether it be lists of war casualties or highway fatalities, or abortion-deaths.

The repeated teaching of our Christian tradition is that one cannot put a price on human life. Because innocent, infant life belongs to God, man is forbidden to subordinate it to some temporal value like the health of the mother, protection of her reputation, the economics of the family, or "the good life."

Once our society begins to rate a life against a lesser consideration, it will begin to legislate the destruction of the aged, the crippled, the mentally ill, the socially burdensome.

Abortion is not a private matter. That thousands will die in this state each year should be the concern of every citizen.

We are well aware of the disorder in society where pregnancy results from sexual ignorance, rape or incest. We are worried that poverty, unemployment, lack of housing and the inequities of society provide a climate of strong temptation for many women to resort to abortion because they dread the consequences of another child in their family.

As Catholics we must stimulate our communities to provide education, pre-natal and post-natal care and social protection for the unwed mother. We must ourselves develop a more humane attitude toward the care and adoption of children born out of wedlock.

We should encourage the enlargement of counseling services, the increase of financial assistance to mothers and the guarantees of health-care and education for every child God gives to our world.

Together with my brother bishops of New York State I strongly affirm that July 1, 1970 marked the beginning of the most tragic chapter in our history. With them I affirm, too, that this change of civil law alters neither God's law nor the law of our Church. The evil it sanctions is particularly heinous because the life destroyed is innocent and defenseless.

With a blessing, I remain
Your concerned and devoted shepherd,

Joseph L. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester

Anti-Racist Theme For Peace Day

Vatican City — (NC) — The fourth World Day of Peace to be declared by Pope Paul VI will have an anti-racist theme.

The theme — "Every Man Is My Brother" — is designed to fit in with the United Nations' worldwide campaign against racism in 1971.

Father Jean Le Gall, of the papal secretariat of state, in presenting the theme to the press, said that it had been published so far in advance of New Year's Day — which is World Day of Peace — in order to give ample time for preparations by national and local com-

mittees dealing with celebrations of the day.

He also said that the early publication would be handy for Catholic organizations that want to discuss the theme during their congresses this summer.

The statement of the Holy See presented by Father Le Gall observed:

"Cultural traditions are put forward as a pretext for claiming the superiority of one race over another. In certain places attempts have been made to argue from Holy Scripture in support of racist propositions and practice."

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COURIER-JOURNAL

Vol. 82 No. 41 July 8, 1970

Subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and Published Weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Single copy 15c; 1 year South America, \$8.50; other foreign Countries, \$9.50. Main Office, 35 Scio Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Second class Postage Paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

Wednesday, July 8, 1970

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Courier