

COURIER-JOURNAL



Some people can see perfectly, but others see hardly anything, if at all. Something is being done for them. Turn to the Centerfold to learn about the Association for the Blind, where this workshop scene was shot.

Guidelines Issued for Regional Conferences

Guidelines for the formation of regional conferences have been approved and issued by the diocesan Pastoral Council Formation Committee, which is directed by Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty with Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, executive secretary.

A key phrase in the guidelines explains the essence of a regional conference as "an assembly of designated parish representatives under the leadership of a coordinator to witness and actualize the mission of the church and to generate through its membership qualified candidates for the Diocesan Pastoral Council."

Msgr. Mulcahy said, "It is imperative that regional conferences be formed quickly. Some are already in motion but I must urge everybody to proceed immediately because the formation of the pastoral council is tied directly to the establishment of regional conferences."

The first step toward the past-

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BISHOP, PRIESTS READY PEACE STATEMENT

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has prepared a statement outlining a three-phase, postwar program of reconciliation to be published in next week's Courier-Journal.

In a first-of-its-kind invitation, the Bishop has sent the statement to the priests of the diocese to give them the opportunity to add their names to his proposals.

A diocesan spokesman said that more than 250 priests have already indicated they join the bishop in making the statement.

The three-phase program included concern and assistance to the Vietnam veterans, launching on Ash Wednesday a fund for children orphaned by the war, and a Christian attitude on the still hotly debated question of amnesty for those who "for sincere reasons of conscience" refused to participate in the war.

Full details of the statement are not yet available but the spokesman said the question of amnesty "procured a bit of flack from about 10 priests."

Bishop Hogan in a letter sent to priests of the diocese early this month said "I am more and more convinced that we who are ordained to be the moral

leaders in the church of God must speak clearly, forcefully, and publicly against injustice and for justice, against war and for peace, against death and for life."

He cited statements by Pope Paul VI, and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops which, he stated, "have frequently dealt with the war in Southeast Asia and the tragic effects of that war on the people

of those lands as well as the people of the United States."

He asked the priests "to affirm our solidarity," with the Pope and the U.S. Bishops.

He told the priests, "I would very much like to have the enclosed statement published not just with my name signed to it but with the names of the priests of the diocese." He said he realized some priests of the dio-

cese would not wish to have their names printed "and I respect that wish."

The diocesan spokesman said he knew of no other bishop who asked the priests of the diocese to issue a joint pastoral letter as in this case.

The bishop related some of the priests' comments: "The statement is powerful... thank

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Pope, Hanoi Official Meet

Vatican City (RNS)—The chief peace negotiator for North Vietnam met with Pope Paul in a private audience to thank the pontiff on behalf of the Hanoi government for all he has done to help end the war in Southeast Asia.

Xuan Thuy spent 45 minutes with the Pope in the pontiff's private apartment library.

After the meeting, the Vatican's official spokesman, Federico Alessandrini said the North Vietnamese official was high in his praise of papal initiatives for peace.

"He expressed the pleasure of the government of North Vietnam over efforts by the Pope to help end the Vietnam war and re-establish peace there," Alessandrini said.

The visit marked the first official meeting of North Vietnamese and Church officials at the Vatican.

A Vatican aide said the visit came about because of the long and tireless efforts of Pope Paul to use his and the Church's offices in helping to bring about a diplomatic drive for peace in Vietnam over the years.

At one time during the war, Pope Paul received in private audience Vietcong Foreign Minister Madame Binh. However, it was considered an impromptu and informal visit and was not announced as an "official" call.

Thuy was accompanied to the audience by an interpreter and Trinh Ngoc Thai, one of the North Vietnamese delegates to the Paris peace talks. He came to Rome on Feb. 11 as a guest of the Italian Communist party. His meetings while here also included talks with Italian gov-

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Bishop Hogan Describes 'The Acolyte'

"The Acolyte" is the subject of the continuing series on "Ministry Today" written by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and appearing today on Page 3.

This is the third in a four-part series. In the first segment, the Bishop discussed the ministry in general; last week he described the role of the lector. Next week he will write about deacons.

To accommodate this special series other regular Page 3 features have been moved. Father Albert Shamon's "Word for Sunday" appears on Page 6 and Carmen Viglucci's "Slot Man" is on Page 17.

"Year of Renewal: Prayer" will be the theme of the liturgy in many parishes next Sunday. A special prayer has been prepared for the occasion which also will serve for the entire year. It will be distributed in every parish and a copy also appears on Page 7.

Down Canandigua way, Deacon Joseph Hart of St. Mary's is involved in the Sheriff's Advisory Council to help in implementing recreational and educational programs at the county jail. The story is on Page 7.

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