



A Papal Pat

A man lifts a baby toward Pope Paul VI for a blessing and a pat on the head during the pontiff's weekly general audience at the Vatican. (RNS)

Pope, Cardinal Make Pleas for Peace in Ulster

From Courier-Journal Services

The possible violence anticipated on the Easter Sunday anniversary of the 1916 uprising against British domination failed to materialize in Ulster. Instead two messages of peace, one from Pope Paul, and the other from Cardinal William Conway, primate of all Ireland, dominated the news.

The pontiff, speaking to 200,000 noting Easter in St. Peter's Square, issued a peace appeal which Vatican officials interpreted as referring specifically to the Irish civil strife.

The Pope said he wanted his call for peace to "reach where there is still the conflict of war, hatred, bloodshed, destruction

and ever-more numerous and murderous weaponry."

Meanwhile, in a Dublin broadcast, Cardinal Conway for the first time brought the power of Church authority to bear on the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to call off its war against British rule.

The cardinal said he feels that the majority of Catholics in Ireland now approve of the British takeover in the North and are weary of the violence.

Protestants, however, were still angered over the British takeover. A two-day strike last week halted airline, train and bus services. Electric power was sharply curtailed, leaving

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Interfaith Unit Seeks School Tax Credit

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Two organizations, one inter-religious and the other Roman Catholic, were formed here to exert grassroots pressure for the enactment of federal legislation providing tax credits for parents of non-public school children.

A coalition of non-public school leaders of various religious bodies established Citizens Relief for Education by Income Tax (CREDIT) and a group of high-level Catholic church leaders have organized the Committee for Parental Rights and Public Assistance in Education.

The latter group, whose honorary chairman is Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and whose president is Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, was de-

scribed as a member organization of CREDIT.

A spokesman for the Catholic group told Religious News Service that the committee is more a "grassroots" oriented organization than a political lobby, aiming to influence legislators in their own constituencies rather than in Washington.

He said there are more than 10 bills which, in some way or another, call for tax credits for parents of non-public school children, so it is "not a matter of developing legislation but of supporting the whole concept of tax credits."

Asked if other religious denominations besides Catholics have formed special groups to support pending tax credit legis-

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Diocesan Activities Keep Rolling Along

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Although the high point of the liturgical year has now passed it doesn't mean that activities in the diocese have slowed down.

Needless to say, the post of diocesan director of vocations is a key one. With the World Day of Vocations coming up April 23, Father Gerald Connor, in charge of vocations, is trying to make the day innovative and effective. On Page 7 are some of his new ideas for doing this.

Speaking of vocations, another new priest will be ordained on April 8. For a look at Rev. Mr. Louis A. Vasile, turn to Page 7.

And with state legislators already looking ahead to campaigning this year, the Legislature is heading for an early closing. To remind our lawmakers that abortion is still strongly opposed the bishops of New York have designated April 16 as Right to Life Sunday. Page 7.

Dr. Leighton Ford, an associate of Rev. Billy Graham, is coming to town for a crusade — and with the

support of the diocese. Barbara Moynihan has this unusual story on Page 8.

And again stressing that Easter is a beginning and not an end, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has begun a series on the importance of hope, particularly in these trying times. His first article appears in his customary "Pastoral Perspective" on Page 3.