

U.S. Bishops Term Abortion 'Murder'

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flaunt the most basic human right, that of life itself.

According to one spokesman, the declaration is aimed partially at strengthening the resolve of Catholic doctors and nurses who are confronted with the problem of participating in hospital abortions.

Another spokesman said Catholic bishops throughout the country have received requests from non-Catholics against abortion urging the bishops to continue their outspoken opposition to abortion law liberalization.

In reminding Catholic physicians and nurses that "regardless of changing laws, direct abortion is always morally wrong," the declaration said

that Catholic hospitals and their staffs must "witness to the sanctity of life . . ."

"The evil of abortion is not exclusively the responsibility of one person," the declaration added. "Society is also often guilty of a lack of compassion and justice for the expectant mother."

The declaration affirmed that from the "moment of conception," the child is fully human, a "complex and rapidly-growing being" who has a "life of its own."

Reportedly using for the first in one of their statements the word "murder," the bishops declared that "society has no right to destroy this life" and the law must provide every possible protection for the child before and after birth.

Guidelines Issued On Mixed Marriages

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The nation's Catholic bishops called for "renewed pastoral concern" toward persons contemplating or involved in mixed marriages as they voted to adopt guidelines on mixed marriage set out in a March 1970 Vatican directive.

The Vatican norms which the U.S. bishops voted overwhelmingly to implement stemmed from deliberations at the Second Vatican Council which urged the application of its teachings to marriages which unite Catholics and those of "differing religious convictions."

The 15-page bishops' statement noted that the Catholic Church "generally discourages" mixed marriages but also recognizes that they do and will occur. And it pointed out that the Church wishes to extend "special help and support" to couples who "at times encounter special difficulties."

Noting Catholic Church adherence to the principle of religious liberty, the statement observed that the "conscientious devotion of the Catholic to the Catholic Church is to be safeguarded, and the conscience of the other partner is to be respected . . ."

"The sacred character of all valid marriages, including those which the Church does not consider sacramental is recognized" the statement added.

Referring to broad areas of agreement in the Judaeo-Christian tradition's view of marriage the statement observed that the Catholic Church recognizes "the reality of marriages contracted validly" among non-Christians and "those Christians separated from us."

National Units Report Deficit of \$2 Million

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The nation's 47 million Roman Catholics may be asked to increase their giving by 50 per cent to cover a \$2 million deficit in the operation of the NCCB and USCC.

This was reported here by NCCB treasurer Archbishop John J. Maguire, coadjutor of the New York archdiocese, and relayed to news media in a press conference afterward by Father Robert F. Trisco of the Catholic University of America.

He said the NCCB's Budget and Finance Committee blamed the deficit on a variety of causes.

Courier-Journal

'Faithlessness' Draws Warning From Pontiff

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI described the current situation facing Christianity and the Catholic Church as "probably" the fulfillment of Christ's warning — "And because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold." The Pope's somber appraisal came during his customary Sunday address to pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

"Outwardly," he said, "the state of religion seems calm and respected. But the reality of the situation is different, since in many countries an oppressive legalism and in others, a secular anti-clericalism — a peaceful atheism, if you wish, though radical in thought and custom — attempt . . . to smother Christian thought and the institutions inspired by it."

The Church, the pontiff went on, was "resisting, suffering and fighting as best it could, and was surviving with the help of God and some of its strong sons."

Turning then to "the internal conditions" of the Catholic Church, the Pope said that while there were signs of vitality, spirituality and saintliness, there were also "reasons for stupefaction, pain and scandal, seeing that precisely from within the Church spring agitation and faithlessness — often on the part of those who, by the pledge they have professed and the grace they have received, should be more faithful and set a better example."

The Pope indicted "certain doctrinal aberrations, moral scandals, and indifference to discipline" as responsible for the "internal suffering of the Church," and added, "This suffering is sharper than that which derives from difficulties coming from the outside." These statements were understood to refer to various protests and criticisms of Church doctrine and practice by Catholic priests and laymen.

Reveal Assets, Lay Group Urges Bishops

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — As the U.S. Catholic bishops' semi-annual meeting opened here, a national Catholic laymen's group released a report scoring the "reluctance" of Church leadership to furnish accurate data on corporate Church wealth.

The National Association of Laymen which maintains headquarters in New York and claims to represent some 12,000 Catholics in the U.S., complained that in most instances Church fiscal reports were impossible to obtain, or were inadequate, misleading and self-serving.

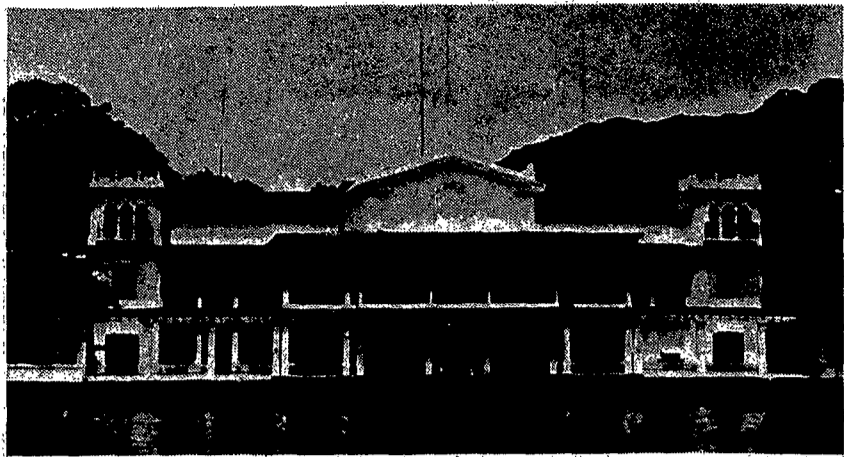
Noting that its report does not question the honesty of Church leaders the NAL did question the accuracy and completeness of data provided to assess the financial status of the various dioceses.

