

Pope Defines Role of Education

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI, in three separate communications, stressed the necessity for priests to keep abreast of theological developments, urged Catholic teachers to be ever more aware of the "service" aspect of their mission, and reaffirmed the Church's need for Catholic universities.

The 74-year-old pontiff received in audience a group of American priests engaged in theological "refresher" courses at the North American College in Rome; addressed 300 participants of the 12th Italian Congress of the Union of Catholic Teachers meeting in Rome; and sent a message to the rector of the Sacred Heart University in Milan on the school's 50th anniversary.

"You know how much the faithful today desire a greater knowledge of Christian teachings," the Pope told the priests. "It is the noble duty of the priests to offer the faithful the doctrine of the Church in its most authentic form, but presented in a manner that is understandable to the mentality of the times and is addressed to the problems of the times."

Emphasizing the need for priests to be up-to-date in ongoing developments in theology, the Pope said:

"You must never forget that Christ is the center of all our preaching. It is He whom we must announce. It is His Gospel that we must bring to our listeners.—A Gospel of joy, because it saves; a Gospel of love, because it announces the infinite patience and forgiveness of our heavenly Father."

In his address to the Congress of the Union of Catholic Teachers, the Pope said that changes called for in the educational enterprise demand a "renewal" of the figure of the teacher "in the awareness of his or her role in education."

"Being a teacher in today's school," said the pontiff, "means more than ever before considering the teaching mission as one of service. The teacher's soul must be free from venal calculations of a purely professional nature."

In his message to the rector of Sacred Heart University in Milan, the Pope noted what he

termed "the enormous strides being made in science and in society." In the light of such developments, he said, it must be recalled that "true culture without spiritual perspectives is as difficult to conceive as is true culture without love of truth."

Film on Pope Paul Scheduled in Peking

Hong Kong —(RNS)—Red China government officials have been invited by the Italian Embassy in Peking to view a film of Pope Paul's historic 1970 Far East journey, according to the Peking correspondent for ANSA, Italian news agency.

So far as is known, it will be the first time that any film of a Pope will have been shown in mainland China since the Communists took over in 1949.

'Try to Make Others Happy,' Christmas Pilgrims Urged

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI called on the world's Catholics to prepare themselves "in a Christian way" for the feast of Christmas, and to celebrate the day "with some gesture of love" towards those who are in need.

Addressing thousands of pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square the pontiff said that preparation for Christmas entails a growing understanding of the "surprising originality" of Christmas — "the Incarnation, the coming of the Word of God in our flesh, in our history, and in the drama . . . of our particular and personal destinies."

"Since Christmas is a day of goodwill, a day of diffusion of goodwill," he continued, "we must radiate this with some gesture of love towards those who are most in need of it."

"There are very many people, both near and far, who are in need of comfort and help, what with all the tragic events now taking place throughout the world."

"So that your Christmas might be truly happy, try to

make others happy, especially, the poor, the children, the homeless, the shantytown dwellers, the unemployed, the imprisoned, the lonely and forgotten, the sick, and also those without faith."

Wichita Bishop Named to Curia

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has named Bishop David M. Maloney of Wichita, Kansas, to be a member of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy.

The congregation, a department of the Roman Curia, is headed by the former Bishop of Pittsburgh, Cardinal John J. Wright.

CLOSES FOR CHRISTMAS
The Rochester Public Library downtown and all 12 branches will be closed Christmas Eve, as well as Christmas, reopening Monday, Dec. 27.

Our Parish COUNCIL by Bernard Lyons

A California reader writes: "Holy Trinity Parish Council was discontinued when a new pastor was assigned. (Diocesan regulations require the above.) Three years have passed and the pastor will not allow the people to share in the operation of the parish in any manner."

"I am sorry to say that our pastor has selected his own council, which has since disintegrated," reports a Michigan reader. "In fact, our whole parish has practically gone to the dogs."

These situations are typical of many parishes, but not the majority, thank God, across the country.

"Our Parish Council" column has previously urged laymen to try to work with the pastor to try to correct these abuses against Christian community.

We have recommended that the laity go to the pastor with their case. That they meet with fellow parishioners to enlist their support in setting goals for the parish which are consistent with the spirit of the Gospels and Vatican II. And, finally, if failing in still another approach to the pastor, that they take their case to the bishop.

Though the above are still valid approaches, the California reader presents an additional facet to the problem — diocesan directives which work against the spirit of community by linking the structure to the personality of the pastor.

In the second case, though the Michigan diocese has been forward in starting councils, it allows the pastor to rationalize, "We tried it, but it didn't work."

Additional work is suggested in both these cases; and, for

the most part, that additional work must come from priests.

In several dozen cases that I am familiar with, diocesan guidelines were drawn up by a committee of priests or by the diocesan senate or priest's council. In only several of these instances were laity brought into the committee work or actively consulted.

Immediately, in the case of the California parish, the priests' senate should review and change the diocesan policy on parish councils.

Laity should be on such a reviewing committee. Many of the sections should be changed, including the passages that the council "automatically ceases to exist when the office of pastor in the parish becomes vacant," that the council "remains an advisory body . . . has no directive, operational or administrative authority," and the "secretary, with the pastor, will prepare the agenda."

In the Michigan diocese, laity should be on an evaluation committee with the priests' senate to review the progress of councils in the diocese.

Representative members should be present not only from successful councils, but also from those experiencing trouble and from parishes without councils.

Two additional points that particularly bear on the responsibilities of the priests need to be made:

The social encyclicals have stressed the like-to-like approach in the development of persons in Christ. Priests should take it on themselves, and certainly through their committees in their councils and senates, to counsel pastors who are blocking the spirit of Christian community in their parishes.

*Dear Friends of the Missions,
Your special Christmas joy is knowing that you,
like Mary and Joseph have helped to bring
Christ to poor and forgotten people.
With our own personal holiday greetings,
we send along the gratitude, love, and prayers
of the countless thousands who have been brought
to Bethlehem by you during the past years.
May you have the peace and joy that is Christmas!*



Bishop Hogan

Father Joseph Reinhart, Diocesan Director
and Office Associates

Mary Mitrano
Josephine Bartolomeo
Vera Trabold
Carmel Barone
Francis E. Mathis

