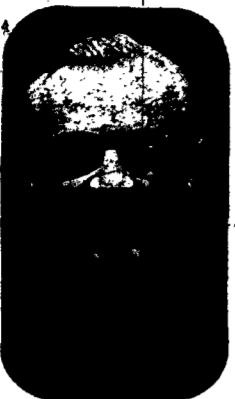


Key 73 — Calling Our Continent to Christ

God our Father has a message he wants us to deliver to the whole world. He gave us that message when His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ was born at Bethlehem. He renewed that message to each one of us as we knelt at the Crib this past Christmas. He wants us to take His Message to all people everywhere.



God's message is one of love and forgiveness.

And that is the way He wants it delivered—with love and forgiveness.

By our baptism and by our continued membership in the Church we commit ourselves to deliver this message for God.

We have now a unique opportunity to fulfill this basic Christian duty, the duty to be the Lord's apostles today, in an international, interdenominational project called Key 73.

Key 73 wants to mobilize the 100 million Christian people on our North American continent to deliver the simple, basic message of God's love and forgiveness to the nearly 200 million other people who still haven't heard that message — and, hope-

fully, to reach out in 1974 and 1975 to people on the rest of the world's continents too.

There is no doctrinal compromise involved at all in an endorsement of this project.

All Christians — Protestants, Orthodox, Catholics — no matter what other beliefs they may hold, are all agreed that God's message is forever one of love and forgiveness.

Imagine the impact of 100 million Christians praying and working together to fulfill the final command of our Lord which He gave on His Ascension day, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation." (Mark 16: 15)

The key to Key 73 is each individual Christian.

There is no need for meetings, no need for dues, no need for officers. All that is needed is a united effort of 100 million Christians doing what they were baptized, and as Catholics confirmed to do.

Key 73 gets under way this week asking people to pray at noon each day during this Christmas to Epiphany season, and hopefully through the year, for the success of the Key 73 effort. It is an old Catholic tradition to say the Angelus daily at noon. I think it would be most appropriate for our

diocesan Year of Renewal to reactivate the Angelus — in our schools, in our homes, wherever we are at noontime. In case you've forgotten it, you can tune in radio station WSAV where the Angelus is broadcast daily.

The second big project for Key 73 is a massive Scripture study, particularly of St. Luke's Gospel and his other book, the Acts of the Apostles. And then to see that a copy of these two books gets into every home on our continent.

The people who put the Key 73 program together made a wise selection when they picked St. Luke's two books — one is the life of Christ, and the other is the life of the Church in its earliest days. St. Luke's books are also probably the easiest books of the Bible to understand and they both convey so clearly the basic theme of Key 73 — God's Message of love and forgiveness.

You will undoubtedly hear much more about Key 73 in the weeks and months ahead. It provides us in our diocesan Year of Renewal with several very practical ways to strengthen our own personal faith and to be missionaries by sharing our gift of faith with others. I hope all the people of our Diocese will participate in their own communities with the Christian people of other Churches to win "our continent to Christ."

The Slot Man

Who Said the Church Was Dead?

"Who said the Catholic Church was dead?" was the remark at least one parishioner made after attending Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Of course, it isn't and neither is family life as evidenced by the throngs who attended these special Masses throughout the diocese.



It is a fair assumption to picture the family as a microcosm of the Church and both are doing very well, thank you.

With Bishop Hogan leading the way by reading a special Christmas story for children at the Cathedral, parishes, big and small,

urban and rural, duplicated the scene. And the people, from all reports, loved it.

At our parish, as at others, we were treated to an overflow congregation singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

At many churches, families brought bells to ring during carols. Special offertory gifts were presented, including live lambs, gifts for flood victims, offerings for the needy. Birthday cakes were blessed and taken home for family celebrations.

At St. Charles Borromeo, a dramatic presentation of the first Christmas was highlighted by the placing of a real baby in the manger.

And from church to church, huge crowds attested to the popularity of this special

liturgy. The warmth generated will last long into the Upstate New York winter.

I don't know very much about poetry but the following, written by 12-year-old Martin Rebholz, certainly gets a point across. It's entitled "One Small Plane".

One small plane
And one small bomb
The bomb is dropped
From the plane
The bomb explodes
The plane explodes
The people explode
The earth explodes
There is no life
There is no dead
There is no

By Carmen Viglucci

Editorial

Peace More Than Hope . . . It's a Duty

"We have been waiting for peace in the Far East, as a human gift worthy of the Feast of Christmas. Instead, it has been announced to the world that peace still is not ripe."

With those words, Pope Paul VI recently revealed to a general audience his disappointment over the failure of the latest negotiations for Indochina peace.

Religious News Service (RNS) opined that such a peace was the Christmas gift the Pope would have cherished most. His further words bolster that thought:

"Bitterness invades our heart as a result of this delay. But we must not lose the strength of spirit to continue hoping. We must hope always."

RNS reported that the Pope's voice seemed on the verge of trembling several times. He blamed neither side despite his obvious frustration because the de-

sire for peace has been a hallmark of Paul's nine-year pontificate. It has been an elusive quest but he has not lost hope.

Six years ago, he instituted the World Day of Peace and last Sunday we heard this year's theme, "Peace Is Possible." In his special message for the day, the Pope bluntly warned that "wars which have been going on for years" have created "a poison that seeps into our souls" making the road to peace difficult. Yet he emphasized that "peace is possible, it is a duty."

In his peace day message, Bishop Hogan asked all diocesans to "consider how we have prayed and worked for peace during the past year. Let us consider how we can pray and work for peace during this coming year with all our neighbors — those who live in our own local community as well as those who live with us in our community of the world."

Such pleas are directed at Northern Ireland and Middle East, as well as at Indochina, but because Americans are being killed and are killing in Vietnam this war concerns us most directly. There are those who feel that the Church should not get involved. But then, assuming we all want peace, who will bring it about? Politicians are unable, big business seems unaffected, big unions are silent.

An organized voice is necessary to prompt these worldly powers into action for peace. Who is big enough to speak loudly enough? The Pope hopes it will be the world's 633 million Catholics who will echo his plea "No more war, war never again!"

Will we let him down? Will we let our neighbors down? Will we let ourselves down?