

# Bishop, Priests Work On Peace Statement

(Continued from Page 1)

you for the opportunity to sign with sincere admiration for your forthright leadership.

A military chaplain said "a great letter" and I heartily endorse the sentiments." A former chaplain expressed fears of "tragic engulfment by Communism."

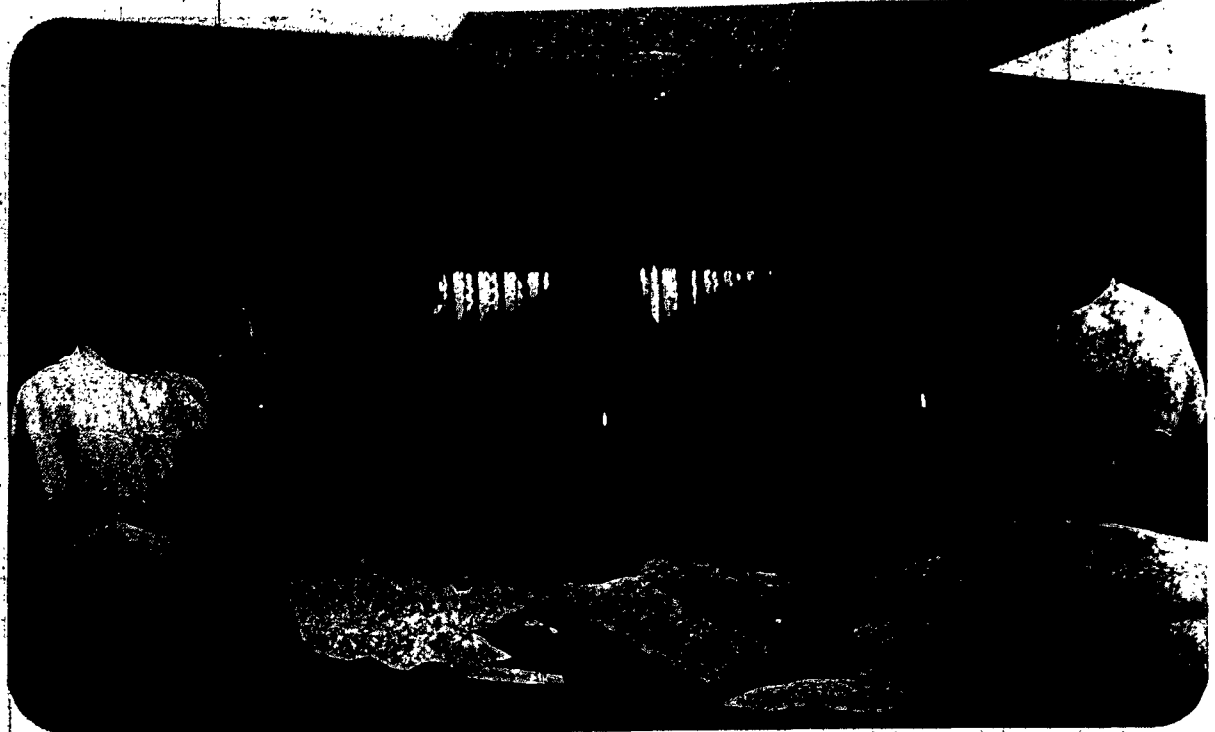
One priest thought the statement ignored "some very important issues."

And another wanted no part in the statement. "Since when did we start giving medals to traitors and cowards?"

The spokesman said the Bishop's statement reflects previous statements of the U.S. Bishops as, for example, in 1969

when they asked the Selective Service Law be revised "as regards the selective conscientious objector, and to consider granting amnesty to those... (who) felt compelled to follow their conscience rather than the law."

The spokesman said he expected some Catholics may object to the bishop's statement because "they think amnesty has nothing to do with faith or religion." He quoted the Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on "The Church in the Modern World" which states "This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age." The council also stated "Nothing genuinely human can fail to raise an echo in the Christian's heart."



1938 — 'A Good Year'

Bishop Hogan, center, joined with members of St. Bernard Seminary's class of 1938 at a Mass in the episcopal residence in Victor. Celebrating their 35 years in the priesthood, left to right are Msgr. Richard Burns, St. Thomas the Apostle; Msgr. Joseph Sullivan, Holy Family; Father Robert Kress, St. Michael's; Bishop Hogan, Father Francis Vogt, St. Bridget; Father Edward Lintz, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and Msgr. Leslie Whalen, Our Lady of Lourdes.

# Pope, Hanoi Official Hold Meeting in Vatican

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ernment leaders and representatives of all political parties.

During the meeting, it was said in high Vatican circles, Pope Paul expressed the hope to his visitors that North Vietnam now would permit a free contact between the Catholic population, clergy, religious and hierarchy in the North and the Holy See.

However, it is understood from

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good sources that the Pope declined to go so far as to suggest that diplomatic relations be opened at this time.

The Vatican has good cause for concern about the Catholics in North Vietnam since there are an estimated 800,000 of them governed directly in Church matters by 11 bishops. Little if any contact has been established between the bishops and the Holy See during the long war.

