

Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Youth in the Church

[The last in a series of four articles]

THE CHURCH — HOPE FOR THE FLOWERS

The Church has a precious heritage to offer young and old — to all men without exception. Her message, like that of Jesus, is a word of truth and life. With no group can we ever draw the hard line between "we" or "they." All of us, of every age group, ethnic background, condition of life are equally the People of God, equally the Mystical Body, equally the Communion of Saints. We can never think of the Church or present the Church as something "out there." The Church is where we are, what we are. We are the Church.



Furthermore, we must be aware of the manifold groupings among contemporary youth, especially our own Catholic youth, and precisely aware of the groupings as they exist within our own parishes. We must show young people a living Church that is a sign of hope—a community of faith, witness and service, a community that yearns to share with them and support them for this life and the

life to come. While not making less of the Church's message of truth and worship, we should be especially aware of the Church's vocation as servant ministering to the moral and spiritual needs of man, particularly the poor, the ignorant, and the oppressed. This aspect of the Church's ministry seems particularly attuned to orientations within today's youth communities.

Programs for young adults in our parishes and dioceses must be the object of greater reflection and more thorough planning. Our campus ministry must be competently and adequately staffed. While every parish must be aware and responsive to its own youth and their needs through a well organized high school of religion, a youth council, youth membership on the Parish Council, and a parish or interparish young adult club, new efforts should be directed towards programs with emphasis on the community nature of the Church, programs that can encompass all life styles and in which young and old may share — all who share the same faith and the same hope and demonstrate the same love for one another. It is for all of us to discover how Catholic youth can become more effectively involved in the Catholic community. Volunteer service programs in which youth is involved in working with other people in need seem to be attractive and meaningful to them. Many religious and human values can be learned in such ex-

periences. Very important and comparatively new is that quite successful teen retreat program known as Teen Seminar. This is a high-powered-input weekend which stirs the faith of youth in a dramatic way. The key here is to keep the spirit alive through good followup. I think it important for parishes to consider setting up programs that would encourage our young people to aid in planning and participating in the Liturgies for our Eucharistic celebrations, thereby assuring a great degree of involvement on the part of our youth in the very life of the Church.

Thank God for this challenge of youth. Let us realize that the grace that youth has conferred upon our civilization is the grace of being shaken out of our insensitivity. May youth's challenge make us strive to be more authentic witnesses to the gospel values in a contemporary culture. I pray that I will always strive to offer courageous leadership alongside and with the People of God in proclaiming Christ's teachings concerning such unsafe topics as war, peace, race, and poverty. This authenticity, this compassionate and fatherly concern will help de-institutionalize the image and structure of the Church and make it more like the continuing incarnational Person of Jesus Christ. Our youth are the Church of the future. May the authenticity of our lives encourage them to work for a better tomorrow.

vatican news

Rome Admits to Differences In Kueng Case Documents

Vatican City [RNS] — The existence of some diversities between the text of the declaration on infallibility issued recently by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the two-page explanatory note issued by the Vatican Press Office, was admitted here.

Federico Alessandrini, official Vatican spokesman, in answering questions put to him by journalists, said that the two-page summary of the 19-page declaration, although it respected the original doctrinal text and in some cases was even more specific, should not be considered in any way official.

The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith recently issued a declaration which, among other matters, reaffirmed the doctrine of papal infallibility which was first defined at Vatican I in 1870.

The two-page supplementary note issued with it was printed on plain paper and unlike the original declaration, mentions Father Hans Kueng by name. He

teaches dogmatic and ecumenical theology at Tubingen University.

Discussing the case of the Swiss theologian, who is currently under examination by the Sacred Congregation for the Faith, Alessandrini said that Father Kueng, following an earlier request by the Vatican, had talks with its officials.

The talks, however, referred to works which the theologian had published before his last book on infallibility, a book which has provoked another proceeding, still going on and to which last week's declaration was in part directed, Alessandrini said.

According to European press reports, Father Kueng claims that by naming him directly, the Vatican statements have taken on the air of an inquisition and, while he would be prepared to participate in a general discussion, he is not prepared to be singled out for reprimand.

Alessandrini said that the unofficial note, "in so far as it

reflects the doctrinal text faithfully, is official, but in so far as, on some points, it is more specific, it reflects the spirit."

A veteran Vatican observer said here that he felt Father Kueng should not have commented on the two-page note since it was not on official paper.

"The Vatican is giving him enough rope to hang himself," commented this observer, who felt that the problem was in part due to semantics. Father Kueng is very straightforward and calls into question the language of the Vatican statements and as a result, some of the basic premises of the Church which have been held for hundreds of years.

"The more comments Kueng makes about the Church's official doctrines, the more trouble he gets into. If I had been in his shoes, I would have said my name is not mentioned in the official declaration, so what proof have I that I am the person at whom the declaration is aimed," said the observer.



Archbishop Jean Jadot [right], the new Apostolic Delegate to the United States, is welcomed by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, upon arriving at Dulles Airport outside Washington. [RNS]

New Legate Wants Links With All U.S.

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The new Apostolic Delegate to the United States indicated on his arrival here that he hoped to develop relations with non-Catholics as well as Catholics in the United States.

Archbishop Jean Jadot said his wish is to become "a link between the Holy Father and the Church in the United States." He went on to say he also hoped to serve as a link with other Christians, members of the Jewish community and all men of goodwill.

"The future of the world demands that all those who seek justice, truth, liberty and love must unite," he declared.

A 63-year-old native of Belgium, Archbishop Jadot becomes the first non-Italian to serve as Apostolic Delegate to the U.S. He was named to the post by Pope Paul in May after having represented the Vatican in Southeast Asia and in West Africa.

Archbishop Jadot reportedly did not plan to participate in any public events for several days.

Parts of his arrival statement said:

"My wish is to be a link between the Holy Father and the Church in the United States of America, contributing to greater mutual understanding and cooperation here in the United States and throughout the world, for the glory of God and the welfare of the whole man and of every man.

"I hope also to be a link between the Pope and our Christian brothers to whom we are united by our common faith in Christ; between the Pope and the members of the Jewish community; between the Holy Father and all those who believe in God and every man of goodwill. The future of the world demands that all those who seek justice, truth, liberty and love must unite."



Off to Castelgandolfo

Pope Paul VI smiles and waves to the crowd as he leaves Vatican City for his summer residence at Castelgandolfo in the hills near Rome. St. Peter's Basilica is in the background. [RNS]