

Pope Paul

Dissatisfied World Should Seek Christ

Vatican City —(RNS)—Pope Paul VI said here that Jesus Christ is the answer to restlessness and dissatisfaction in the world today.

Addressing pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's Square for his customary Sunday blessing, the pontiff said that political, social and economic developments are stirring peoples of all nations, leaving them divided and dissatisfied at home and abroad.

"Peoples, after a certain post-war standstill, are aroused, contrasted, upset and stirred in international relations," he said. "Or even in their own domestic systems, they are uneasy and dissatisfied, their own progress agitating and dividing them . . ."

It is in this context, the Pope emphasized, that the Church reminds Catholics that there is an answer to all this restlessness and dissatisfaction, "to all divergencies and difficulties." The answer is Jesus Christ, he said, adding:

"The Church says to man: 'Are you hungry? Christ is the Bread of Life. Are you thirsty? Christ is the Source of living

waters. Do you need to see and understand? Christ is the Light of the world. Do you describe the Liberator from the shackles of riches and pride. Are you in need of love? Christ is the Supreme Giver of love — God is Love."

Vatican Warns of Errors In Teachings about Jesus

Vatican City —(RNS)—The Vatican's congregation responsible for guarding against doctrinal errors has criticized those who stray from Catholic teaching on the divinity of Jesus.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, once known as the "Holy Office," issued a statement on what it termed "some recent errors." The document was ratified and confirmed by Pope Paul.

Vatican observers saw in the statement a direct link to the publication recently of a new catechism for use in teaching religion courses in Catholic

Vatican Sets Up Tie with Algeria

Vatican City (RNS) — The Holy See announced that it has set up diplomatic ties with the Republic of Algeria.

The Vatican said the move was made in an effort to "encourage mutual and friendly relations" between the two sovereign states.

It was stressed by the Vatican that the diplomatic relations as established are at the ambassadorial level, a type of relationship that the two countries had never had before.

high schools in the Netherlands.

The congregation's statement, signed by Cardinal Franjo Šeper, stressed as contrary to faith a claim that Jesus has not existed for all time.

"When the mystery of the divinity and eternity of Christ, Son of God, is abandoned, the truth of the Holy Trinity also is destroyed and with it the truth of the Holy Spirit which has proceeded from all eternity from the Father and the Son," the statement said.

The congregation stressed that it is contrary to Catholic faith to believe that the Trinity is not eternal.

Since Vatican II, the congregation has been hesitant to issue such statements, even though, as in this one, no specific names or places were listed.

The 1,600-word Latin decree was the first such statement from the Vatican to be issued since Vatican II began under Pope John XXIII.

The decree made it clear that it was the responsibility of the local bishops to safeguard against heresies and left it up to them to mete out any punishment deemed necessary.

The document also emphasized "the duty of pastors" to demand the "unity of profession of faith from their people" and from "those who . . . teach the sacred sciences and preach the word of God." Finally, it stressed "the duty of all Christians to profess these sacred mysteries."

The document said that currently in the world there are Catholics who are preaching various heresies, including that "Jesus is not a single person with both an eternal and a human nature born of the Virgin Mary."

This document also noted that there are claims abroad today that Jesus was merely a very holy man who had "the ability" to make God more understandable to other men and that there is nothing in Scripture to prove that the Holy Ghost is eternal as God the Father.

BOB CONSIDINE

On the Line



Wherever we turned, during President Nixon's trip to the People's Republic of China, we were confronted by the thoughts of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. We saw them along the roads, sometimes presented in the style of an old Burma Shave poem. We saw them in big billboard form at main intersections in the cities, and emblazoned across the fronts and tops of buildings.

To a person too dumb to read Chinese — I, for example — every splash of Mao's thought in eye-catching red and white seemed to be some kind of a declaration of war.

Mostly, the reverse was true. The chairman looks upon himself as the only true heir of Marx and Lenin. Indeed, he still countenances an occasional tennis-court-sized lithograph of Joseph Stalin. But there's a splash of Ben Franklin's "Poor Richard's Almanac" in his red-bound "Thoughts," which may take over from the Bible as the earth's best-selling book — considering the population of the People's Republic. Every fourth child born on this planet today is Chinese. And all apparently emerge from the womb brandishing a copy of the little red book.

Some of Mao's Thoughts also smack of the thoughts of such running dogs of imperialism as Douglas MacArthur, Ann Landers, Dale Carnegie, and the

Revs. Billy Graham and Billy Buckley.

MacArthur, against whose U.N. forces Mao sent at least half a million "volunteers" in the Korean War, might nod appreciatively if he read this Mao Thought: "If anyone attacks us, we will certainly act in self-defense to wipe him out resolutely, thoroughly, wholly and completely. We do not strike rashly, but when we do strike, we must win."

Ben Franklin, who never heard of a Communist, might say, "That fellow can't be all bad" if he read Mao's "No dishonesty or conceit whatsoever is permissible. What is required is definitely the reverse—honest and modesty."

The following thought from Mao might have been lifted from any advice-to-the-lovelorn column:

"In times of difficulty, we must not lose sight of our achievements, must see the bright future and must pluck up our courage."

Mao could conceivably be a pin-up boy for the Civil Liberties Union and Women's Lib. To wit:

"We have come together from every corner of the country and should be good at uniting in our work, not only with comrades who hold the same views as we but also with those who hold different views."

In Spain

Vatican Document Stirs Controversy

Madrid — (RNS) — A Vatican document attacking a "reformist" Assembly of Spanish Catholic Bishops and Priests of last September has set off a Church controversy of major proportions.

The 6,000-word doctrinal criticism by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy of the Assembly's resolutions that dealt with the role of the Church and the priest in Spanish society was published in the Spanish press, March 4, on the eve of a meeting of the Bishops' Conference in Madrid. Cardinal John Wright, former bishop of Pittsburgh is prefect of the Vatican Congregation.

The document accuses the assembly, which brought together on an equal basis 94 bishops and 151 priests representing all dioceses, of sacrificing religious values for social values, of favoring Marxist forms of society, of blurring the distinctions between clergy and laity, and of imposing a liberal conformity on the Church. It urges that the assembly's resolutions be rejected by the Bishops' Conference.

The assembly called for an end to the ties between the Spanish Church and the Spanish government, and for improvements in the field of human rights in Spain, including recognition of the rights of freedom of expression and of free association and assembly in the area of "politics and labor movements."

Other assembly resolutions called for "a truly juridical equality of all Spaniards in regard to the law," recognition of the right to "conscientious objection because of religious and ethnic motivation," and of the right to "physical integrity which protects man against corporal or mental torture, in-

cluding attempts at spiritual coercion."

One resolution, which received extensive support, but failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote — 137, yes; 78, no; 19 qualified approval; 10 abstentions — made public confession of the Church's guilt in relation to the civil war of the 1930s:

"To say that we have never sinned is to call God a liar and to show that his word is not in us (I John 1:10) . . . Therefore we do admit in all humility our guilt, and we ask pardon because we did not know in time how to be true 'ministers of reconciliation' amidst our people, divided as they were because of a war among brethren."

The resolutions were proposed by a minority of bishops, led by Auxiliary Bishop Jose Guerra Campos of Madrid, a strong supporter of the Spanish regime, and attacked by the government-controlled press. The strongest denunciation came from Opus Dei, a Catholic lay group that has achieved considerable political and economic power in Spain and whose theological orientation tends to be conservative.

FAMILY LIFE

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