


PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

The Dilemma of the Imprisoned — Apathy Never a Christian Answer

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan



The violent death of 43 men, both inmates and guards, during the Attica uprising in September of 1971 provided a powerful jolt to our collective conscience. And the upcoming Attica trials, the aftermath of the uprising, will keep this issue hauntingly before us for some time. The issue of Attica is not going to be solved by blaming the inmates, nor the administration and guards, nor some high ranking State officials. The issue of prisons is going to be solved only when all of us become more aware of our judicial system and the problems it faces in trying to rehabilitate those who have struck back at a society which has victimized them.

In the 25th Chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus actually challenged us to visit Him in prison. Most of us plead ignorance in response to this challenge because we have never been inside our county jail or visited a prison, and many of us are not even sure where they are. But Our Lord has already rejected our ignorance as an excuse. Please read His challenge of personal identification with the imprisoned. (Matt. 25:34-46)

We must realize that our diocese is already deeply involved in the judicial and penal systems. We provide three full-time and several part-time chaplains for prison facilities. A large number of our laymen and

laywomen serve as officers of the law, as county and state legislators, as guards, staff and administrators at county and state correctional facilities, and as lawyers and judges in the judicial system. I would like publicly to commend these people for the personal effort they have already devoted to the reform of the penal system: the hours that police, guards, staff and administrators have spent in classes and conferences updating and broadening their education and renewing their mission; the hours that legislators have devoted to improve the correction system through laws and fiscal appropriations; and the hours that our lawyers and judges have spent in seeking justice for individuals and for society. I would also like to commend the hundreds of laity who have given countless hours of voluntary service to help those caught up in our judicial system.

But Attica has helped us realize that this effort is not enough. We must all be involved in the prisons lest our efforts become but a token response to a problem that is real.

During April the Clergy Conference for the priests of our diocese is directed to the crisis of ministry in the county jails. I am strongly convinced that we must raise the collective consciousness of our Diocese to the plight of the penal system. I am turning first to the priests and relying on their leadership to bring this challenge to the individual parishes.

We have begun, but it is only just a beginning. We cannot leave this over-

whelming task to a few professionals and to a few volunteers. Nor can we assume that real reform can be had without a substantial expenditure of funds. All of us must inform ourselves of the nature of the problems. We must let those involved in the judicial system know that they have our interest and our support, and most importantly, we must realize that our prison system can be reformed only through a team effort.

Where can you and your parish begin? Our Diocesan Office of Human Development is currently making a county-by-county survey of the jails within the diocese. If you would like to become a part of the solution, please call our Office of Human Development at 716/328-6400 and find out who is doing what in your area and how you can get in touch with them. Prison and jail administrators are becoming more and more conscious of the necessity of the community becoming more deeply involved in the rehabilitation process of our penal system. I hope and pray that the Church will meet this challenge.

The famed Russian novelist Dostoevski wrote: "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." Please allow me to paraphrase him as a challenge to our diocese: "The degree of Christianity in our diocese will be judged by the extent of its response to those imprisoned." If you have any doubt about the validity of this statement, I suggest that your Lenten meditation be the challenge of Christ in the definitive separation of the worthy and unworthy at the Last Judgment. (Matthew 25:34-46)

Pope Cites Mary as Example for Women Today

Washington — Pope Paul VI has issued a major new document describing the Blessed Virgin as an example for contemporary women as well as for women of ages past.

In an Apostolic Exhortation entitled *Marialis Cultus*, the Pope also called Mary both "a model of the spiritual attitude with which the Church celebrates and lives the divine mysteries" and "a mirror of the expectations of the men and women of our time."

Noting changing world conditions, particularly the rapid advances women have made in asserting their full equality and co-responsibility with men in all

areas of endeavor, Pope Paul said such developments have not lessened Mary's exemplary role.

"The Virgin has always been proposed to the faithful by the Church as an example to be imitated not precisely in the type of life she led, and much less for the socio-cultural background in which she lived and which today, scarcely exists anywhere," he said.

Rather, Pope Paul continued, Mary is considered an example for the way in which "she fully and responsibly accepted the will of God, because she heard the word of God and acted on it and because charity and a spirit of

service were the driving force of her actions."

