

Financial Statement For Diocese

This includes the annual financial statement of the diocese. It is printed on Pages 5-8. Messages from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father James M. Moynihan, chancellor, are included.

Cardinal Cicognani Dies; Former Delegate to U.S.

Rome [RNS] — Cardinal Amleto Cicognani, Vatican secretary of state emeritus and apostolic delegate to the U.S. for 25 years, died here Dec. 16, after a brief illness. The death of the 90-year-old prelate reduces the College of Cardinals to 135.

Said to have traveled in, and known intimately, more of the United States than any other prelate to go there from abroad, Cardinal Cicognani had the distinction of having served the Holy See under six Popes — St. Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, and Pope Paul VI.

During his 25-year period as apostolic delegate in Washington, D.C. (1933-1958), which terminated when she was named cardinal in Dec., 1958, by Pope John, Cardinal Cicognani saw the first effort by the U.S. government to extend formal diplomatic recognition to the Vatican when President Harry S. Truman in 1951 nominated Gen. Mark S. Clark as ambassador to the Holy See.

Gen. Clark subsequently asked that his nomination be withdrawn, however, when the Senate showed reluctance to confirm his appointment due to the issue of Church-State separation that had been raised.

As apostolic delegate to the U.S. — a non-diplomatic post concerned exclusively with ecclesiastical affairs — Cardinal Cicognani, then Archbishop, was witness to a remarkable growth of the Catholic Church in the United States.

When he arrived in Washington in 1933, the Catholic population numbered 20,268,403, and the archdioceses and dioceses totaled 106 and parishes 12,537.

When he left for Rome to receive the Red Hat, the Catholic population had risen to 39,505,475, the archdioceses and dioceses to 140, and the parishes to 16,753. Members of the hierarchy had grown from 16 archbishops and 102 bishops to 33 archbishops and 187 bishops.



Pontiff Travels by Carriage

Pope Paul VI waves to the crowd as he leaves St. Peter's Square in a horse-drawn carriage for his annual Dec. 8 trip to the center of Rome. Ordinarily, the pontiff travels by limousine from the Vatican to the Piazza de Spagna to lay a wreath at the foot of a statue of the Virgin Mary on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This year, however, there was a special ban on private motor traffic in Italy on Dec. 8, a national holiday as well as a Holyday. The driving ban, as well as a prohibition against all Sunday driving, was part of the government's response to the worldwide energy crisis. [RNS]



Photo by Susan McKinney

Home Mass for the Elderly

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey greets residents of Hudson Ridge Towers at their Christmas Mass Dec. 19. The Catholic congregation at the senior citizen apartment development, served generally by priests from Our Lady of Perpetual Help, has taken the name "OLPH of the Highway." Mass is celebrated there on Wednesdays.

'Peace Is Possible' Pope Again Declares

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul, in a message for the World Day of Peace, proclaimed for Jan. 1, made a fervent plea to all men to realize that peace depends on each individual person, and to be convinced, despite evidences to the contrary, that "peace is possible."

Emphasizing the theme of the 1974 Peace Day — the seventh since he inaugurated the annual observance in 1968 — "Peace depends on you, too," the Pope took note of the world situation.

"The present moment of history," he said, "marked, as it is, by fierce outbursts of international conflict, by implacable class warfare, by widespread repression of human rights and fundamental liberties, and by unforeseen symptoms of worldwide economic instability, seems to be heralding the destruction of the triumphant ideal of peace."

In spite of this gloomy picture, however, the pontiff urged "men of goodwill, men of wisdom, men of suffering" to believe "our humble and repeated words, our untiring plea."

"Peace," he said, "is the ideal of mankind. Peace is necessary. Peace is a duty. Peace is beneficial."

"We are so convinced that peace is the goal of mankind in

the process of its growing self-awareness and of the development of society on the face of the earth, that today, for the new year and for future years, we dare to proclaim, as we did last year, 'Peace is possible.'"

"What basically compromises the stability of peace," he went on, "is the unspoken and sceptical conviction that, in practice, peace is impossible. A wonderful idea, people think, but a poetic dream and a Utopian fallacy. And so, the notion arises again that what really matters is force."

"Pausing" over "this crucial objection" in order to "clarify a possible misunderstanding," Pope Paul affirmed:

"The confusion of peace with weakness — not just physical but also moral — with the renunciation of genuine rights and equitable justice, with the evasion of risk and sacrifice, with cowardly and supine submission to others' arrogance, and hence with acquiescence in enslavement — this is not real peace."

"Repression is not peace. Cowardice is not peace. A settlement which is purely external and imposed by fear is not peace."

Taking issue with what he called "an ancient fallacy," that

proclaims man to be by nature aggressive and combative, the Pope declared that modern man "must have the moral and prophetic courage to liberate himself from this alleged 'inborn ferocity,' and rise to the awareness that peace is something essentially natural to man, that it is necessary, obligatory — and therefore, possible."

He added that peace can also be secured "by sacrifices in giving up prestige in the arms race, in overlooking insults, and in cancelling debts," all with the realization that "peace must grow out of a fundamental spiritual concept of humanity."

Pope Paul expressed his confidence that peace would — and must — prevail, "because peace is already victorious in the thinking of all men in posts of responsibility."

He concluded: "If public opinion is the element that determines the fate of peoples, the fate of peace also depends on each one of us. Peace is possible, if each one of us wants it, if each one of us lives peace, thinks peace, defends peace, works for peace."

"Each of us must listen in his own conscience to the impelling call; 'Peace depends on you, too.'"