

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

Rome Revisited

I leave Rochester tonight and, God willing, will be in Rome tomorrow. This will be my third trip to the Eternal City, my first as bishop. This journey is prompted by the duties of my office and by a sense of personal responsibility to be a man of deep faith sensitive to the needs of the World of the 70's.



My first visit lasted two years. I had been a priest for seven years and had enjoyed three of them in pastoral experience in St. Mary's, Elmira. Five years had been spent teaching at St. Andrew's Seminary. Bishop Kearney then assigned me to graduate study in theology at the Angelicum, the Roman University conducted by the Dominican Fathers. I was being prepared for a teaching position at St. Bernard's Seminary. Father William Hart, now pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Webster, went with me to study philosophy at the same school. Together, we shared the joys and the pains of these years of growth. Among the joys, I recall the events of the Holy Year of 1950, audiences with Pope Pius XII, a summer free to visit much of Europe; the canonization of St. Maria Goretti, the solemn declaration of the Dogma of the Assumption, the gracious hospitality of Msgr. Richard Burns (then vice-rector of the North American College), the approval of my work for the Licentiate and Doctoral degrees in theology and, catering to the lower level of my being, the excellent fettucine at Alfredo's and the fruit of the vines of Frascati and elsewhere.

I recall, too, the pain of loneliness, of separation from my family and friends, of adaptation to a new language and culture, of the uncertainty of success in my studies, of adjustment to life in an international House of Studies with room and board at less than \$2 per day, and of the obvious resentment toward the affluent American student separated from the rest of the house for fear of his bad example. I found it difficult to adjust to the culinary artistry of a Brother Innocent. The typical menu:

Breakfast — help yourself to hot milk or hot coffee or do your own mixing in a cereal bowl and enjoy a hard dry roll with it. Specialty for feast days — a jelly of dubious flavor and elasticity.

Lunch — greens and rice, well oiled. My memory here is poor, for this was the usual time for a visit to the Alfredo's mentioned earlier.

Dinner — meat of dubious quality purchased in the open-air market and stewed all afternoon as Brother enjoyed the offerings at the neighborhood theater. We were never certain what animal had been sacrificed, nor what part of what animal. It was so filled with tubes and pipes that we called it "The Plumber's Delight."

I recall vividly, too, the pain of uncertainty about the completion of my work in time to be home for my brother Michael's ordination in early June. Despite the assurance of the moderator of my thesis that all would be well, the rector of the Angelicum told me that exams had never been given so early. I would have to wait until the end of June to defend my thesis. Again, Monsignor Burns came to the rescue. Through Bishop O'Connor, the rector of the North American College, contact was made with Cardinal Pizzardo, the then prefect of the Congregation of Seminaries and University Studies. He authorized the school to give me the examinations at a time convenient for me to return home for my brother's ordination. The response of the school officials was painful. "How much did you have to pay the Cardinal?", my moderator asked. May the Lord forgive me! I could not resist this reply to his suspicious question: "Only \$50, Father. And the Cardinal said that for \$50 more, he would even take the exams for me." I truly believe the priest still thinks that I spoke the truth.

The second Roman visit lasted only three weeks, but it seemed like eternity. I went as "Assistant Tour Master" on a pilgrimage sponsored by the Legion of Mary. Never again, even with all expenses paid and ad-

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

ditional subsidy! Thank God for the Father Cuddys of the world who have the patience to care for people who interpret your services as a passport to a state of helplessness. I found myself barking orders at sweet old ladies who kept losing passports and travellers cheques and missing transportation connections. And I do not relish being nasty to sweet people, nor even to nasty people.

Tonight I leave with great anticipation of a Roman visit that will be a total blessing. As I remarked at the beginning, a sense of duty prompts me. Every five years, the bishop of a diocese is asked to make an official report to Rome about the vitality of the portion of the Church assigned to his care. This quinquennial report has been prepared by Father William Flynn, chancellor of the diocese, and has been examined and approved by me. It includes answers to hundreds of questions sent to each diocese and jurisdictional area of the Church. In taking this report to Rome, I am making what is called an 'ad limina' visit, i.e., to the household of the Holy Father. More than 80 American bishops will be in Rome this September for the entire month because of a very special opportunity which is being offered to us to take part in a 'Theological Consultation' — a study program offered by some of the best scholars in the Church. I have been so pleased to see the interest of our diocesan priests in this program — a three-month course which six have already enjoyed, with many more on a waiting list. I trust that a month away from the diocese will not be interpreted as an escape from duty. It is, to me, the embracing of a splendid opportunity to keep my faith alive so that I can answer to the deepest hopes, aspirations, fears and anxieties of the World of the 70's. As Father Aloysius Dulles recently reminded me (The Survival of Dogma): "To identify faith with a wooden conformity to ancient formulas and practices might be an evasion of present responsibility."

