

War as Evil as Abortion, RACL Says

Catholic bishops of the nation should be expending as much time and energy against war as they are against abortion, according to the Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen.

In a Christmas message "On Human Life" issued last week the RACL charged the bishops with failing to issue a pastoral letter on the war in Indo-China and "the dehumanizing aspects of American society like racism, militarism and the lack of concern for poverty."

In an accompanying memo, the RACL posed the question "What Can We Do for Peace?" and offered the following suggestions:

Demand an end to war now; demand of religious leaders that they take a stand against the war and address themselves to the issues of peace and jus-

tice; write letters of protest to the President and Congress; encourage legislation providing transition to a peacetime economy...

Protest the priorities that allocate the vast majority of the tax dollar to military and allied purposes at a time when problems of poverty, racism, drugs and pollution have reached crisis proportions; withhold taxes; vote for peace candidates; demand that national self-interest be subordinated to the common good of the community of nations.

Declaring that "it is the opinion of RACL that the Catholic Church as an institution has failed to devote its moral and material resources to the Peace

of Christ in an all-out effort to stop the war," the statement noted:

"If we seem to blame our religious leaders in this letter it is not to exonerate ourselves. All of us should be the Church, the 'People of God' as the Vatican II Council asserted, and we are all responsible for the mission of the Church in the modern world.

"If the institutional Church does not fulfill its mission, then the reason might be our own laxness, our preoccupation with our 'own business' and our failure to transform the Church into a real 'People of God' devoted to the applications of the Message of the Gospel to the world of today."

Sisters Chorale to Be on TV

Christmas music by the Concert Chorale of the Sisters of St. Joseph will be aired by Channel 13 (WOKR-TV) from 11:30 to midnight on Christmas Eve. The entire 30 minutes will be choral and solo numbers.

The 50-voice Sisters' choir, directed by Sister Virginia Hogan of St. Agnes High School faculty, is composed of Sister-teachers from Rochester area schools. They video-taped their TV-concert in St. Agnes' auditorium a week ago.

This touring-group of the Sisters of St. Joseph is booked to present public concerts next Spring at Ithaca College and Elmira College.

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