

# Pope Spends 'Peace Day' At Boys' Town Near Rome

Rome — (RNS) — Pope Paul observed the Fifth Anniversary of his World Day of Peace by celebrating Mass and delivering two short sermons before young people — those who, he has often said, stand to lose the most by war.

The pontiff passed up the pomp and ceremony of a solemn liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica on New Year's Day to drive in rain for five miles outside Rome to a home for orphaned and abandoned boys.

"Peace is what I want you to aim for during this coming year," the Pope told the youngsters and some 500 adults attending Mass in the chapel of Boys' Town of Rome.

"I am here with you boys and I see that between you there is a sense of self-respect and brotherhood, and I have come here to honor that," he said.

Long a champion of the young and under-privileged, he spoke in the homey language of youth rather than in the

somewhat stilted diplomatic jargon of Rome.

In his sermon, the pontiff repeatedly stressed that "peace is the route of civilization."

"What is peace?" he asked. "Peace is order, not discipline in the lawful sense, but a common order and control for the good of all mankind. And without peace there is no existence."

"Peace is very beautiful but it is also hard to understand. Yet it is not impossible to understand it and for that reason we must all work together to keep it."

This was not the Pope's first encounter with Msgr. J. Patrick Carroll-Abbing or the several boys' and girls' towns that the Irish priest has founded in Italy since the close of World War II. As a monsignor assigned to the Vatican Secretariat of State, he often visited the boys' towns, although this was his first visit to the Rome community.

"He was not specifically asked to come here," Msgr.

Carroll-Abbing told RNS. "Although there is a standing invitation for anyone to visit our community, the Holy Father decided on his own that here is where he wanted to be on New Year's Day and we obviously are flattered and overjoyed at his choice."

Following the Mass, the Pope walked through a heavy down-pour to the assembly hall, his right arm linked with the teen-aged "mayor" of the city.

"It is a great lesson to see how you work together here," he said. "You boys have obtained a great sense of brotherhood and peace."

"But we must remember that to obtain that brotherhood and peace, each boy had to give up a little something, for brotherhood also means the going together with the same ideas even though a few may differ."

The pontiff then likened world harmony to that found in an orchestra, stressing that if each musician played what he pleased and did not regard the instructions of the conductor, one would have utter chaos.

"But when all follow one conductor, you have harmony and that is brotherhood and peace," he said.



**Shrine for Bomb Victims**

Residents of Queen Street in Belfast have converted the remains of a three-story building that housed Patrick McGurk's Pub into a shrine. Fifteen persons were killed in the pub in a bomb explosion on Dec. 4.

## Anti-Abortion Suit Gains Ground in New York City

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will be bound by the restored law.

He said that by denying the defendant's motion to vacate the guardianship, Justice Smith "recognized that all human infants, whose rights are threatened, are wards of the court," and that "the life of a human being shall not be purposefully taken . . . without due process of law."

Prof. Byrn called on the City of New York to divert funds previously used for abortions to the establishment of a counseling service.

### 'Pluralism' Draws Fire

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judge merely by the senses," which, he said, "are richly served" by today's audio-visual apparatus.

"But," he added, "at the end, the modern mind experiences that interior insecurity that gives rise to the feeling that everything is a problem and that the only solution is to live simply as one wishes and pleases."

At this point, he said, "so-called freedom of thought, so-called freedom of examination, so-called philosophical pluralism come to the aid of the bewildered modern mind and offer the pseudo-strengthening remedy of their own sterile ideas which border on irrationality."

None of this is enough for the spirit which is truly free and honest, the pontiff asserted, because the ever-beckoning questions of truth and reality remain and continue to torment the searching spirit.

#### Problem Pregnancy?

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In a prepared statement, the Fordham professor said initially the court recognized the right of the unborn to have a legal spokesman and now the court has recognized the right of a child to be born.

He said he expected Justice Smith to sign the order stopping abortions in the 18 municipal hospitals as soon as his lawyers prepared it. He would not comment on what action his lawyers might take if the City of New York is granted a stay.

Prof. Byrn told newsmen that the \$5,000 fee for the court action "came out of my own pocket," but he noted that the New York Legal Defense and Education Fund for the Unborn will pay for any future court costs—"all the way to the Supreme Court."

Asked if the suit would bring an upswing in illegal abortions, Prof. Byrn said he hoped not and urged the city to "step up its counseling services, to offer viable alternatives to women seeking abortions."

He told a spokesman for a women's pro-abortion group that he has refused any public debate on the subject because he is acting as "a functionary of the court" in his role as guardian of unborn fetuses.

Prior to the press conference, George Kalkines, general counsel to the city's Health and Hospitals Corp., said his agency would immediately appeal the decision of Justice Smith.

In his decision, Justice Smith said "it is apparent that when the right to life of the unborn child conflicts with some lesser interest of another, even if this other be the parent, the child's right is uniformly preferred."

Justice Smith, citing a 1969 Massachusetts court ruling, said the fetus may properly be classified as human life and is "an individual, entirely human in origin, human in its characteristics and human in its destiny."

Prof. Byrn said that Justice Smith, because of the urgency of the question, set a date for the beginning of the court test on the constitutionality of New York's abortion law for Jan. 12 in Queens Supreme Court.

## 'Whites Only' Brings Elks Big Tax Bill

Chicago — (RNS) — Circuit Court Judge Earl Arkiss has ordered the Elks to pay \$90,000 in back taxes for 1969 and 1970 and \$50,000 a year in the future on their formerly tax exempt National Memorial Building here.

The Illinois state attorney's office said the Elks lost their exemption from real estate taxes on their \$1 million building because of its whites-only membership policy.

Frank Vossel, controller and auditor of the Elks Grand Lodge, said the memorial building "was mostly of cultural value for the people of Chicago," and that troubles with the county assessor began in 1968 with an "erroneous" loss of tax exempt status. The court decision came in a suit filed by the Elks contesting the restoration of the memorial building to the tax rolls. The building, which houses a public display of statuary and paintings as well as the national Elks Foundation and the office of the national secretary, had been tax exempt since its erection in 1926.

State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan called the decision "far reaching" and said it "enforces Illinois' constitutional guarantees of non-discrimination."

Robert G. Pruitt, former grand exalted ruler of the Elks, had testified at a hearing that the national organization's rules require applicants to be 21, non-Communist and white.

The Elks' exclusive membership policy has also resulted in local branches losing their liquor licenses in Maine and Massachusetts.

### Last Poets Film Slated

The Committee for a Second Festival will premier the Original Last Poets film "Right On" with a special performance Jan. 13 at 8:30 p.m. in the Xerox Auditorium. Additional performances are scheduled for Jan. 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. also at the Xerox Auditorium.

## Cardinal Wright Says Children Need Confession

New York (RNS)—Although more than half of the U.S. Catholic dioceses now permit First Communion before confession, the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy recommends just the reverse.

In the December issue of Homiletic and Pastoral Review, Cardinal John Wright, American-born prefect of the congregation wrote that delaying confession might prolong and settle sinful habits.

"These are habits that Communion without previous confession will hardly help the child to discover and discontinue, since there will then be lacking the personal consulta-

tion with the priest which helps to bring to surface personal conflicts that the child does not confide even to his parents," the cardinal said.

Terming the delay of first confession "an ill-conceived pastoral practice" Cardinal Wright said that this is a "singularly perverse abuse destructive of the child's discretion, sense of responsibility and spiritual rights."

On the other hand, he added, confession will bring "the child to confront himself . . . to examine his conscience on his actions and consequently to feel sorry for whatever offenses he has done to God or neighbor."

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