

# Bishop and Priests Ask Aid For Vietnam, Help for Vets, Amnesty, Orphan Relief

This Statement is based on the word and spirit of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Resolution on Southeast Asia," November, 1971, and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Resolution on Imperatives for Peace," November, 1972.

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Rev. David Gramke

## STATEMENT OF BISHOP AND PRIESTS

We welcome the ceasefire in Vietnam. But while we heartily welcome this step toward peace in one part of the world, we must remember that an authentic understanding of peace charges us now with great responsibilities.

It is vitally important that Americans now turn their attention to the task of reconciliation not only in Southeast Asia but also in our own country.

Just as after World War II we launched an unprecedented program of economic assistance and social reconstruction for both those who were allies as well as those who were enemies, so now we must generously assist the peoples of Southeast Asia — with profound respect for their dignity and for their right to self-determination — in their efforts to reconstruct their war-torn homelands.

In our own country we call upon the government, business, and all citizens to give every possible consideration and assistance to the veterans of the Vietnam era in their efforts to reintegrate their personal and vocational lives into civilian society.

We urge government officials and all Americans to respond to those young men who have refused to participate in this war for sincere reasons of conscience. In a spirit of reconciliation and with sincere respect for their witness to conscience we ask that amnesty be granted them.

Our plea for amnesty is in no way intended to overshadow the praise due to those who have suffered and died that we might achieve this blessed day of peace. Our nation owes them an endless debt of gratitude. We welcome home with outstretched arms the POW's for whose safe return we have more than once asked in special days of prayer in our Churches.

As Catholic and Christian people we celebrate Lent as a time of personal renewal. This Lent we desire to renew ourselves in following the teaching of Jesus more closely, in working harder for justice, and in practicing brotherhood more earnestly.

We state now our conviction that peace is possible. We also declare with Pope Paul VI that "If peace is possible, then peace is a duty."

The following clergy of the Diocese of Rochester have joined Bishop Hogan in signing the statement above:

Rev. Dominic J. Grasso  
Very Rev. Cyril Guise, OCD  
Rev. Gerard Guli  
Rev. Gerard Hafner  
Rev. Emmett J. Halloran  
Rev. Robert W. Hammond  
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Rev. Leon G. Hart, CSB  
Rev. Richard A. Hart  
Rev. L. John Hedges  
Rev. Mr. James Hewes  
Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, DD  
Rev. William H. Hickey  
Rev. Thomas D. Hctor  
Rev. Douglas C. Hoffman  
Rev. Daniel V. Hogan  
Rev. Leon J. Hogenkamp, SJ  
Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Rev. William B. Holberton  
Rev. Daniel F. Holland  
Rev. Joseph M. Jankowiak  
Rev. Valentine A. Jankowiak  
Rev. Leo A. Jones  
Rev. Robert J. Kanka  
Msgr. Robert A. Keleher  
Rev. Winfried M. Kellner  
Rev. Leonard A. Kelly  
Rev. Mr. Robert J. Kennedy  
Rev. Roy J. Kiggins  
Rev. Robert Klem, CSB  
Rev. Edwin J. Kline, CSB  
Rev. Robert G. Kreckel  
Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg  
Rev. Ernest Kurtz  
Rev. William Lammers  
Rev. Charles J. Latus  
Rev. James Lawlor  
Rev. Vincent LeFrois  
Rev. Mr. William B. Leone  
Rev. Edward J. Lintz

Rev. Frank E. Lioi  
Rev. Philip J. Lioi  
Rev. Ernesto Loera, OFM  
Rev. Colman Logan, O. Carm.  
Rev. Patrick Logan  
Rev. William Lum  
Rev. Donald E. Lux  
Rev. John A. Lynch  
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Rev. Mr. Michael J. Mahler  
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Rev. Joseph N. Margrett  
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Rev. Leo J. Matuszewski  
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Rev. Daniel J. McCarthy, SSCC  
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Rev. Edwin Metzger  
Rev. William Michatek  
Rev. Mark A. Miller  
Rev. Neil R. Miller  
Rev. Robert J. Miller  
Rev. Dominic F. Mockevicius  
Rev. Raymond F. Moore  
Rev. John A. Morgan  
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Rev. Charles F. Mulligan  
Rev. John M. Mulligan  
Rev. David W. Mura  
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Rev. John A. Murphy  
Rev. Kevin P. Murphy  
Rev. Lawrence Murphy  
Rev. Richard M. Murphy