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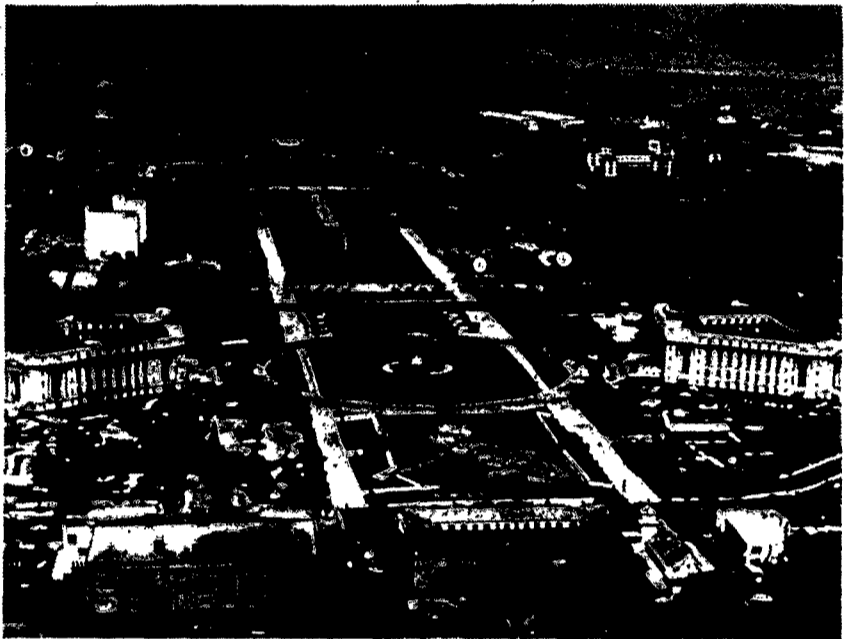


WHERE POPE WILL VISIT IN MANILA

Manila — (RNS) — Two of the places Pope Paul will visit during his stay in Manila, Nov. 27-29, are shown here.

TOP — Malacanang, the "White House" of the Philippines, will be the scene of an ecumenical reception for the pontiff. President and Mrs. Ferdinand Marcos will be hosts at an affair in which leaders of the nation's minority religions will have an opportunity to greet the Pope. Malacanang served as the residence for Spanish governor-generals after 1825; the American governors after 1898 and Philippine presidents since 1945. Shown is the back entrance on the Pasig River, which divides the city.

BOTTOM — The Luneta and Rizal Park where Pope Paul will celebrate a Mass for the Filipino people. The adjacent parks stretch along Manila Bay. The parks will also be used for tent cities to accommodate the millions of Filipinos expected to flood Manila during the visit.



Pontiff Reaffirms Church's Opposition To Contraception

Rome — (RNS) — In his first visit to the Rome headquarters of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Pope Paul VI strongly reaffirmed the Church's opposition to artificial birth control, called upon FAO not to support this method in its population control programs.

"Do not act against man," he cautioned FAO delegates, "because you do not exist except through him and for him, and since you cannot succeed without him."

The Pope addressed his appeal to representatives of 119 member states of the organization and other foreign diplomatic representatives on the U.N. agency's 25th anniversary.

Pope Paul said he was well aware of the opinions held in international organizations that "planned birth control" would bring "a radical solution" to the problems of developing countries.

"Certainly," he said, "in the face of the difficulties to be overcome, there is a great temptation to use one's authority 'to diminish the number of guests rather than to multiply the bread that could be shared.'"

The Church, he insisted, "while it encouraged scientific and technical progress," also always claimed "respect for the inviolable rights of the human person."

This is why, he went on, the Church is "firmly opposed to a birth control which, according to the just expression of our venerable predecessor, Pope John XXIII, would not be in accordance with methods and means that are worthy of man."

Noting that the Church calls on "all those responsible" to

work fearlessly and generously for the development of "the whole man and of every man," Pope Paul said, "This kind of endeavor would undoubtedly favor a rational control of births by couples who are capable of freely assuming responsibility for their destiny." (The Pope was understood to be referring to the method of "rhythm" as a means of spacing births — a method approved by the Church.)

Appealing to the FAO to work in the direction of "producing more food to feed the multitudes," Pope Paul expressed hope that the U.N. Conference of Trade and Development would succeed in putting an end to the scandal of rich countries "buying the products of poor countries at the lowest possible prices, and selling their own products to these countries at a very high price."

"There is a whole economy that is too often tainted by power, waste, and fear, which must be transformed into an economy of service and brotherhood," he said.

The pontiff scored the arms race. "It is tragic absurdity that men and whole nations should devote vast sums to armaments, to the fostering of centers of discord and rivalry, and to prestige projects, when the enormous sums thus wasted would have been enough to save many countries from poverty," he said.

THURSDAY WATCH

Remember to circle Thursday morning on your calendar. That's the deadline for submitting local news items and stories for the following week's issue of the Courier-Journal.

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