

### Rhodesian Bishop at U.N.

United Methodist Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa of Rhodesia (left) speaks to newsmen at the United Nations as Amb. Abby Farah of Somalia listens. The U.S.-educated black churchman, who later addressed the U.N. Security Council, said that the Anglo-Rhodesian settlement proposals form a "constitutional fraud" and have been rejected by the African people "with a resounding 'no.'" (RNS)

## Election of Bishops Urged by Fr. Greeley

Chicago — (RNS) — While stating that the Roman Catholic priesthood is most necessary today and "anything but finished," a priest-sociologist warned here that the gravest crisis affecting the priesthood is that of a complete collapse of authority and leadership.

He declared that only the establishment of "representative government in the Church" — especially the nomination of bishops by priests — will restore to the Church leaders the power they have lost.

In a 43-page analysis of a study of the priesthood that he helped develop, Father Andrew Greeley told a committee on the implementation of the U.S. bishops' study on the priesthood that "any other method of selection of leaders . . . is intolerable."

In a statement concerning Father Greeley's remarks, Msgr. Colin MacDonald, director of the bishops' implementation committee, warned that a "proper assessment of his statement must take into consideration the whole presentation."

Father Greeley, who is director of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, said there has been, along with the emergence of the priest from serfdom, an impending "collapse of confidence, credibility and consensus" with respect to bishops and other Church leadership.

"The continuation of cronyism as a method of selection of bishops will completely discredit the hierarchy because it will produce a leadership that is unfit to govern and unable to govern," he said.

He said the lesson must be learned now that the bishops "not only can . . . trust their priests but at this point in time they must."

Father Greeley called on the committee to act in three other specific areas concerning the priesthood. He urged the construction of new theoretical structures, the establishment of a national commission on vocations, and the development of "support systems" for the clergy.

To develop new theoretical structures, he proposed that church leadership "abandon its fears and suspicions of scholarship" and called for the establishment of "centers of research scholarship" by the U.S. bishops.

He also urged new "theoretical centers" concerned with

translating new insights into high quality pastoral, catechetical and educational aids, and suggested that the U.S. hierarchy add "ten or twenty 'at large' bishops" as scholarly specialists without dioceses.

Concerning the commission on vocations, he said "this crisis (in vocations) is an extraordinarily serious one for the Church."

In recommending support systems for the clergy, Father Greeley said such systems should be made up of "spiritual groups" of priests, "interaction networks" of priests and laity, and include a "drastic restructuring of priestly work."

Early in his remarks on the priesthood study, Father Greeley described the pre-1950 Catholic Church as a "mixture of post-Tridentine garrison Catholicism and American immigrant Catholicism" and said it was "appropriate" to its time. But with the advent of Vatican II, it was no longer relevant.

Despite some warnings, he said, "our theoretical structure collapsed suddenly" and the American Church and priesthood moved into a time of "confusion, disorientation and chaos." But, Father Greeley added, there is no going back because the old theoretical structure is gone forever.

Measuring "assets" of the priesthood against liabilities, he said the morale, maturity, interpersonal relationships and commitment of American priests today are average or above when compared with the rest of the population.

In tackling liabilities of the priesthood, Father Greeley affirmed that celibacy is "not" the most serious or the "most important symbolic problem . . ." but rather far down the

list. He said the celibacy problem is but the "tip of the iceberg" of a more serious problem — "the reformulation of Catholic sexual theory . . ."

Father Greeley also noted that, from the data he studied, the resignation rate in the priesthood is "not excessively high" when compared with other professions and the Protestant ministries. And he added that he felt the adoption of optional celibacy would not change the resignation picture significantly, except at first.

By 1980, he said, "we might have no more than half as many priests as . . . at the end of Vatican II (1965), despite a steady increase in Catholic population."

Asserting that neither the attitudes of youth nor the obstacle of celibacy are principal obstacles to vocations, Father Greeley stressed that "the lack of vocational recruiting by priests plays a major role in the present vocation shortage."

Speaking of a breakdown in credibility and consensus, he said, "It is clear that priests do not consent to the teaching of the official Church on . . . celibacy, on birth control, and on divorce. On the contrary, the majority of American priests will not accept the official teaching on these matters."

Father Greeley said most priests reject *Humanae Vitae*, the papal encyclical on birth control, as a legitimate and appropriate use of authority. "Nor will they attempt to impose its requirements on the Catholic laity."

Declaring that differing values and attitudes have formed a definite "polarization" between clergy and hierarchy — save where the bishop has "earned" his leadership — Father Greeley said the "power

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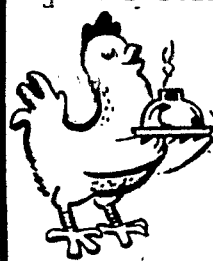


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## 'Harrisburg 8' Defense Raised, Spent \$400,000

Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — The Harrisburg Defense Committee, a support group for the defendants in the "Harrisburg 8" conspiracy trial, disclosed that it has raised nearly \$400,000 over the past year and spent most of it.

As of Dec. 31, 1971, the committee's cash balance was \$50,488, and it dwindled to the "dangerously low point" of \$11,000 during January.

Most of the committee's

money was spent, it said, on legal fees and fund-raising expenses. The balance was spent on supporting the committee staff in its work of political organization and raising what it called the moral and legal issues surrounding the Vietnam war and the Harrisburg trial.

In revealing its financial condition, the committee challenged the federal government to reveal its expenses in the case.