

Help for Missions a Sign of Our Faith

My dear People:

When Pope Paul VI announced the initiation of the Holy Year observance, he stated very clearly that "it must give world dimensions to the heart of the Church." Our Holy Father assured us that there is no better occasion for this than on Mission Sunday, appropriately called by its first promoters as "the true feast of apostolicity and the great day of Catholicism."

Mission Sunday must be the one day of the year when the entire Church reflects upon its missionary vocation. This year's Mission Sunday affords each of us an opportunity to carry the Holy Year themes of renewal and reconciliation to our needy

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brothers and sisters all over the world.

In observing this worldwide Mission Day, we need to be aware of the three things that we can do — pray, love, and be generous in our giving. If you wish to measure the vitality of your parish, you might look to see how dedicated you are to the Eucharist and to the work of the Missions. Our dedication to worldwide mission work is a necessary sign of the vigor of our faith. Our continued generous assistance is essential for the survival and expansion of the universal missionary work of our Church.

Your personal concern and sacrifices on Mission Sunday, Oct. 20, will help both our missionaries and the poor people they serve. Indeed, your generosity will aid them as they bring God's message of loving concern to the needy.

With sincere appreciation for your generous gift to the Missions, I remain.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester

The Church and Inflation

By Religious News Service

The nation's economy — and the world's — has become a priority concern of religious leaders and church agencies as they view the growing inflationary crisis in terms of injustice, exploitation and "profiteering" at the expense of the poor.

Simultaneously, there is heightened church attention to world food shortages, the energy crisis and the subsequent rising costs affecting all aspects of church involvement — including maintenance of congregations, social and charitable services, education, health care, overseas missions and many other areas of religious outreach.

Then, too, there is a growing call by Church leaders to their memberships to follow a simpler, more austere lifestyle. Some churchmen see a "positive" value in the economic situation for that reason.

A problem for religion as well as other sectors of society, inflation is drawing a variety of comments — and not many of them are optimistic at this time.

In the U.S., religious reaction to the world's economic problems is directed primarily toward the needs of the poor, the unemployed, the aging, the handicapped and the disadvantaged — where the "extra-heavy burden" of inflation always rests.

But there also is concern for the starving and

potentially starving people in many areas of the Third World, where the tragedy of deprivation is compounded by gross and appalling violations of basic human rights.

Putting the question into broad perspective, United Nations Under Secretary Bradford Morse recently pointed to a world economic system which lavishes 75 per cent of its resources on 25 per cent of the population. Citing the growing shortages of food and essential commodities which threaten the existence of millions, he told a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities:

"It is tragic indeed that, for more than half of mankind, the pain of hunger and the shadow of famine are factors of life. Skyrocketing commodity prices — of food and energy supplies in particular — will make the poor even poorer."

Pope Paul has urged all to refrain from unnecessary consumption. The Pope, in fact, urged Catholics to try to understand "the moral and civil advantages of austerity." He said that one advantage was an increase in charity toward those less fortunate, especially the poor and suffering.

The leader of the Mormon women's relief society, Mrs. Belle Spafford of Salt Lake City, said her organization is "waging war on inflation" by placing emphasis on home management and by offering courses on nutrition and family health.

A survey of Houston churches in August stressed that the inflation rate which is eroding family and business budgets is also eroding church budgets.

While some churches have called for holding the line on new programs for 1975, making do with available resources, others said members must be urged to increase contributions by 10 per cent before new budgets can be discussed. Churches face increases in everything from wine to fuel to new buildings.

With respect to "big business" and its effect on the economy, church agencies have been keeping close watch and seeking to make corporations more "socially responsible."

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Reconciliation Theme for Diocesan Pilgrimage

Pledges of special acts of reconciliation by each parish in attendance will be one of the highlights of the Diocesan Pilgrimage for Renewal and Reconciliation at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday, Oct. 27.

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, diocesan director for the Holy Year, has asked that such a pledge be written and placed in a special box at the Cathedral on the occasion of the pilgrimage. The letters will be

brought to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at the Offertory procession.

The potential for action in this area is so wide — programs for the aged and shut-ins, ecumenical endeavors, programs for youth, etc. — that it is felt that the letters will form the basis for real and concrete programs as part of the reconciliation and renewal themes of the Holy Year.

A collection at the Mass will be taken for the victims of the drought in the sub-Saharan region of Africa and also for those victimized by the hurricane in Honduras.

A procession into the Cathedral will be followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Hogan, Auxiliary Bishops Dennis W. Hickey and McCafferty, and 10 regional coordinators.

Bishop Hogan will deliver the homily and Father Robert McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary will explain the pilgrimage and Holy Year Indulgence.

The pilgrimage is on the eve of Bishop James E. Kearney's 90th birthday and he will lead special Holy Year prayers.

East parish has been invited to provide six or seven representatives which would mean more than 1,000 participants. Following

the Mass, those making the pilgrimage will be received at Aquinas Institute for a reception. At this time a brief slide show on the 1950 Holy Year observance in Rome will be shown.

Bishop McCafferty says that the pilgrimage "provides our diocese with an extraordinary opportunity for grace."

All those participating have been asked to perform an act of penance on the pilgrimage day.

New Pro-Life Feature

The Courier-Journal this week introduces a new feature, Capitol Letters, which will appear occasionally to advise readers on human life proposals before the Congress.

Jeanne D. Sweeney, RN, area representative for the Washington-based American Citizens Concerned for Life (AC-CL), will prepare Capitol Letters. ACCL seeks the overturning of the Supreme Court abortion decision and searches for implementation of nonviolent solutions for the problems of women and children and programs to strengthen family life.

Capitol letters will explain human life proposals under study in Washington and give the membership and addresses of those congressmen considering the legislation. Page 8.

Bishop On TV

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate the weekly television Mass at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 20, Mission Sunday. The missions will be the topic of his homily.

