



Pontiff Reaffirms He Will Not Resign

Pope Cautions Against 'Liberation Theology'

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has warned against the theories of some "liberation" theologians, who, he said, argue that any means may be used by men seeking freedom from oppression.

The pontiff, at his general audience Aug. 16 at his summer residence here, said that the "theology of liberation" as suggested by some Latin American clergymen was defective in its analyses of current social problems.

He said that man had the right to be freed from "so many causes of suffering and from poverty, especially from its miseries and deplorable social conditions."

Some liberation theologians, the pontiff said, suggest that people should resort "even to violence" to free themselves of the oppression, which, the theologians say, is imposed upon men "by capitalism, neo-colonialism, violence and injustice." Such a theology is "defective" in its analyses, he said, and in its "categorical accusations" about the causes of human misery.

Then too, he added, "the impulsiveness of some of the remedies suggested by some libera-

tion theologians could well prove to be not only inadequate, but perhaps even harmful."

Pope Paul did not elaborate on the theme. He said it was such a "grave and delicate matter" that he preferred not to go into it in any depth during his brief address.

"We have mentioned it, in passing, to show that we are not unconcerned about it," the Pope said.

Some observers think that the Pope, in his address, may have been referring obliquely to such groups as the one which met last May in Santiago, Chile.

Some 400 Roman Catholic priests and laity from Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Cuba, and other Latin American countries, and Catholic and Protestant observers from the U.S., took part in a week-long assembly, organized by the "Group of 80," a group of Chilean Catholic priests led by Father Gonzalo Arroyo, S.J.

The assembly's final declaration called for political action by revolutionary Christians on the premise that "class struggle was the only valid course to necessary social change in Latin America."

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope Paul VI told pilgrims visiting his Summer vacation retreat here in the hills south of Rome that he was "a little tired" from the rigors of his office.

However, the 74-year-old pontiff indicated strongly that he had no intention of resigning from the papacy "so long as our energy lasts."

There have been repeated reports and rumors that Pope Paul intends to resign on reaching the age of 75 (next Sept. 26). However, these reports have been denied by Vatican officials as often as they have sprung up.

"We breathe good air, here," the Pope said at his regular Sunday appearance on a balcony overlooking a courtyard of the papal residence.

"We try to restore our poor forces which are always scarce and even a little tired," he said. "The Pope cannot rest. He cannot be uninterested in the Church. He is constantly engaged in following the Church's life. He is the apostolic motor, a motor which does not come to a halt."

Despite his never-ending responsibilities, the Pope conceded that while at Castelgandolfo he admired "the beauty of this natural setting" and enjoyed "the charms of its silence."

Vatican sources quickly followed up the papal address with a firm assurance that the pontiff's health was not failing and that he was feeling well and not abnormally tired.

In his talk, Pope Paul said he carried with him to his Summer retreat his constant concern for peace and social justice.

"This blessed peace, which

still bleeds and seems always to be in a swaying balance, and strenuous efforts to make it a firm reality, are never removed from the focus of our attention," the Pope said.

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Pope Urges United Europe As Major Step for Peace

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has called for the creation of a united Europe as a major step in the direction of world peace.

The pontiff made the suggestion in a brief statement issued as he accepted the credentials of the new Ambassador from Belgium to the Holy See, Prince Werner De Merode.

"Nothing is more important in the present agreement of nations than loyal and persevering action to promote peace," the Pope said.

Receiving the new diplomat at the papal Summer residence here in the hill country 20 miles from stiflingly hot Rome, the Pope said:

"In this field (national agreements), the building of the Common Market, to which your country belongs, can show itself rich in hope, on the condition that this European community enterprise puts its growing powers at the service of the high aims which providence and history demand."

The Pope reminded the ambassador that "this undertaking demands of every nation a clear vision of the common good, united to a great opening to the rest of the world."

He said the devotion to peace and wish for international unity voiced by the new ambassador, will not continue to thrive and be forceful "if they are not constantly fed by the springs of a proper understanding of the meaning of man and if they do not respect all the dimensions of the individual."


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