

Editorial

Peace Is Possible ... If

Pope Paul has put the responsibility for the establishment of peace in the world squarely where it belongs — on the shoulders of each and every one of us.

"Peace is possible," says the pontiff in his annual message proclaiming Jan. 1 World Day of Peace, "if each one of us wants it; if each one of us loves peace, educates and forms his own outlook to peace, defends peace, works for peace. Each one of us must listen in his own conscience to the impelling call: Peace depends on you, too."

The Pope does not take a pollyanna attitude toward this pressing problem. He recognizes that the individual opinion of each of us in itself will have only an "infinitesimal" influence on world public opinion.

So he adds a corollary: "To you men of this world who in any way are in control of its destiny, to you, men of command, men of culture, men of business you must give to your action a strong and wise orientation toward peace. Peace has need of you. If you want to, you can succeed. Peace depends also and especially on you."

Proclaiming that peace is indeed the goal of mankind, the pontiff declares that "basically, what compromises the stability of peace and the movement of history in its favor is the unspoken and skeptical conviction that, in practice, peace is impossible."

Saying that many men pay lip service to peace but secretly regard it as a "poetic dream and a utopian fallacy" and that they really think "what matters is force," the pontiff leads into the principal logic of his proclamation:

"The confusion of peace with weakness (not just physical but also moral) with the renunciation of genuine right and equitable justice, with the evasion of risk and sacrifice, with cowardly and supine submission to others' arrogance, and hence with acquiescence to enslavement . . . 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 . . ."

"Peace will never be without a hunger and thirst for justice; it will never forget the effort that has to be made in order to defend the weak, to help the poor, to promote the cause of the lowly. Peace will never betray the higher values of life in order to survive.

"But this does not mean that peace should be regarded as a utopia. The certainty of peace is based not only on being but also becoming . . . peace is possible only if it is considered a duty . . . peace must take hold of the consciences of men as a supreme ethical objective, as a moral necessity . . . deriving from the innate demands of human coexistence."

But what about the glaring fact the world seems hell-bent on self-destruction? That wars are more frequent and threatening all the time?

The Pope does not duck such questions.

"Are we blind too? No, we are certain that our cause, the cause of peace must prevail. In the first place . . . the idea of peace is already victorious in the thought of all men in posts of responsibility. We have confidence in their up-to-date wisdom. No head of a nation can today wish for war; everyone yearns for the genuine peace of the world."

What the pontiff is saying is that if the great majority of the world's populace truly wants peace (and that is a reasonable assumption) and that if our leaders sense the folly of war (and they probably do) then there is no reason why peace cannot be established — if we all, each and every one of us, begin now to regard peace as a duty; if we all see it as the only alternative, if we all speak out for it, and if we all work for it.

Given this, and the blessing of God, then peace is indeed possible.

Opinion

The Key Is Love

Editor:

May I take this opportunity to tell you why I am subscribing to the Courier-Journal.

This morning after Mass, I stopped in the vestibule because my eye caught the headline of last week's issue of the Courier, "The Key to Christmas Drive is Love." I picked up the issue and started to read.

I cannot explain my feelings while glancing through the paper. I do know I regretted cancelling my subscription last March and I have a strong desire to renew it today.

I have tried to pinpoint why, but am at a loss to do so. Was it the stories on the front page? "100 Neediest Cases in Diocese," or was it the news photo of the pope and the black Nativity Gospel Singers?

Whatever it was I am the better for it. I am resubscribing to the Courier. How fortunate I was that the headline "The Key to Christmas Drive is Love" caught my eye. That is what Christmas is all about — love.

Thank you.

Mrs. Rose M. Viavatine
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Diocese Wages Pro-Life Fight

Editor:

Father G. Stuart Hogan's letter in the Dec. 12 Courier-Journal implies that pro-life organizations were not given sufficient time to present goals and plans at the recent Respect Life Clergy Conference. Father Hogan also makes the statement that "the Diocese of Rochester was not represented on the panel, or at any other time during the conference, on the abortion issue."

