

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

You could sell thousands of buttons that say "Fight For Peace," or "Support peace, or I'll kill you!"

Too many people feel that way!

When I did a column on what one parish did about peace, it moved one reader to write that peace would result in the surrender of the U.S. to communism. He said he preferred war.

Peace in seen as a passive, Casper Milktoast, lack of guts. Peace is seen as the absence of war. The hole is seen as the doughnut!

That view is pretty hard to stick to after you read Pope Paul VI's encyclical "On the Development of Peoples." In Pope Paul's words, "Development is the new name for peace."

A similar sentiment was expressed last year by Bishop Carroll T. Dozier of Memphis in his pastoral letter "Peace: Gift and Task."

We will see the peace of Christ, full shalom," wrote the Bishop, "only when justice reigns. We will see the peace of Christ when the hungry are fed, the strangers are welcome, the sick are visited, and prisoners are comforted (Matthew 25:36-36)."

Bishop Dozier went on to outline some practical steps for peace. Parish councils will find many positive and dynamic actions open to them by studying the Bishop's letter. (You can get a copy by writing to the

Division of World Justice and Peace, 1312 Massachusetts Ave., (N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005).

Bishop Dozier cited the U.S. Bishop' Pastoral Letter of 1968 and their resolution of November, 1971, on Southeast Asia. He then pledged to "support any young man of draft age who refuses to serve in the military because he conscientiously objects to war and killing."

The bishop also:

Started a diocesan draft counseling service, and called on "Memphis adults to volunteer help in staffing our draft counseling center."

Requested priests to give sermons with concrete guidelines for attitudes and actions for peace. "I agree with those assertions in the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome," Bishop Dozier said, "that our people need to be educated for peace."

Established an information center on peace where persons can find the most recent as well as those most helpful materials available concerning peace.

Begged his people to "be sensitive to those who in conscience feel that they must speak out or take part in public demonstrations against the war."

"Our goal is as broad as the human race, peace on earth," concluded Bishop Dozier. "The means at our disposal are close at hand, our own change of attitudes and our own personal action."

Bishops to Meet On Regional Basis

Atlanta — (RNS) — The recent meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops was the last Spring session. It will be replaced by regional meetings in 12 parts of the country in Spring 1973.

Members of the NCCB approved the change after being told that it had been favored by bishops in nine regions at group meetings held during the three-day Spring session. The bishops will continue to hold

their Fall conferences in Washington.

Disadvantages of meeting in the Spring, it was said, include the fact that on occasion there is not sufficient reason to warrant the effort and expense of a general meeting.

In addition, because of the size of the conference, the general meetings do not permit enough participation on the part of all bishops.



Garage Sale

Preparing for a gigantic garage sale at Aquinas, this weekend, Dennis Heizyk and David Scherbeck (r.) show some of the collected miscellany to Father Albert Gaelens, principal. With them is Mrs. Harry Fornarola, chairman of the project, which involves the student body and the parents' organization. Hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, in the gym at 1127 Dewey Ave. Baked goods and snacks will be offered.

'One Parish'

A Parish Turns to Busing

(Catholic Press Features)

In one parish, the problem faced by the elderly in getting to church has been solved by something called "Operation BUS" (which stands for "Bring Us to Services").

For years, many of the elderly in the parish were unable to get to Sunday Mass at the inner-city church. The situation was brought to the attention of the parish council, which pondered such solutions as car pools, an escort service and even taxi transport.

Eventually, a council member proposed hiring a bus. Arrangements were quickly made with a local bus line to provide a bus to transport both the elderly and the handicapped to two of the Sunday Masses.

The BUS service immediately caught on and the "queuing up" of the senior citizens became a Sunday morning ritual for more than 80 parishioners.

Twice every Sunday morning, the bus makes two trips to convey people to church. First, it picks up residents of the public and privately owned houses in one part of town. After dropping them off at the church, the bus proceeds to another section of the city. After each Mass, the parishioners are picked up and returned home.

During the winter months, particularly when snowbanks separate the sidewalks from the crosswalks, two parish council members man the bus. They assist the elderly and handicapped people in and out of the bus. When the parish council men are unable to be on hand, the regular driver performs the service of helping the passengers on and off.

Prior to the service, few of the present passengers were acquainted, being residents of different sections of the large parish. Today, they make up a rather quasi-social arm of the parish looking forward to the ride and the socializing that has become an integral part of the busing to Mass.

The participants in this Mass transportation also enjoy another fringe benefit—coffee in the side sacristy while awaiting their ride home.

Without the BUS service, the pastor and his assistants agree, the 80 riders would be unable to attend Mass regularly, creating another void in their already lonely lives.

Instead, they now look forward to Sunday mornings, not only for the opportunity to attend Mass, but also for the new friendships they have made with parishioners who lead similar lives.



Victor Cub Wins Religious Award

Kevin Beatson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Beatson of Victor has received the Parvuli Dei Roman Catholic religious emblem for Cub Scouts. The award was made by Father Paul Murrely, pastor of St. Patrick's Church which sponsors Kevin's Pack 52.

Kevin, one of seven children, is a Webelos Cub and will graduate into Boy Scouts in June. To receive the emblem, the 10 year old had to complete 12 requirements dealing with knowledge of the parish, the diocese, doctrine, scripture, Christian living and even religious handicraft.

Kevin is the second Cub to receive the Parvuli Dei in St. Patrick's parish this year and in the history of the award.

Religious emblems for eleven different faiths are offered Boy Scouts, but only Roman Catholic, Salvation Army, and Jewish Cub Scouts earn special emblems at their level.



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