



Happy New Year... It's a Girl!

After seven boys Mary Powell had a girl last Monday and her husband, Ronald wanted people to know about it. This baby was born at 10:30 p.m. and at 2 o'clock in the morning Powell hung a pink sign on his house announcing for all to see that "it was a girl!"

People driving by 169 Sherwood Ave. stopped to see what was being posted at that hour, and after it was up they stop-

ped to congratulate the proud father.

Mary and Ronald Powell's sons range in age from 14 months to 11 years old. "This one weighed 10 pounds 4 ounces and that is more than any of the boys weighed," Mary said, "but that's good since she is going home to seven brothers."

Powell has to return a Christmas present for alterations

since the child was born. He bought his wife a charm bracelet representing eight boys' heads.

The boys aren't taking it too badly but one of the younger boys did ask why she was named Mary Elizabeth and not Mary Anthony, since each of their middle names is Anthony.

We wish Mary Elizabeth Powell good luck with her seven brothers.

Pope Denounces Violence

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in his message for World Peace Day (Jan. 1), has denounced all forms of tyranny, violence, oppression, including "organized religious persecution of entire populations" and "campaigns for a false peace enforced by military means."

"Peace is not a lie made into a system," said the pontiff in a 1,500-word document released by the Vatican press office, "Much less is it pitiless totalitarian tyranny."

Referring to the theme of the World Day of Peace — "If You Want Peace, Work for Justice throughout the world," the 74-year-old pontiff expressed a grave and anxious concern with suppression of religious liberty.

"Is it just," he asked, "that there should be entire populations which are not granted free and normal expression of that most jealously guarded right of the human spirit, the right to live and practice one's religion?"

"What authority, what ideology, what historical or civil interest can arrogantly claim a right to repress and stifle the religious sentiment?"

"We are not speaking here about superstitious or fanatical or disorderly efforts of repression," he emphasized, "but of organized oppression."

Vatican observers saw in this emphasis, an oblique reference to charges of religious persecution of Jews, Roman Catholics, and other Christian bodies, in the Ukraine, Lithuania, and other parts of the USSR.

Widening the scope of his condemnation, Pope Paul said that no order can be stable or human that is based on the

"tyrannical crushing of other just rights, whether national, social, cultural or economic."

"Is it not an integral part of justice to observe the duty of allowing every country to promote its own development in a framework of cooperation, free from any calculated intention economic of political domination on the part of other countries?" he asked.

Turning to the problems of youth, the Pope urged young people to favor "a true concept of peace," a concept that did not imply "a stagnant condition of life," but embraced "a driving force for active and effective enthusiasm."

"But," he cautioned, "this is not to say that peace coincides with force. Whenever persons who hold posts of responsibility yield to the ever-present temptation to impose 'peace' by the

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Courier-Journal Special

Parish Council Guidelines

As the first step of the gradual formation of regional councils and ultimately of the Pastoral Council of the diocese, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has requested that all parishes of the diocese begin to establish parish councils or update existing ones by Pentecost of 1972.

The Office of Planning for the Pastoral Council, under the guidance of Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, has drawn up a list of guidelines for the formation of parish councils. The complete set is published in a special pullout section in this edition of the Courier-Journal.

Bishop Hogan has reminded both clergy and laity that Vatican II has recommended the establishment of parish councils as a visible and practical way of building Christian community. To that end may we recommend that each subscriber read and save this special section.

'A Step Closer To Pastoral Council'

My Dear People:

The establishment of a Pastoral Council in the Diocese of Rochester is brought one step closer with the issuance of "Guidelines for Parish Councils." Because I feel so strongly that the concept of the Pastoral Council is one of the most inspired thoughts to emerge from the Second Vatican Council and that the formation of such a council offers great promise for the revitalization of the Church, it is my hope that the "guidelines" will be widely circulated and that every parish will promptly form or reform its Parish Council according to the spirit which these directives manifest.

The "guidelines" have been prepared as an aid to both clergy and laity in the diocese. They were prepared by members of the Diocesan Committee for a Pastoral Council after a survey and a review of existing parish councils in the Diocese and elsewhere. Each parish may, according to its specific needs, make additions and adaptations that are not substantially at variance with the "guidelines." Generous options are offered which can readily be applied to parishes of every size and composition in the diocese.

I should like to highlight for the record my conviction that parish councils are not merely new meeting-oriented organizations. They are parish aids to be initiated and conducted with sensitivity to the fact that the parish exists for a spiritual purpose.

To emphasize this essential fact, I want to express my desire that at every stage of formation and function the members of steering committees and councils pray together. Recently, one of our newly formed parish councils made a midweek retreat at the Diocesan Retreat House. This superbly witnesses the Spirit which we hope will animate our diocesan renewal program.

With every confidence that the dedicated fidelity, known widely for over a century to be characteristic of the Diocese of Rochester, will be witnessed in your response to parish council formation, I am

Bishop of Rochester