

Proper Spirit Key to Pastoral Council Success

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

I think most bishops today suffer some confusion about their roles of leadership. There are times when we are not supposed to know anything because we are not supposed to speak without first consulting thousands of people; then, at times, we are supposed to have all the answers and make the decisions. The whole concept of collegiality which was pretty well buried for centuries is now coming to the fore, and this makes our position more difficult.

Yet I am sure that for the welfare of the Church it makes our position much more effective. I look upon the role of the bishop today as that of one who wholeheartedly engages our Christian people in active responsibility for the Church's mission of service to the world. Our appeal to you today is not

A speech delivered by Bishop Hogan on Nov. 1 at Notre Dame Retreat House at a meeting of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee.

something which we offer as a grudging concession to the laity but rather it is a challenge to the full realization of what is involved in your vocation. Collegiality requires of the bishop a great deal of patience and a willingness to trust people. I want to be a very good listener; a good leader has to be a good listener. I would like to make it very clear that I don't think that the church of Rochester is mine any way more than it is yours.

I will speak to you today about a theology of leadership. The Christian community has long been aware that the rulers of the Church rather easily imitated the external forms and structures of human government. I don't believe anyone is

really sorry that the day of the prince bishop is over. I suppose it was natural that when the Church emerged from her primitive condition and became a dominant society in Western Europe, she should have adopted the only forms of authority that were commonly known then. But how often can the Church afford to do what it is natural to do? Should there not have been someone on the scene at the time to recall the Gospel account of the temptations that were made to Jesus Christ, in particular the temptation in which He was shown all the kingdoms of the earth — the temptations to ambition, to power?

There should have been and

there were people who would challenge those who were princely bishops at the time.

The list of those who wondered whether pomp and power inhibited the genuine image of the Church is a very long list and includes many names which are venerated in the Church today. The accretion of power and pomp to the hierarchy and clergy was the result, I am sure, of a lot of good faith and a lot of devotion, of a desire to present the Church to men in a manner becoming her dignity. Such an impressive institution, I suppose, people thought deserves an impressive manifestation of itself and it was precisely there that all our troubles began.

The Church may present an image of herself which is more the image of a Renaissance Princedom than that of the suf-

fering Son of Man. Pomp and power are signs of success in human enterprises; they are very much signs of failure in the life and work of the Church. The number of New Testament texts in which power and authority of the Church are mentioned is not a great number. But when power and authority are discussed, certain sayings of Christ do come to mind. In one episode which is mentioned in the Gospel of St. Matthew and again by St. Luke, a dispute arose among the disciples of Christ as to who was the greatest in the group. Only Mark had the interesting note that when Jesus asked them what they were talking about, they were all silent. They knew His mind; they were ashamed to reveal their interest in the dispute. The answer of Christ was very

(Continued on Page 5A)



Happy Thanksgiving!

These birds, which are used to doing plenty of gobbling on their own, are getting ready to be gobbled tomorrow. After posing for their pre-festivities

portrait, they asked the photographer to wish all Courier-Journal readers a happy Thanksgiving, and added on parting the wish, "Hope to see you Friday."

Features

Editorial Page	3A
Letters to the Editor	4A
Keeping Tabs	2B
Cardinal Mooney High School	8B, 9B
Entertainment	12B
Supreme Court	10B
World and National News	10B
Vatican News	6A

Columnists

Bishop Hogan	3A
Father Shamon	4A
Bob Considine	7A
Sarah Child	4B
Father Cuddy	6B
John Doser	7B
Pat Costa	12B
Bernard Lyons	6A

U.S. Bishops Hold Meeting

- Recommendation endorsed which calls for establishment of a national pastoral council by 1976.
- Cardinal John J. Krol of Philadelphia elected president.
- The press will be admitted to attend the semi-annual meetings beginning next April.
- Tax credits urged for parents of children attending private and public schools.
- List of 43 ethical and religious directives for Catholic health facilities adopted.

Washington D.C. — (RNS)— American bishops have endorsed a recommendation that calls for establishment — by 1976 — of a National Pastoral Council in the U.S. Catholic Church.

In the interim a national office will be established in the Secretariat of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It will be responsible for coordinating efforts to implement the National Pastoral Council, and through it "representative priests, religious, and laity can share with the bishops in the decision-making process..."

The action follows Vatican (Continued on Page 2A)