Calling the Virgin Mary "the first and the most perfect of Christ's disciples," Pope Paul added: "All of this has a permanent and universal exemplary value."

Marialis Cultus, a 17,000-word document concerned with "the right ordering and development of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary," was released at the Vatican on March 22 and made public in this country by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States issued a pastoral

letter on the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Behold Your Mother*, at the time of their last general meeting, in November, 1973.

Marialis Cultus has three parts: the first is concerned with devotion to the Virgin Mary in the reformed liturgy; the second with orientations for the renewal of Marian devotion; while the third comprises observations on the traditional practices of the Angelus and the Rosary.

Pope Paul wrote that an examination of the main books of the renewed Roman liturgy — the Roman Calendar, the Roman Missal, the Lectionary, and the Liturgy of the Hours — shows

that the Church's postconciliar renewal has properly considered the Blessed Virgin in the mystery of Christ and, in harmony with tradition, has recognized the singular place that belongs to her in Christian worship.

He said it is recognized today as a general need of Christian piety that every form of worship should have a "biblical imprint." Devotion to the Blessed Virgin "cannot be exempt" from this general orientation and "should be imbued with the great themes of the Christian message," the Pope stated.

Discussing Marian devotions, Pope Paul said he wished to call attention to two attitudes which in pastoral practice could nullify the norm laid down by the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy that pious practices should derive their inspiration from the liturgy and orient the Christian people towards it.

"In the first place," he wrote, "there are certain persons concerned with the care of souls who scorn, a priori, devotions of piety which, in their correct forms, have been recommended by the Magisterium, who leave them aside and in this way create a vacuum which they do not fill. They forget that the Council has said that devotions of piety should harmonize with the liturgy, not be suppressed."

"Secondly," he continued, "there are those who, without wholesome liturgical and pastoral criteria, mix practices of piety and liturgical acts in hybrid celebrations."

The Pope said devotion to the Mother of the Lord is fully in accord with the aims and desired of the ecumenical movement, notwithstanding important differences among the Churches.

He said every care should be taken by Catholics to avoid any exaggeration which could mislead other Christian brethren about the true doctrine of the Catholic Church, and that any manifestation of cult which is opposed to correct Catholic practice should be eliminated.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



April

- 1—Clergy Conference, Monroe County Jail — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 2—Priests' Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 2—Confirmation, St. Philip Neri Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 3—Address to Cardinal Mooney High School Men's Guild — 6 p.m.
- 4—Administrative Advisors' Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 4—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Becket Hall — 4:45 p.m.
- 5—Annual Meetings of the Board of Directors of St. Ann's Home and The Heritage — 11 a.m.
- 5—Priesthood Ordination, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece — 7:30 p.m.
- 6—Southeast Region, Religious Education Teachers' Training Graduation, Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Anne's Church, Rochester — 2 p.m.
- 7—Marriage Encounter Rally, Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Mercy High School Auditorium — 3 p.m.
- 9—Diocesan Celebration of the Chrism Mass, St. Stephen's Church, Geneva — 8 p.m.
- 11—Holy Thursday, Ecumenical Service, St. Luke's Episcopal Church — 12 p.m.
- 11—Holy Thursday, Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, St. Patrick's Church, Victor — 7:30 p.m.

- 12—The Eddie Meath Television Program, Channel 10 — 8 a.m.
- 13—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 14—Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection, and Homily, TV Channel 10 — 8:30 a.m.
- 14—Celebration of the Eucharist of the Resurrection, and Homily, Sacred Heart Cathedral — 11:15 a.m.
- 18—Interdepartmental Staff Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 19—Priesthood Ordination, Holy Family Church, Rochester — 7:30 p.m.
- 20—Priesthood Ordination, St. Thomas More Church — 7 p.m.
- 24—Annual Board Meeting of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, Becket Hall — 7:30 p.m.
- 25—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily: Commemorating Religious Education Coordinators' Day, Pastoral Office Chapel — 4 p.m.
- 26—Board Meeting, Aquinas Institute — 9 a.m.
- 26—Priesthood Ordination, St. Columba Church, Caledonia — 7:30 p.m.
- 28—Confirmation, St. Rose Church, Lima — 12:15 p.m.
- 29-30—Annual Spring Meeting of the Bishops of Region II, New York State — New York City.