I ask your prayers during this Roman pilgrimage as I seek personal renewal. Pray that I will always be open to the Spirit. I shall be reporting to you each week. My companion on this journey will be Monsignor Burns. I have chosen him in gratitude for supporting me in Visit No. 1.

vatican news

Vatican, China Present Similar Proposals to Parley

Bucharest, Romania [RNS] — The Vatican in its first official statement at the United Nations World Population Conference here, said that the rate of population growth should not be limited on the "pre-text" of assuring a higher level of nutrition for mankind.

Jean Piya, a lay member of the Vatican delegation to the first worldwide government-level parley on population, said that "vast uncultivated areas" of the world could be developed, if the labor force and necessary capital were made available. Piya, who is a member of the Vatican's Commission on Justice and Peace, was addressing a conference committee on "Population, Resources, and Environment" on Aug. 20.

"The availability and distribution of human resources, and their rational employment is at the heart of the population problem," he said.

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

More than 3,000 people from 130 countries attended the opening session of the 12-day conference on August 19 in the main auditorium of Romania's legislative Palace of the Republic.

The Vatican's position, as outlined by Piya, coincided, in effect, with that expressed before the committee by a member of the delegation of the Chinese People's Republic, Hau Shou-Jen. Hsu said that history and scientific "demonstration" had shown that the growth of production was always greater than the growth of population. He rejected the view that excessive population hindered

development in the Third World.

The position against population limitations was also supported in the first plenary meeting of the conference by the Uruguayan delegate, who said that poor countries had the right to populate their lands to "eliminate stagnation."

Argentina said that emphasis should be put on food production and not on birth control programs, and France also argued that population growth would not be disastrous if the earth's resources were properly distributed. In any case, the French delegate said, birth control will not alone solve the

problem.

The head of the United States delegation, Health, Education and Welfare Secretary, Caspar Weinberger, saw the conference as a place to decide "the quality of life" by the year 2050. He quoted Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Norman Borlaug, who solemnly warned that "by the Green Revolution (of which he is the father) we have only delayed the world food crisis for another thirty years. If the world population continues to increase at the same rate we will destroy the species." Mr. Weinberger noted the growing demand by many countries for food which is

scarce and expensive. He pledged continued U.S. help to needy countries in population programs, including birth control.

Sweden told the conference that world resources were limited and the effects of national policies must be reconciled at the international level.

Indonesia spoke of its having "the oldest and most massive" birth control program in Asia and the Far East, admitting, nevertheless, that with 56 million Indonesians under 15 years of age, it faced "grave educational, health and employment problems."

Pontiff Asks Prayers For Population Meeting

Castelgandolfo [RNS] — Pope Paul has appealed to Catholics the world over to pray earnestly for the "successful outcome" of the first World Population Conference, a government-level meeting convoked by the United Nations, which opened in Bucharest, Romania, Aug. 19.

Speaking to pilgrims and tourists in the courtyard of his Summer residence here on the eve of the world parley, the Pope described it as an "event of obvious importance," since it was

to be concerned with the question of the survival of human beings on the planet.

The 12-day conference is the first attempt by world governments to grapple with the population problem and its attendant widespread hunger, deteriorating environment, and cycle of poverty and misery in developing nations of the Third World.

Principal participants are the United States, the Soviet Union,

China, India, and the Vatican. While the Vatican is doctrinally opposed to artificial contraception and abortion, it has encouraged widespread Roman Catholic activities in other phases of family planning and population control.

Delegates from more than 130 nations were on hand for the opening of the conference.

Pope Paul alluded to what he called "the extraordinary increase in the number of human beings" as the "elemental" factor

that must be considered in conjunction with "every other aspect of the problem."

"The first of these," he said, "is recognition that man has been created by God to live, cultivate the earth and beget children."

He insisted, however, that this "divinely given right" necessarily implies that parents will always exercise "responsibility" in decisions to beget children and take into consideration factors of the common — as well as the individual — good.