Pope Assails Production, Sale of Arms

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul vehemently condemned the production and sale of arms in the world and declared that the continuation of war— such as that in the Middle East — is a deplorable affront to man's personal, social and religious nature.

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Speaking at his Wednesday audience, the pontiff said that on the personal "front" war militates against man's inner peace and happiness.

"It is necessary to learn the art of loving and not war, of which nature is the master," he added, noting that the "great and sovereign law of love" comes from Christ.

He said men must "love Cod and love one's neighbor with the austere and vital application which this law (of Christ) demands. If we were truly to learn to love as we should, our personal life ... would be transformed in peace and happiness."

Concerning the "second front" of social reconciliation, the Pope recalled the hopes of the world that after World War II peace would be lasting and peoples would be secure. But he observed:

The atrocious and fearful experience of these latter years reminds us of a sad reality, war is still and always possible. The manufacture of and commerce in arms shows us that it is even easier and more disastrous than before." Turning directly to the Middle East conflict, the pontiff said "today, we are living through a painful and not unique experience of war. We are humiliated and afraid."

The Pope, however, expressed unshakeable trust that the world would remain at peace. "Christ our peace makes this possible... If we follow the Gospel, the marriage between justice and peace can be realized."

"It is not a dream. It is not a folly to conceive of social coexistence where there are certainly differing and contrasting interests, if co-existence is based on organic and just cooperation," he declared.

Pope Faul said that no matter how bad the prospects in a worldly view of things, "love, justice and peace are living and good ideals which are full of social energy and which we must not change to hatred and conflict

Speaking of peace on the religious "front," the Pope said that pacification consists in "the re-establishment for each one of us, for the entire Church, and God willing, for the whole world, a relationship of truth and grace with our heavenly Father."

He asserted that the "first unfailing task" of the forthcoming Holy Year will be to "reestablish peace" between man and his God. He also said the programs of the Holy Year must include an impetus toward "love restoring ove, true, pure, strong and Christian love."



Fifteen Cents

Wednesday, October 31, 1973

To GEM Assembly

Bishop Invites All

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has invited pastors and people to join him at the First GEM Assembly to be held at St. Luke's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, on Sunday, Nov. 4, 4 to 7 p.m.

The Assembly will present reports from staff people of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries to answer, as Bishop Hogan describes it, "What GEM is doing and what we are doing in GEM."

GEM is the 10 denomination agency for cooperative religious planning and action in the ninecounty area known as the Genesee Region. Making reports of work underway and plans for 1974 will be Rev. Marvin Chandler for GEM's new United Church Ministry, a coalition of 45. churches with predominantly black congregations; Mrs. Virginia Mackey, of GEM's Judicial Process Commission; Rev. Larry Witmer, GEM's Urban Education Team, and other project directors, Bishop Hogan and officers of

the other nine member denominations will conclude the Assembly with a Service of Covenant Renewal. Director of the two-year-old ecumenical agency is Father Henry Atwell.

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Getting the Picture

When a group of senior citizens from Holy Family Church recently took a bus trip to Letchworth State Park, Msgr. George J. Schmitt was on hand to record the event pictorially. Msgr. Schmitt, pastor emeritus of the parish, recently was honored by parishioners on his 85th birthday.

Spirituality Seen as Key To Council Development

By SHARON DARNIEDER

The number one problem facing a parish council today is the lack of spiritual development within itself, said Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry in an interview last week.

He pointed out that part of his work while visiting parish is to stress to people that not all parish council work is done on the material level.

"The council also has a spiritual mission," he emphasized. "I want to help them get the feeling they're really sent by Christ to help the parish family." Of the 160 diocesan parishes, about 90 per cent have councils, according to Father Hoffman. Of these, he has visited 28 so far scattered throughout all 10 regions.

He described parish visitation by invitation as part of his office's immediate goal — to support parishes with councils and help those who wish to form them. His long-range goal, after parish councils are strengthened, is to work towards regional conferences (some regions already have them) with the eventual formation of a Pastoral Council.

Photo by Susan McKinney

Before he began his travels, Father Hoffman, who is en-

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