

# Pope Stresses Importance of Church Communications

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul has reaffirmed the necessity of the Church to utilize all media of social communication "to assert its presence in the world" and transmit the message of the Gospel amid a "confused and often contradictory mass of human verbiage and conflicting ideologies."

He also warned against Catholics who use the media to "divide" and "disorient."

The Pope addressed a meeting of the Pontifical Commission on Social Communication, including representatives of international Catholic press, ra-

dio, television, and film agencies.

He observed that the part the Church plays "in the ocean of modern social communications" could be compared with "a slender trickle," so that its voice "sometimes seems submerged and impotent."

"But the Church," he emphasized, "must assert its presence in the world of public opinion," and do all it can "to pass on the Word of God, the evangelical message (even) in the midst of the confused and often contradictory mass of human

verbiage and conflicting ideologies."

Pope Paul said the Church should always be conscious of, and faithful to, two principles: "the vision of the world in the light of Catholic thought, and the spiritual and apostolic finality toward which all means should be employed for the good of all."

"Our aim," he went on, "is not purely informative or cultural, but also apologetic (i.e., in defense of Catholic positions) and pedagogic or instructive."

The Pope spoke of a problem

about which, he said, he felt "very strongly," namely, "the spirit which must always guide the mind and activities of those who dedicate themselves to social communications within the Church."

"It seems to us," he said, "that, unfortunately, there are groups and centers that are not always guided by an authentically Catholic spirit." Instead, they use communication media to divide, disorient, and corrode unity, he said.

"We are thinking of the harm done by such groups in their publications and by their dis-

semination of news of a corrosive and protesting nature — a dissemination that creates a dangerous disorientation, a widespread uncertainty among Catholics, who, today, more than ever, must be united to face the confusion of ideas and the leveling down of standards of public and private morals!"

The pontiff appealed for "beneficial and vital criticism in the bosom of the Church," but asked that it always be based on honest appraisals of facts and on fidelity to truth and charity.

## Regional Schools System Developing

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sentation on their area board they would share in discussion of all regional issues and would help "pursue goals too local for the diocese and too large for the individual parish," according to the Bishop's directives.

Each regional unit would decide on the necessity of consolidation of certain schools where advisable. It would push improvement and coordination of religious instruction programs, arrange busing for public and parochial schoolers, adult education programs and teacher training.

Responsibility for teacher qualification, curriculum, scheduling and coordination will probably remain in the Schools' Office and the Religious Ed./CCD division in Rochester.

In a short while, Father Shamon indicated, the supra-parochial concept of cooperation through regional grouping would help every other phase of diocesan activity.

Furthering of the liturgical renewal, promotion of the human development campaign, establishment, and functioning of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, meetings of clergy and laity and general support of any projects touching the entire diocese eventually will profit he said.

Determination of the boundaries of the seven possible

regions in Monroe County, will "hopefully be based on relationship of each area to one of the Rochester inner city parishes," Father Shamon said.

"In the 'advise-and-consent stage' of submitting our program chart to the priests," he said, "we will propose an outreach program which will involve voluntary inter-parish sponsorship of an inner-city parish."

Each regional unit will eventually have a center, the Office of Education hopes. In regions where schools have been consolidated, a vacant school or convent should be turned over to the region as an educational center.

The center would be the source of service and administration for the total educational apostolate in that region. Father Shamon said, serving adults as well as children. It would focus a new thrust to improve and coordinate the CCD programs, adult education programs for the region and teacher training courses.

Works of the Family Life Apostolate, the campus ministry and regional meetings of clergy, Sisters and laity would occur in the center.

"We know we must regionalize," Father Shamon said, "to improve the thrust of education — reaching all children and adults better — and improving the quality of the religious and the secular courses."

## We Are All Lovable

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Jesus — "I preach Christ and Him crucified — a stumbling block to the Jews, and foolishness to the Gentiles" — we believe, we KNOW, that God loves us. We realize that we never need be alone — need never despair.

Sure, we are sinners and need repentance. Lent is good for us. It's a time of personal penance and prayer and piety. Once again we are impressed — rather, overawed — at the fantastic fact of faith — that I AM LOVED. "God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, and the Son so loved us, He gave himself for our salvation even to death on a cross." He loves ME that much.

If we came to only that awareness this Lent — we would be repentant but joyfilled sinners. There is a difference between knowing something and realizing it.

To know is to be mentally aware of something. To realize is to have that knowledge so sink into our being that it becomes a part of us. Is the love of Jesus for ME a fact of faith that is only known — or is it the reality of my life?

I suppose we can only answer that question by our life, and

not by our words. If there are members in our family, our community, our city, that have not discerned the reality and extent of God's love for them, is it because HE doesn't love them? Or could it be because they haven't seen the reality of it in us?

There are people in our city who are old and alone and poor and infirm and they will die that way — like the man we mentioned before. "How long have I been with you and you have not known me?"

The reality of God's love is not something read in a newspaper article — but it could be discerned in the quiet of a reflective prayer, by a person of faith. The reality of God's love will never be known at all by some, because no one ever told them or showed them that they were lovable.

I wonder if someone will die tonight, (or even continue living tonight) without ever having experienced the fact that they are lovable. If they do, then certainly the lesson of Lent is lacking in their life. Christ is not a reality to that person. There is no Christian living the reality that he professes, at least as far as that person is concerned. I wonder if that person is somebody I know.



Music for Charity

Here are The Young People, who will give a charity concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in Kearney Auditorium, St. John Fisher College. The five, all Fisher students, are alumni of Immaculate Heart Central High School, Watertown. In front, from the left, are Timothy J. Keegan, Joseph J. Geglia and John M. Schmidt; rear, George F. Maurer and John M. Graham. Proceeds from their concert will go to the summer camp operated by the Convalescent Hospital for Children, Scottsville Road.

## Where to Write Your Legislators

### SENATE

William T. Smith  
RD 1,  
Elmira, N.Y., 14903

Theodore D. Day  
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Interlaken, N.Y., 14847

Thomas Laverne  
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Rochester, N.Y., 14624

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Buffalo, N.Y., 14203

### ASSEMBLY

Lloyd S. Riford Jr.  
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Ithaca, N.Y., 14850

L. Richard Marshall  
7 Strathmont Park  
Elmira, N.Y., 14905

Charles D. Henderson  
30 Church St.  
Hornell, N.Y., 14843

Frederick L. Warder  
100 Lewis St.  
Geneva, N.Y., 14456

Joseph C. Finley  
38 Sherburne Rd.  
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Walworth, N.Y., 14568

Donald C. Shoemaker  
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Webster, N.Y., 14580

Raymond J. Lill  
31 Wolfert Ter.  
Rochester, N.Y., 14621

S. William Rosenberg  
1866 Clover St.  
Rochester, N.Y., 14618

Frank A. Carroll  
613 Elm Grove Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y., 14606

William M. Steinfeldt  
217 Weston Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y., 14612

Don W. Cook  
1508 Lehigh Station Rd.  
Henrietta, N.Y., 14467

James L. Emery  
5477 Lakeville Rd.  
Geneseo, N.Y., 14454

Dear Gov. Rockefeller,

I am writing to you to express my support for the Speno-Lerner Parent-Aid School Bill.

I request you to use your influence to get the bill out of committee.

I further request you to press for the bill's passage when it comes to vote in the Assembly and in the Senate.

(Signed)