

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



Pope Paul VI makes an impassioned appeal for peace at St. Felice de Cantalice Church, a suburban Rome parish, on World Day of Peace, Jan. 1. (RNS Photo)

'Peace Is Not Weakness'

Vatican City —(RNS)—Peace is not weakness nor cowardice, but a "virile and magnanimous affirmation of the energies of the spirit," Pope Paul VI said in a brief address to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square on New Year's day.

Recalling that Jan. 1 was "World Peace Day," the Pope said, "We want to cry out what peace means. It is not weakness. It is not cowardice. It is not tolerating injustice, nor is it passive acquiescence in the face of so many sad conditions in which the world finds itself."

"Peace means the virile and magnanimous affirmation of the energies of the spirit," he con-

tinued. "It means the victory of good over evil. It means the overthrow of the ancient spirit of revenge, the spirit of 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth,' which perpetuates the odious chain of bloodshed."

The Pope urged that the law of peace be made operative in each person's private life, reminding his listeners that when they recite the Lord's prayer, they make their request for mercy conditional on their own spirit of forgiveness.

"Let us," he concluded, "make ourselves promoters of peaceful bonds remembering always that 'Every man is my brother.' It is from this base that peace springs forth."

Hope for Schools Seen By Area Task Force

Reflecting the express demand of large groups of the laity, action programs to keep the "maximum possible number" of parochial schools open were presented to Bishop Hogan this week by the Diocesan Educational Task Force.

Rejecting options to close all or parts of the diocesan school systems, the study groups' recommendations implied strong faith in the future health of the parochial schools. The report is expected to elicit widespread response.

In a "first report" capping an intensive 12-week study of problems threatening parish elementary schools, the 17-member group presented advisory guidelines on reformed structure of the school system, finances, personnel and enrollment.

"This is an extremely optimistic and ambitious presentation," Father Daniel Brent, chairman of the Task Force and diocesan Superintendent of Schools, said. "The programs suggested for reversing the dangerous trends are our response to the parish groups who have told us 'We want to keep our schools.'"

The superintendent indicated that without the seven regional public hearings arranged by the Task Force to sound out parochial opinion the ETF would have taken a harder line favoring school consolidation and some closures in the near future.

The Task Force does not intend to issue any list of schools recommended for closing, Father Brent said firmly.

"Nor will the Bishop or the Schools' Office, unless closure is suggested by people of a region acting cooperatively on supra-parochial issues who believe they can educate more children with a more efficient use of personnel and resources."

Bishop Hogan has asked the Priests' Council to discuss the Report and has sent copies to all the clergy of the diocese, school principals and school board presidents, soliciting comment.

A "back-up paper" from the Task Force suggesting criteria for implementing its recommendations is being prepared, Father Brent revealed.

The Task Force report contains two parts: action guidelines for parish and regional efforts to maintain their schools, and a brief commentary on religious education for public schoolers, public relations and "unfinished business."

In the section on reform of structure, ETF members urged "regional organizations" of parochial schools to permit "co-operative planning and consolidation needed to prevent waste-

STRUCTURE

The Educational Task Force has recommended a three-tiered board system to assure "cooperative planning and consolidation" needed to assure most efficient use of personnel and resources available to parish schools:

A Diocesan Educational Council, appointed by the Bishop, to set general policies, do long-range planning, promote regional organizing and have advisory functions;

Regional School Boards, established by voluntary initiative of a group of parishes in any area, responsible for the school concerns of the cooperating parishes;

Parish Boards, responsible for individual parochial school problems, guided by the policies of their own Regional Board.

Parish Boards would be represented on the Regional Boards and each Regional Board would have representation on the Diocesan Educational Council.

The Diocesan, Regional and Parish boards would be responsible for the religious education of all children, not just the Catholic school pupils, unless it is not feasible in a particular area.

ful use of our educational resources."

They suggested that ultimately the diocese should have a Diocesan Educational Council, Regional School boards made up of area parishes voluntarily uniting for mutual assistance in maintaining their schools, and Parish Boards responsible for individual parochial school issues under the regional policies.

The Report pointedly combined responsibility for religious education in the parish school and in the public schools. It said: "The diocesan and regional and parish planning groups should be responsible for all religious education and not for just the Catholic schools, unless it is not feasible in a particular area."

(Continued on Page 2)

PERSONNEL

Programs recommended for easing personnel problems in parochial schools:

1. Make teaching in Catholic schools attractive: set adequate salary scales for lay teachers and Sisters; improve system of assigning Sisters; allow sabbatical leaves for Sisters; plan recruitment and internship for future administrators; in-service training for all religious teachers.
2. Seek lay volunteers for teaching and auxiliary services in schools.
3. Improve lay teacher image by publicizing teachers' qualifications and promoting contacts between lay teachers and parents.

Catholic Schools

To Honor Dr. King

Parochial schools in Rochester will be closed Friday, Jan. 15, to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

Whether schools in other portions of the diocese will close will depend on whatever action is taken by the public schools.

Catholic high schools in the Rochester area are considering closing for the day, but no action had been taken prior to the Courier-Journal deadline.

Wednesday, January 13, 1971

ON THE INSIDE

Features	Columnists
Editorial 26	Greeley 24
TV Movies 22	Costa 22
Know Your Faith 18	Cuddy 24
Letters 26	Kennedy 17
Entertainment 22	Shamon 26
Recipe 16	Childr 16