Local pro-life organizations including the Rochester Area Right to Life Education Fund, the Rochester Right to Life Committee and Birthright were involved in the planning of the conference and expressed satisfaction with their role in it. The Diocese of Rochester was represented by Bishop Hogan and some 150 priests who came to express their commitment to the cause of life.

A similar conference was held in Elmira the next day. Representatives of the Chemung County Right to Life Committee presented the pro-life message to Bishop Hogan and some 40

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 88 No. 51 December 26, 1973

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices: Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

priests from the Southern Tier area.

The Diocese of Rochester has given consistent support to the pro-life cause sponsoring conferences last year at which more than 3,000 people heard Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke and Mrs. Marjory Mecklenberg, outstanding pro-life speakers. The diocese sponsors a yearly Right to Life Sunday. Through the efforts of the Human Life Committee in every diocesan region, people are kept informed of pro-life legislation to be supported and anti-life legislation to be opposed. The Human Life Committee also assists parishes and regions to form pro-life groups where none exist.

I share Father Hogan's frustration at the slow progress in overturning the Supreme Court decision. I do not share his implication that the Diocese of Rochester is not providing leadership in the fight for life.

Rev. Robert L. Collins
Human Life Coordinator
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Moral Code An Absolute

Editor:

It is only with much sorrow and disturbance that sincere respect can be extended to Father Louis Hohman for presenting his views, interwoven with those of Father Eugene Kennedy (11-21-73). Christian charity demands a presentation of authentic Church teachings on sins of impurity, and chastisement with prayerful sympathy for those who believe and/or pass on false teachings.

Our Lord teaches that there are absolutes, and that those who deliberately transgress God's Will will be punished more severely than those who offend Him in ignorance (Luke 12:41 ff). Catholic doctrines and unchangeable moral principles are absolutes set into motion by God.

An authoritative summary of unchangeable Church teachings on sins of impurity is given in the Baltimore Catechism: "The sixth commandment forbids all impurity and immodesty in words, looks, and actions, whether alone or with others." These teachings are rooted in Our Lord's teaching, that even impurity of mind is gravely sinful (Matt. 5:28). Can theologians or psychologist-theologians honestly separate impure acts or words from impure thoughts?

Father Hohman's lack of confidence in the Catholic Faith as indicated by his positions against Humanae Vitae, his apostleship of uncertainty in

distinguishing the roads to heaven and hell, his omissions of Catholic Church teachings, and his recommendation of a priest-counselor of Father Kennedy's psychological convictions, leaves little doubt that Father Hohman has exercised undue faith in his reasoning, and consequently has been manipulated by false prophets.

Bishop Romeo Blanchette publicly suspended Father George Roman from priestly duties for preaching heresy, defiance of Papal infallibility and opposition to Humanae Vitae. "Father Roman's reasoning is supported by the Rev. Eugene Kennedy . . ." (Chicago Today 2-7-72), and is best described by Father Kennedy's book The People Are the Church.

Bishop Albert Fletcher condemned Father Kennedy's departure from "the fundamental teaching of the Church regarding marriage, sex and allied subjects." Specifically, Father Kennedy's teaching that "masturbation is not a sin" is, in Bishop Fletcher's words, "entirely contrary to the teaching of the Church."

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Parish's Plans For January

Editor:

In response to St. Leo's Rosary Society in Hilton which wanted to know what other parishes are doing for January, a month of prayer. We here at Guardian Angels in Henrietta will be having a Holy Hour Monday through Friday beginning at 10 a.m.

We will be praying for peace not only for South Vietnam but also for our own dear country. For two years we have praying "Rosary for Peace" every Saturday before the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

For the past year we have been having home Rosary every first Thursday before First Friday. Hoping more parishes will be rekindling devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Guardian Angels Parishioners
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Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

RG&E Holiday Store Hours

The Main Office of RG&E will be closed Monday, December 31, New Year's Eve. However, our two urban offices — at Joseph Avenue and at Bull's Head — will be open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Of course, all offices, including our urban offices, will be closed on New Year's Day.

Crews will be available in the event of an emergency. If you need emergency assistance, call 546-1100.

Our best wishes to you for a very prosperous New Year.

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