

Give Attention to 'Needs of Men'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has called upon members of religious orders to give their full attention to "the needs of men, their problems and their searchings."

"You must give witness in their midst; through prayer and action, to the good news of love, justice and peace," he said.

The papal exhortation is expressed in a document dated June 29, on "The Renewal of the Religious Life According to the Teaching of the Second Vatican Council."

The document emphasizes that "authentic renewal of the religious life" is of "capital importance" for the renewal of the Church and of the world.

Pope Paul said he wished to respond to "the anxiety, uncertainty and instability" shown by some members of religious orders, and at the same time, "to encourage those who are seeking the true renewal of the religious life," called for by Vatican II.

The central point of the document is that renewal of religious life entails adaptation of its

"accidental forms" to the changing conditions of contemporary life, with maintenance of "those stable forms of living" recognized by the Church.

"For a living being," the Pope wrote, "adaptation to its surroundings does not consist in abandoning its true identity, but rather in asserting itself in the vitality that is its own."

"Deep understanding of present tendencies and of the needs of the modern world should cause your own sources of energy to spring up with renewed vigor and freshness."

The Pope stressed that genuine renewal of forms and life styles of religious life necessarily involved renewed dedication to "the essential commitments" of the evangelical councils of "consecrated" chastity, poverty and obedience, and renewed devotion to prayer.

He urged those religious who "have lost the taste for prayer" to regain the desire for it "by returning humbly to its practice."

The main body of the exhortation, under the title, "The Religious Life," includes sections on forms of religious life, essential commitments, life style, and renewal and spiritual growth.

Pope Paul reminds religious that the teaching of Vatican II underscores "the grandeur" of their "self-giving . . . after the pattern of Christ's self-giving to his Church. Like his, yours is total and irreversible."

"It is precisely for the sake of the kingdom of heaven that you have vowed to Christ, generously and without reservation, that capacity to love (through the vow of chastity), that need to possess (through the vow of poverty), and that freedom to regulate one's own life (through the vow of obedience), which are so precious to man."

Excerpts:

● On "consecrated chastity": "Without in any way undervaluing human love and marriage — is not the latter, according to faith, the image and sharing of the union joining Christ and his Church? — consecrated chastity evokes this union in a more immediate way and brings that surpassing excellence to which all human love should tend."

● On consecrated poverty:

"The cry (of the world's poor) must find an echo in your lives. (It) must, first of all, bar you from whatever would be a compromise with any form of social injustice . . . It calls many of your institutions to rededicate for the good of the poor some of their works . . . It enjoins on you a use of goods limited to what is required for the fulfillment of the functions to which you are called. It is necessary that in your daily lives you should give proof, even externally, of authentic poverty."

● On consecrated obedience: "Christian obedience is unconditional submission to the will of God. But your obedience is more strict because you have made it the object of a special giving, and the range of your choices is limited by your commitment . . ."

CYO Camp Opens Soon

The CYO is operating a nine-week day camp at its headquarters at 50 Chestnut St., running through Aug. 27. Boys and girls 6-13 years old may participate.

The camp includes summer fun and educational activities such as swimming, outdoor sports, arts and crafts, lifesaving instruction, physical fitness, fishing and special field trips, supervised by professionally trained instructors, under the supervision of Donald Bell, camp director. The camp has been approved and accredited by the American Camping Association.

CYO bus pick-up points have been designated at Holy Apostles, Holy Family, St. Augustine, St. Monica, Blessed Sacrament, St. Boniface, O.L.P.H., St. Stanislaus, St. Andrews, Good Counsel, Sacred Heart, and Holy Rosary.

Registration forms may be obtained at the CYO.



BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line

The Irish missionary priest who alerted the world to the tragedy of Biafra, Dermot Doran of Catholic Relief Services, says that Biafra—for all its horror—was relatively mild compared to today's situation involving the exodus of millions of East Pakistanis to India.

Doran and his world-ranging associate, Rocco A. Sacchi, sent me a report on the personal observations of the CRS man on the ghastly scene, Robert Walsh of Trenton, N.J. It reads like a greater catastrophe than that of Vietnam:

When the civil and military conflict broke out in East Pakistan in March, thousands of frightened tribesmen streamed across the 1,500-mile border, seeking refuge in India. Since then the stream has swollen to a torrent. Each day as many as 100,000 dazed and terrified East Pakistanis pour in, lending credence to the Indian government's claim that more than 5 million refugees already occupy its border areas.

