

Pontiff Cautions Against Mideast Vendetta

CASTELGANDOLFO (RNS)—In unusually blunt language, Pope Paul VI uses the term "vendetta" to describe the Munich Olympic slayings and the reprisals that followed in the Middle East.

The pontiff warned that such a vendetta "is no remedy, but an evil which tends to repeat itself and extend terrorism without bounds."

Following the deaths of 11 members of the Israeli Olympic team on Sept. 5 at the hands of Arab terrorists, Israel launched air attacks on seven Arab guerrilla bases in Syria and three in Lebanon.

Addressing pilgrims and tourists in the courtyard of his Summer residence here, the Pope remarked that "the events of these past days, those in Munich and

those which followed them immediately in the Middle East," had stunned the world "with a painful trauma and with disillusioning and disturbing shock."

He added: "We are also saddened by the continuing conflict in Vietnam and in Northern Ireland, and by organized crime which is spreading throughout the civilized world."

In a blanket indictment of violence, Pope Paul said "terrorism is unworthy of civilized and valorous men. It strikes the innocent and upsets faith in peaceful coexistence," he said.

Throughout the papal address there ran a heavy thread of fear for the future of the world. "Prospects for the future are hardly reassuring," he said. "We believe that the public opinion

of all those with a sense of honesty and of optimism for the fate of the world has been seriously disturbed."

"Moral values are despised because the cause of peace has been thrown into a crisis; international and social brotherhood is suspected of being a mere Utopian dream," he said.

This list, he said, included the following:

"Without balanced justice, no true equilibrium can be established, no loyal and stable accord among nations and among social classes can be set up.

"A vendetta is no remedy, but an evil which tends to repeat itself and extend terrorism without bounds.

"Terrorism is unworthy of civilized and valorous men. It strikes



the innocent and upsets faith in peaceful co-existence.

"War solves nothing and today can be a chronic and continuing thing.

"Frank and wise discourse must be the preferred way of handling conflicts among men.

"Equity, compromise, generosity, reciprocal forgiveness, respect for the dignity of others — these are the best means of resolving those conflicts."

He called for "the help of God and the love which only Christ can teach us and instill in us" to bring peace to the world.

Pope Nearing 75; No Sign of Retirement

By ROBERT R. HOLTON
RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul turns 75 on Sept. 26, with no indication that he will relinquish the reins of Catholic Church leadership that he took up with reluctance more than nine years ago.

Never in modern history has there been so much attention focused on the 75th birthday anniversary of a pontiff as there will be when Paul VI observes that milestone in his career.

And there is some reason to hint that the former Giovanni Battista Montini could announce

his abdication from the papacy on that day.

But there is considerably more convincing evidence to support the theory that the day will come and go and the Chair of Peter will still be occupied by the frail, shy spiritual leader.

Speculation on the papal retirement began six years ago when Pope Paul decreed that on becoming 75, all bishops in the world should submit their resignations for consideration. The record shows that most resignations were rejected politely.

Two years ago, fuel was added to the fire when Pope Paul announced that members of the Sacred College of Cardinals will

become ineligible to vote for a Pope once they reach the age of 80. He also directed that Cardinals on reaching that age step down from any top executive posts which they might hold. This struck heaviest at the Roman Curia where age long had been a hallmark of office.

The papal decree today finds 26 cardinals who would be ineligible to enter a secret conclave to elect a successor to Pope Paul if he were to retire or die.

"But what most people don't take into consideration is that the Holy Father holds the papacy — and rightfully so — in a high esteem and an esteem of responsibility which he feels is above the level of that of bishop or cardinal," commented one Vatican source, adding:

"Therefore, it is wholly conceivable that he would feel that a man could unburden himself from office as a bishop at 75 and as a cardinal at 80 — but as a Pope, never."

Most Vatican officials and those claiming to be privy to inside information maintain that Pope Paul will stay on as head of his Church even past 80, if his health permits.

Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, sub-secretary of state for the Holy See and one of the most powerful men in the Vatican, went to unprecedented pains several months ago to deny reports that Pope Paul would retire at 75.

The archbishop went on Vatican Radio in an obviously arranged interview in which he made the point that Pope Paul had told him personally he did not intend to step down at 75. Archbishop Benelli branded as "rumor" all reports on retirement.

The pontiff himself said only a few weeks ago that he was tired and worn from the pressures of his office and would like to walk away from it. But he added quickly that he did not feel he had the right to retire so long as the Church needed him.

There is no doubt in the minds of anyone close to the present Church leader that he is a man who by his very nature is dedicated to seeing through any task he has been assigned or undertaken — no matter with how much reluctance.

Probably the major point of consideration in the debate is the health of the North Italian-born pontiff. In a word, it is "good" for any man his age.

"He was frail as a youth," recalled one Vatican source. "But probably because of his frailty and sickness he learned that many of us robust people never seem to learn — how to pace ourselves and how to take care of ourselves and conserve our physical energies."

Woman Jurist to Address Cenacle League Luncheon

Dr. Mary Therese Rooney, of Millburn, N.J., author, educator and legal authority, will speak at the Century Club Saturday, Sept. 30, at a luncheon arranged by the Cenacle Retreat League.

The luncheon will follow a Mass in honor of St. Theresa, founder of the Cenacle Sisters' order. Father Sebastian Falcone will celebrate the Mass at noon at the Cenacle, 693 East Ave. Luncheon reservations may be made there, through 271-8755.

Dr. Rooney, former chairman of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae committee on legislation, was the first woman ever cited as an outstanding jurist by the Congress on World Peace through Law. She holds the Pax Orbis Ut Jure medal, presented at the fifth congress, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Mrs. William E. Kramer, league president, has the assistance of the following members for the anniversary celebration: Mrs.



Dr. Rooney

Frank Rozwell, Miss Rita Schwab, Mrs. Raymond Zimmer, Miss Marguerite Colgan, Miss Helen Durmin, Miss Rosaline Nesser, Miss Geraldine Moylan, Mrs. John Judge, Mrs. James Kennan, Miss Mary Wintish and Mrs. Everett Toomey.

Symbolism Is Theme

Elmira — Symbolism is the general theme for this year's series of lectures in the Christian Institute of Man.

The speakers for the season of workshops and lectures include Father Thomas Berry, professor of Religions at Fordham University and the founder and director of Riverside Center for Religious Research; Dr. David Miller, professor in the Department of Religions at Syracuse University; Sr. Anna M. Gaffney, a lecturer in the Buffalo Diocesan Program in Liturgy and Sacrament and Scripture, and coordinator of Community Studies in Religious Education; Father Sebastian Falcone, dean of studies at St. Bernard's Seminary and professor of Sacred Scripture there.

The first event slated is a workshop Saturday, Oct. 21 at Courier-Journal

Our Lady of Lourdes Hall from 9:30 a.m. — 4 p.m., conducted by Father Berry.

The Elmira Area Adult Education Committee is sponsoring the lecture series this year.

Legion Dinner

The Genesee Curia of the Legion of Mary held its first annual reunion dinner on Thursday, Sept. 7, the 51st anniversary of the founding of the Legion in Dublin. Seventy-five legionnaires, spiritual directors and friends of the Legion gathered at Glen Iris Inn, Letchworth Park for the affair.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Hickey was the guest speaker. His theme was the importance of the supernatural virtue of faith to the Church and to the Legion.

Wednesday, September 20, 1972

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