Following his meeting with Mr. Thuy, the pontiff went to his weekly general audience where he told thousands of men, women and children that he had just met with the North Vietnamese delegation.

The Pope made clear to the group that the North Vietnamese official had requested the audience "to assure us that he and his people and government truly desire peace."

The Thuy visit with the pontiff stressed the importance of the behind-the-scenes role that the Church leader played in bringing about a settlement of the war.

# Physicians Seen Forced Into 'Killer Profession'

Chicago (RNS) — A physician who edits a national medical publication and serves as public health director for a Chicago suburb warned here that the most dangerous effect of the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion ruling will be to force physicians into a "killer profession."

Speaking as a director of Americans United for Life (AUL), Dr. Herbert Ratner of Oak Park, Ill., said the Court's decision which is tantamount to allowing abortion on demand "sets the profession of medicine and civilization back 2,500 years... when the doctor and the sorcerer were the same individual, with the power to kill as well as cure."

The Oak Park public health director, who also edits Child and Family quarterly, took part-

icular exception to the court's dismissal of the Hippocratic oath, which he said is a universally treasured statement and which he said forbids abortion.

Challenging Justice Harry Blackmun, who wrote the majority opinion, as dismissing the oath as "elitist," Dr. Ratner said the prominent American anthropologist, Margaret Mead, reminded that the oath "marked one of the turning points in human history."

Dr. Ratner said the court's ruling has given legal respectability to sub-human pressures on physicians. "That decision has recycled today's obstetrician back to the dark ages of the sorcerer who, for a fee, would kill or rescue the smaller of two patients in a pregnancy on request."

# Guidelines Issued for Regional Conferences

(Continued from Page 1) The formation of parish councils. Regional conferences constitute the next step.

Msgr. Mulcahy pointed out that "the Bishop has set as his goal a pastoral council which must be truly representative of the diocese — the people of God."

Of regional conferences he said, "It is important to bring together laity, Sisters and priests as they also will form the makeup of the pastoral council."

He says he hopes to see the establishment of steering committees by Lenten season or in early Spring so that the conferences may be meeting before spring is over.

# Guidelines for Formation of a Regional Conference

The Diocese of Rochester is subdivided into ten sections called Regions. Each of these regions has a Regional Coordinator who is, at the present time, selected by the Bishop.

The Regional Coordinator has been charged with the responsibility of selecting members of the clergy, religious, and laity from their respective regions for the purpose of fostering diocesan unity, Christian renewal and the essential communication links between the various parishes of the region.

A Regional Conference is 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.

These Guidelines for Regional Conferences are suggested procedures for interim use until superseded by directives from the Pastoral Council. These guidelines are intended to provide the essential ground rules for operation of the Regional Conferences within the Diocese of Rochester. Each region may, at its own discretion, adopt additional rules specifically for its own requirements except in those areas specifically excluded by Canon Law, New York State requirements, or Diocesan Regulations.

## I. REGIONAL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

Regional Conference member-Courier-Journal

ship should consist of:

- The Regional Coordinator, appointed by the Bishop.
- Associate Coordinators selected by the coordinator from the laity, religious, or clergy serving in the respective region.
- A representative of each Parish Council in the region. (This member is to be selected by the respective Parish Council.)
- Designated members of each parish committee to the respective Regional Standing Committee.
- Designated clergy and religious assigned to the various parishes, and other specific communities in the region (e.g. Campus ministries, etc.) or their designated representatives.

Regional Conference members should serve for a period sufficiently long to permit the development of expertise and for the utilization of talents. Some limit should be placed on the length of service in any one capacity. The terms of service should be specified so as to maintain continuity on the committees.

## II. REGIONAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Regional Conference officers should include: Associate Regional Coordinators, appointed by the Regional Coordinator to serve for three years or other designated span of time.

Regional Moderators for each committee (ultimately to be elected by the respective committee).  
Secretary.

## III REGIONAL CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Regional Conference is responsible for:

- Generating regional spirit for diocesan unity and action by fostering functions appropriate to the ecclesial needs of the region. (Ecclesial needs are envisioned as spiritual formation, general religious education, sensitivity to human development, etc.)
- Establishing and maintaining liaison with the Diocesan Departments (e.g., Education, Human Development, Liturgy, etc.) and providing information pertinent to pastoral renewal and facilitate its application locally.
- Assisting parish clergy and laity in the formation or reformation of Parish Councils. A regional team will be available as consultants or speakers to service existing Parish Councils and/or steering committees for creation of Parish Councils.
- Providing essential communication links between functional groups or committees of the respective Parish Councils. For example, parishes within a region will be able to discuss and make presentations on the success or treatment of.

specific issues which will enable other parishes in the region to plan and act more cooperatively.

## IV REGIONAL CONFERENCE OPERATION

The Regional Conference shall meet at least quarterly or more often as required.

The place and time of each meeting and the agenda shall be determined cooperatively by the Regional Coordinator and Associate Coordinators.

Reports on regional meetings and activities should be distributed to all Parish Councils in the region, to the Pastoral Council Formation Committee, and to the other Regional Coordinators.

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