

Peru Bishops Reject 'Isms,' Argentina Curbs Birth Control

Lima [RNS] — Two Roman Catholic bishops said to be reflecting a consensus reached by Latin American episcopal delegates to a conference here on Christianity and political ideology, rejected capitalism, neo-capitalism and communism and urged new political alternatives for the continent.

"Capitalism and neo-capitalism neglect justice and human solidarity in their anxiety for profit," the prelate said. "On the other hand, communism although having some positive aspects, rejects the subject of God and His existence."

What are needed, they said, are "new political philosophies equidistant from capitalism and communism."

Projecting the consensus of the conference were Auxiliary Bishop Alfonso Lopez Trujillo of Bogota, Colombia, president of the Latin American bishops' conference (CELAM) and Auxiliary Bishop Luis Bambaren Castelumbendi of Lima. They said the purpose of the conference of bishops was to discuss at a "high level" the subject of Christianity's relationship to the ideologies of Latin American nations.

Bishop Resigns In Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge, La. [RNS] — Bishop Robert E. Tracy, founding ordinary of the Baton Rouge Roman Catholic diocese, has resigned his post "for the purpose of retirement," Pope Paul has accepted the 64-year-old prelate's resignation.

Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans was named apostolic administrator of the Baton Rouge diocese, according to an announcement by Archbishop Jean Jadot, Apostolic Delegate in the U.S.

Bishop Tracy's resignation followed by a week his conviction on charges of driving while intoxicated. He had been arrested Feb. 20 by Louisiana State Police. He was later fined \$150.

Bishop Tracy, in a statement accompanying the retirement notice, said that for some time he had planned to retire and turn the diocese over to "younger, fresher, more vigorous and more imaginative leadership."

He said he had mentioned this to Archbishop Hannan and the apostolic delegate three years ago. But at that time his offer to resign was not accepted. Archbishop Hannan, in a statement accepting the duties of apostolic administrator of the Baton Rouge diocese, confirmed that Bishop Tracy offered to resign earlier.

Pope Foe of Apartheid, N.Z. Diplomat Says

Vatican City [RNS] — New Zealand's Overseas Trade Minister J.A. Walding said here after an audience with Pope Paul that the pontiff had expressed his opposition to apartheid or separate racial development as practiced in South Africa and Rhodesia.

The Vatican announced that the Pope had met with Walding on March 22, but gave no details of the meeting.

It was the first meeting between the pontiff and a New Zealand cabinet minister since Vatican-New Zealand diplomatic relations were established in late 1973.

Walding told newsmen that the Pope had praised his country's "multi-racial society," while

They added that consensus reached by the bishops will be detailed in a document to be issued soon by CELAM.

In general, the prelates noted, the conference agreed that the Church's basic approach to capitalism and communism have already been stated. But they said, "for the Catholic Church in Latin America there are new and sensible ways to face the deep-rooted problems of the sub-continent."

The bishops observed that the new document will show how much the Catholic hierarchy has altered its views when confronted with the "true realities of today's life."

Bishop Lopez said that each participating prelate informed the conference about "the socio-economic-political conditions of his country and the prevalent ideologies." He added that all agreed the Church stands in a "critical position" concerning the issues of capitalism and communism as political alternatives.

"We insist," said Bishop

Bambaren, "that we should continue searching for new ways to achieve social justice. Capitalism and communism are not what Latin America needs."

The two prelates agreed that what the bishops of Latin America are also saying is that "Christianity seeks to preserve human dignity, freedom of men to participate in society, fulfillment of all persons as human beings and the safeguarding of human rights."

The bishops said the new document "condemns the weapons race as a deterioration of unity and solidarity among men" and deplores "nuclear testing because it poisons the air we breathe and severely endangers human life."

They added that the arms race militates against international cooperation which is so necessary to overcome dependency of poor nations and to change oppressive social structures, both of which are necessary for the integral development of Latin America.

U.S. Bishops Speak On Latin America

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — U.S. Catholic bishops urged the U.S. government to withhold "financial aid and military assistance" from Chile until that nation demonstrates that "human and civil rights have been restored."

Acting on a recommendation by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Social Development and World Peace Committee, the Administrative Board of the USCC — a 28-member body — said:

"We are deeply distressed by the violations of human rights taking place in Chile. We associate ourselves in solidarity with the Church during these troubled times."

The bishops said they were concerned also that "in the face of these violations (of human rights), our government is escalating its financial aid to the Chilean junta."

(The military junta took power in Chile last year with the overthrow and death of Marxist President Salvador Allende and the dissolution of constitutional government.)

"Therefore, with the exception of humanitarian aid," the bishops declared, "we urge the U.S. government to condition its financial aid and military assistance to Chile upon the demonstration that human and

civil rights have been restored in that country."

Father Frederick McGuire, C.M., director of the USCC's Latin America Division, who submitted the original statement to the USCC committee in late 1973, said he was "very pleased" with the bishops' "straight talk" on human rights in Chile.

The priest noted that the statement's call for an end to military assistance was added to the document prior to the bishops' vote. He said he had been told by a high Catholic Church source in Chile that the junta will remain in power as long as it receives military aid.

Noting that the situation in Chile today remains about the same "as repression continues and there is positive evidence of torture," Father McGuire also said there has been "no let up on martial law or movement toward a constitutional government."

He said he expected that the bishops' statement on Chile will have repercussions in other parts of Latin America where repression and denials of human rights exist. "The more public opinion we can raise, the better it will be — it's all to the good."

AQ FRESHMAN LEADS CANCER CRUSADE YOUTH

Tom Rosica, a freshman at Aquinas, addressed the state division of Youth Against Cancer at a March 15 meeting in Buffalo that signalled the start of the national Cancer Crusade. He suggested ways in which students could organize to promote the crusade's education program.

Tom is Monroe County chairman of the youth committee and represented the lakes region of the state organization. He is a son of Dr. and Mrs. Antony Rosica, of Highview Drive.

We've got a lot of things you can take sitting down.

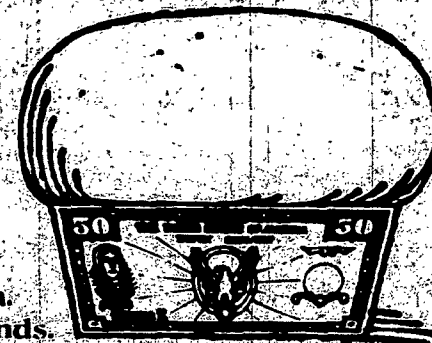
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