

Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Banner Age of Wisdom

The cultivation of wisdom was a popular movement in ancient Israel. The Old Testament has seven books of literature called the Wisdom Books.



Among them is the Book of Proverbs attributed to King Solomon. About one thousand years before the birth of Jesus, Who is Wisdom Incarnate, Solomon had gained a reputation as the special source for quotable quotes, a walking library of wise sayings. Three thousand proverbs he uttered, and he composed

one thousand and five Songs of Wisdom set to music, if we are to believe the news reporters (1 Kings 4:29-34). There is, unfortunately, some evidence that he was much better at giving advice than living according to it. But he was never heard to say, "Practice what you preach."

In every age we have looked to sages to offer thoughts for the day, comments on the passing scene, helpful hints to healthy living, paths of guidance for a pilgrim's progress, flashes of light to dispel the darkness. Today, wisdom literature flourishes, emblazoned on countless banners which are hung everywhere. I received a catalogue the other day from a mail-order house, advertising a variety of such banners. Here are some sapiential-samplings valuable for all ages and

offering thoughts for endless meditation. I share them with you in the hope that one of them may offer the inspiration that you may need today or for your many tomorrows. The comments attached are personal reflections.

"You have come down, Lord, into this day which is now beginning."

This is a perfect morning offering, an act of consecration of the 'now' of our lives. It is wisdom for all of us who tend to procrastinate or to take our daily blessings for granted.

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

This is a lesson similar to that found on the first banner. I have often used it as a theme for commencement addresses. Each day brings us a grace to be renewed. Accept the gift as if it would be the last one offered to you. Pagan sages had the same idea in their advice: **Carpe diem!** (Seize the day!).

"Be sure your brain is in gear before engaging the mouth."

The usual translation of this proverb is 'Think before you speak.' The value of this wisdom increases in these days which have canonized the glib tongue.

"These are the good old days."

As opposed to what we usually hear from those who reject today and harken back to those good old days of a past probably poorly remembered.

"Bloom where you are planted."

This is wisdom for all of us who are tempted to think that the grass grows greener on the other side of the fence; sound advice, too, for all 'iffy' people — "If I had his opportunities, I would, etc., etc."

"Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes."

It takes faith to see blessings that are disguised. The Cross will never be popular.

"God grant me **Serenity** to accept the things I cannot change; **Courage** to change the things I can; **Wisdom** to know the difference."

A prayer for personal equilibrium and a definition of the three virtues which secure it.

And, now, tempted to go on and on, I recall the wisdom of someone who said, "Silence can be more precious than thousands of words," which, translated, means, "Stop while you may still be ahead."

vatican news

Communication Office Celebrates 25 Years

Vatican City [RNS] — Speaking on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communication, the agency's secretary remarked that it would

have taken the gift of "clairvoyance" to foresee that the original "tiny office of four members" was inaugurating a "new phase in the history of the Church's pastoral and cultural activity."

Catholicism." In 1952, it became the "Pontifical Commission for Motion Pictures," charged with "the study of motion picture problems related to faith and morals." In 1954, the same aims were extended under a new title, Pontifical Commission for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television.

of the commission was changed to its present title, and it was given authorization to implement the Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication promulgated by the Second Vatican Council.

fact that social communications are "central to the life of modern man and therefore to the mission of the Church, as it continues the mission of Christ and ministers to the needs of men of our times."

NEW POST

New Rochelle — Brother Joseph M. Clark, CFC, has been named to the post of assistant to the director of financial aid at Iona College. The founder of Bishop Kearney High School, Brother Clark served as superior and principal of the school from 1962 to 1967.

Msgr. Andre-Marie Deskur, secretary, during an interview on Vatican Radio, reviewed the history of the agency. It was founded Sept. 17, 1948 on an experimental basis under Pope Pius XII as the "Pontifical Commission for Instructional and Religious Motion Pictures."

In 1959, Pope John XXIII gave the commission "a permanent nature as an Office of the Holy See for the examination, increase, and direction of the different programs in the area of the motion picture . . ."

Msgr. Deskur said that the program outlined in a "pastoral instruction" for the application of the Vatican II decree, issued by the communication commission in 1971, constituted "a valid point of departure for a new impetus in the Church's action in the mass media field."

He said that the commission's 25th anniversary marked "a point of departure" for a "new chapter in the service of the People of God."

It had for its aim "consultation on and reviewing of films for the teaching and promotion of

Finally, by a decision of Pope Paul on April 12, 1964, the name

The Pastoral Instruction, Msgr. Deskur noted, underscored the

Pope Meets With Bishops From Africa

Castel Gandolfo [RNS] — Pope Paul met here in private audience with three bishops from Portugal's African territory of Mozambique.

A Vatican spokesman identified the three as Bishop Augusto Cesar Alves Ferreira da Silva of Tete, Bishop Francisco Nunes Teixeira of Quelimane, who is president of the Mozambique Catholic Bishops' Conference, and Bishop Manuel Vieira Pinto of Nampula.

According to the spokesman, the bishops gave a report to the Pope on Mozambique and the situation of Catholic foreign missions there. He described their visit to the pontiff as "a periodical report to the Holy See."

Bishop Alves Ferreira da Silva is the prelate who conducted an investigation of the alleged massacre by Portuguese troops of some 400 black Africans in Tete Province in December 1972.

The massacre charges were made by Spanish Roman Catholic missionaries who had worked in the area, and brought to world attention, last July, in a London Times article by Father Adrian Hastings of Birmingham, England.

The Portuguese government has denied the charges.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



October

- 2—Priests' Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 4—Administrative Advisors' Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 6—Diaconate Ordination, St. Joseph Church, Penfield — 7 p.m.
- 7—Diamond Jubilee of St. Augustine Parish, Concelebration of the Eucharist and Homily — 2 p.m.
- 9—Clergy Relief Board Meeting — 11 a.m.
- 9—Pastoral Council Formation Committee Meeting, High Acres, Geneva — 7:30 p.m.
- 10—Staff Meeting of Human Development Office, High Acres, Geneva — 1 p.m.
- 11—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily for Nocturnal Adoration Society, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Rochester — 6:30 p.m.
- 14—Blessing and Rededication of Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater, Concelebration of Eucharist and Homily — 12:15 p.m.
- 15—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Boniface Church — 6:15 p.m.
- 16—New York State Bishops' Meeting, LaGuardia Airport — 10 a.m.
- 16—Confirmation, Church of the Epiphany, Sodus — 7:45 p.m.
- 18—Meeting with Priests of Yates - Ontario - Wayne Region, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Geneva — 11 a.m.
- 19—Confirmation, Church of the Holy Cross, Ovid — 7:45 p.m.
- 20—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 21—Mission Sunday Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, TV Channel 10 — 8:30 a.m.
- 25—Interdepartmental Staff Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 25—Celebration of Eucharist, Residence of Rev. Herbert Sturmer, Cohocton — 3 p.m.
- 26—Diocesan Liturgy Commission Meeting, Nazareth College Faculty Residence — 4 p.m.
- 28—Confirmation and Centenary Celebration of St. Patrick's Parish, Aurora — 4 p.m.
- 29—Confirmation, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Hornell — 7:45 p.m.
- 30—Meeting with Catholic High School Principals, Cardinal Mooney High School — 1 p.m.