

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Reconciliation Among God's Children

A THEOLOGY OF RECONCILIATION
PART IV

I write today about the destructiveness of sin that severs human person from human person, and the reconciliation that comes only when love lays hold of us. St. John has some strong words on this theme (1 Jn. 3:11-18):



"This is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. He who does not love remains in death.

Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that Jesus laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in Him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth."

Few sins are aimed directly at God. Most of them offend against the image of God and exemplify man's inhumanity to man. Some of this inhumanity has taken place on such a vast scale that we would hesitate to believe it had it not happened within our own lifetime. Here is a part of the frightening history of our century:

War and Politics — Two World Wars: the first took ten million lives; the second took fifteen million in military personnel alone. Two atomic bombs brought Hell to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nazi gas chambers exterminated six million Jews. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's explosive book tells of twelve million Russians, in any given year, imprisoned, tortured, or killed in the network of prison islands he calls the Gulag Archipelago. The Spanish Civil War cost a million lives. Napalm converted Vietnam into family incinerators. Nine and a half million refugees clogged the roads of East Pakistan. Terrorist bombs maimed women and children in Northern Ireland. A blockade brought starvation to millions in Biafra. And much more could be added to this litany of inhumanity that has happened in my less than sixty years.

Poverty — Each night two out of every five persons go to bed hungry. One-third to one-half of the human race suffers from nutritional deprivation. The United States, with 6 per cent of the earth's population, controls 40 per cent of the earth's wealth. The North Atlantic Nations, with 16 per cent of the earth's peoples, control 80 per cent of the earth's wealth. And if these figures seem abstract, here is the average life span for people in some countries of what has been called the Third World: Cambodia, 44 years; Kenya, 43; Ghana, 39; South Vietnam, 35; Syria, 30 to 40; Nepal, 25 to 40. Beneath these figures smolders a volcano of envy and resentment, of frustration and hate. For if war is sinful because man does something — something evil, poverty is sinful because man does nothing.

Race — In our own "land of the free" we

have seen the subtle, bloodless violence of white power — power that has enslaved a whole race, condemned it to ghettos and the back of the bus, forced it to live in shacks and work in toilets, forbade it our sidewalks and our church pews, barred it from hotels, restaurants, theaters and rest rooms. All of this we have done to people only because they were black. And they won their freedom only because a Court of Law proved more effective than the Sermon on the Mount.

The rupture between man and man that reaches such vast proportions on a national or global level begins in the heart of each one of us. We have to ask ourselves these searching questions:

Are the seeds of war planted in my own heart?

Is someone in agony across the street or across the world because I do not care enough?

Does the comfort I enjoy stem in any way from our long history of injustice to a whole race?

How often have I taken the first step towards a black person, to ease his hunger especially for love and understanding, to lift a little of his loneliness?

How often have I wept for the victims of our inhumanity?

Reconciliation will begin when we begin to love God enough to love His every image on earth — when we begin to see in every broken body and in all starved flesh the Crucified Christ — when we begin to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.

Pilgrimages Mark Holy Year in Hornell

Hornell — The Holy Year Pilgrimage, an effort of renewal and reconciliation, was observed here twice last weekend, concluding with parish rites in honor of St. Ann and her husband, St. Joachim, and in rites for the Livingston-Stauben Region, at St. Ann's Church.

Bishop John E. McCafferty was the principal concelebrant of a Mass Friday, July 26, which was

the highlight of the parish's patronal feast.

On Sunday, July 28, a regional pilgrimage was held, with Mass celebrated by Father Robert MacNamara, pastor.

For both occasions, the altar was flanked by green and white banners proclaiming The Love of Christ Has Gathered Us Together, and Be Reconciled.

South Korean Bishop Arrested as Subversive

Seoul, South Korea [RNS] — A South Korean Roman Catholic bishop, an outspoken critic of the government of President Park Chung Hee, has been ordered to stand trial for allegedly attempting to overthrow the government.

Catholic sources here said that Bishop Daniel Tji Hak Soun of Won Ju, east of here, had been indicted specifically for having given the equivalent of \$2,500 to South Korean poet Kim Chi Ha.

The poet was one of 14 persons recently sentenced to death by secret courts-martial here for involvement in an alleged anti-government plot. The death sentences of Mr. Kim and four other defendants were later commuted to life terms.