The existing permanent buildings have long since been overwhelmed, as have hastily constructed camps. The vast majority now coming across is massed along roadsides, living (if that's the word) in makeshift lean-tos, or in the open, unprotected from the monsoons that have begun. It is no wonder then that an epidemic of cholera has broken out and already has claimed thousands of lives and daily threatens millions of others.

How does one convey the plight of the East Bengal refugees to people living in the U.S. in a way of life that separates them by centuries? The first needs are for shelter and milk. Clothing also is an essential item for which practically no provision is made. In spite of the Indian government's program of inoculation, the potential for epidemic outbreaks is staggering. Shelter and sanitation are totally inadequate and must of necessity remain so because of the awesome population density compounded by ignorance of basic hygienics.

At least 50 per cent of the people have no shelter whatsoever. The camps are flooded with a mixture of mud, garbage and sewage. The people, once wet, will remain so and hence pneumonia, flu, and other respiratory ailments are likely to set in.

Among the masses who line roads walking in either direction, there is one telltale sign that marks the refugee — the kerosene lanterns. A man who plans to journey far will not be without light when he camps at the roadside by night. These

lonely people in exile have no friends or families, no refuge, as darkness descends, except in the welcoming gesture of an ancient tree along the road. So they carry their lanterns. And well they might, for throughout the world there are few lights burning over their plight. Under the arcades formed by the spreading branches of the Flame Trees, a crowd will always gather when our Jeep stops. And you hear the same exchanges in the "spooky light:

"Where are you going, brother?"

"Westward. We've heard there is a camp down this road, three miles."

"We've just come from there, it's full. They have no room."

"Then, what shall we do? My wife is due to give birth any day. We have no food left and the government will not issue us any food unless we have a card to prove we've been admitted to a camp."

And sometimes, not too often, a family can say to the troubled man, "Come and camp with us in the bamboo grove. We still have some grain. We'll share it with you this evening."

The roads along the Indian border are jammed with people, many or most of them unsophisticated in the uses of the highway. Who is the child lying in the middle of the road with his innards spilled out on the tarmac? How now to travel, when the cart has been smashed to bits and one of the bullocks dragged to death for half a mile under the bus that was filled with other refugees? Indeed, how to travel now with no cart, and the bone of the ankle protruding through the skin?

And there on the side of the road, lying where they were hit an hour ago, the bodies of a family, like rag dolls. The primitive tools and straw hats had gone sailing through the air, smashed like the brass pot for the holy water of the Ganges, smashed and twisted like the kerosene lantern. It will not comfort them with its flickering light tonight.

It's a paralyzing task that is joined in by Protestant and Jewish agencies. At the fall of Biafra, Edward E. Swanstrom, the two-fisted bishop who is executive director of the CRS, breathed an exhausted sigh and said, "Well, we gave it a hell of a fight." Which is what he's giving this new and more terrible example of man's inhumanity to man. He could use your help. The address where he's giving it hell from is 350 Fifth Avenue, N.Y. City, 10001.

Summer Institute Set By Liturgical Commission

The diocesan Liturgical Commission is sponsoring a Summer Institute for parish worship committees in order to "promote fuller involvement of parishioners in their liturgical celebrations."

The sessions, slated for Friday evening July 16 and Saturday morning July 17, at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, will involve three major conferences.

Father Joseph Cunningham, vice-president of the National Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and executive secretary of the liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Brooklyn, will speak.

The program offers an opportunity for parishioners to plan liturgy, to discuss problems and possible solutions; to project programs for worship committees for 1971-72.

Thursday Deadline

Thursday noon is the deadline for news and photos for the Courier-Journal of the following week.

13 Girl Scouts Reach the Top

The First Class Award, highest honor that Girl Scouts can win, was given June 16, to 13 Irondequoit area girls.

The ceremony was at St. Thomas the Apostle school hall. The girls are Gail Pickering and Annette Seward of troop 858; Sue Blind, Teresa Broadwell, Martha Ingham, Jeanne Krause and Cheryl Needham, troop 600; Susan Cole, Bonnie Culver, Jane Kolva, Vallirere Ann Lickers, Lorrie Lovfers and Donna Nielson, troop 311.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Interlaken — During the summer, weekend Masses at St. Francis Solanus will be at 7:30 Saturday evening and 8 and 10:30 Sunday morning.

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Wednesday, July 7, 1971

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