



Ecumenical Embrace

Pope Paul VI embraces Orthodox Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, a personal representative of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Istanbul, during a joint prayer service in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The pontiff and the metropolitan prayed together to observe the close of Christian Unity Week.

Vatican Expresses 'Profound Grief' Over Irish Deaths

Vatican City (RNS) — Vatican Radio expressed "profound grief" over the death of 13 civilians in the bloodiest spurt of violence between Northern Irish Catholics and British troops since 1969.

The situation said that "such a tragedy emerges as the most sorrowful event in the recent tormented history of Northern Ireland. News of the tragedy of Londonderry was heard by the Holy See with profound grief."

The commentary noted that even the death of one person,

New Schedule For Scipio Center And Area Churches

Scipio Center — Father Daniel V. Hogan, pastor of St. Bernard's Church here and of St. Hilary's in Genoa and St. Isaac Jogues in Fleming, has rescheduled Sunday Masses.

At St. Bernard's, the Mass is at 8:30 a.m.; St. Hilary's, 9:45 a.m., and St. Isaac, 11 a.m. The 8 p.m. Saturday Mass at St. Bernard's will be continued.

Weather conditions and the possibility of no weekend help led to the changes, Father Hogan said. He added that he hoped to have the continued assistance as often as possible of Father Vincent Gere, a Dominican from the New York area who is studying at Cornell.

"given the value of human life, imposes the need for reflection and responsible consideration."

Vatican Radio's comment was aired on the worldwide radio network only a short time before the Irish Republic (Eire) announced formally that it was withdrawing its ambassador to Britain to protest the incident.

Several times in the past the Pope himself has alluded to the violence in Northern Ireland, but usually in connection with the worldwide situation and normally not specifically by name.

However, several weeks ago he devoted part of an address to diplomats to the topic of violence in Northern Ireland which has claimed more than 200 lives since 1969.

The Jan. 30 outburst in Londonderry, about seven miles from the capital city of Belfast, also resulted in the wounding of 16 persons, including some women.

There are feelings in some Vatican circles that Pope Paul soon will issue his strongest and most direct condemnation to date of the violence and unrest in Ulster.

A Vatican Radio commentary is considered tantamount to a papal pronouncement except that it does give the pontiff some protection against criticism if what is said does not come off too well. The Holy See then merely makes no claim to the commentary.

Pope Paul:

We Must Set House in Order

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI feels that Roman Catholics must set their own house in order before they can expect the ecumenical movement to bear the real fruits of Christian unity.

The 74-year-old pontiff said it was hopeless to expect other Christians to reunite with Catholics so long as "we Catholics are in discord."

Speaking before thousands in St. Peter's Square, the Pope warned that true Christian unity will not come so long as "we do not show esteem and fidelity to that unity which we have the fortune to possess and the duty to live and witness."

"Among many difficulties, we confront a very grave one . . . the disunity among members of the Catholic Church," the pontiff said.

"We note divisive phenomena in the Church caused by small minorities which are, at the same time, bold and strongly corrosive," the Pope explained. "The more we are drawn to this ideal — unity — the more we notice the difficulty of its becoming real in the worldly realm and also in our Catholic realm."

Although the Pope may have given some listeners the impression that he was despairing of achieving unity, the majority of those who analyzed his speech concluded that he still had high hopes for Christian unity but was momentarily troubled by increasingly sharp

divisions between arch-liberals and arch-conservatives within the Catholic Church.

Paul VI reminded his audience that he never tires of pray-

ing for Christian unity as an imperative goal for social and spiritual reasons and stressed:

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