Catholic sources said that Bishop Tji, 53, suffering from a diabetic condition, was being held in St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul under a 24-hour guard by agents of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The bishop has been at odds with government policy ever since President Park proclaimed virtually total power under martial law in 1972. His latest arrest came on July 6, shortly

after he had arrived at Seoul's Gimpo Airport from a two-month trip to Europe on church business.

He was held for four days, during two of which, Catholic sources said, he was interrogated around the clock by teams of Korean CIA agents.

(Bishop Tji, in a telephone interview with a Washington Post correspondent, was quoted as having said he had given money to the poet Kim a Roman Catholic, for humanitarian reasons rather than for political purposes. The bishop is Mr. Kim's close friend and confessor.)

At least 10 Protestant clergymen are known to have been convicted by courts-martial for alleged subversion this year. Eighty-one other persons have also been convicted under President Park's emergency decrees prohibiting criticism of the Constitution that gives him unlimited power and tenure, and outlawing any anti-government demonstrations.

President Park's crackdown on political opposition has been explained officially as "an unfortunate necessity" in the face of "a constant threat" of invasion of the south by Communist North Korea.

At the July 26 Mass Bishop McCafferty was assisted by Fathers Otto Vogt, pastor of St. Joachim, Canisteo, and of St. Mary, Rexville; William Spilly, assistant at St. Ann's and Father MacNamara.

The Bishop told the pilgrims that although one finds little of St. Ann or St. Joachim in the Scriptures, tradition discloses they are the parents of the Blessed Virgin, and tradition is an accepted vehicle of divine revelation. We turn to Ann and Joachim, he said, for examples of fidelity and strength; and, as grandparents of the Savior, they acquiesced to the demands of youth.

"We make our pilgrimage so that our faith may be strengthened according to the life of Mary, a woman of faith and action. We make our pilgrimage over a walk of a block or several miles. Her pilgrimage was contemporary. A quick response gave her a life of activity, a life of great response, a life with which we may identify," the Bishop said.

"We feel her presence in our midst tonight as we recognize the actions of mothers, the faithful to God, on an eternal pilgrimage."

Father MacNamara closed the services that night with the recitation of the Holy Year Prayers.

On Sunday, several regional parishes were represented. Fathers MacNamara and Spilly concelebrated an afternoon Mass.

"We are in a holy place at a holy time and our banners signify what peace we are trying to achieve," Father MacNamara told the worshippers.

"This holy year opens the doors to healing and a turning away

from sin. During the course of this Holy Year we are on our way home to the father."

Ford, Lady Bird To Speak at RIT

Vice President Gerald Ford and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, wife of the former president, will be the featured speakers Oct. 4 and 5 to dedicate the new National Technical Institute for the Deaf facilities on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus.

Completion of a three-building complex in September at RIT, NTID's sponsoring institution, will be the final phase of development that will make the only national technical college for the deaf fully operational.

It was former President

Bishops Urged to Hold Famine Collections

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Catholic bishops in the U.S. have been called on to hold special collections to aid the victims of famine in the drought struck Sub-Sahara.

In a letter to each of the Catholic bishops, Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia noted that the six-year drought "not only continues but has spread across Africa and India, and now threatens to cast its pall of misery across the globe."

"The roll of dying increases relentlessly," wrote Cardinal Krol, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference.

"Most immediately affected are the peoples of the countries

Father MacNamara announced that another Regional Pilgrimage would be scheduled for the Fall.

Johnson who signed the law creating NTID in 1965. It is the first large-scale effort to educate hearing and deaf students together. NTID accepted its first 70 deaf students in 1968 and has grown in enrollment to 550 in September representing virtually every state in the nation. NTID's enrollment will gradually expand to 750 students by 1977.

The RIT Board of Trustees will host a dinner Oct. 4 where Vice President Ford will be the featured speaker. Mrs. Johnson will participate in the actual Dedication Ceremony Oct. 5.

of Sub-Sahara where, each day, tens of thousands, weakened after long months of malnutrition, succumb to the ravages of disease."

A number of Catholic dioceses have already started collections, Cardinal Krol said. "I hope that many more will join in this undertaking. The generosity of our people, displayed so many times in the past, will surely express itself again on behalf of the victims of famines."

Contributions of nearly \$1,150,000 for African drought relief have been received in the past year by Catholic Relief Services - USCC. The fund has made it possible for CRS to help an estimated 245,000 victims of the drought, but the fund is nearly exhausted.