


PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

"I Thank You, Lord"



It is the Eve of Thanksgiving and the eve of the fifth anniversary of my ordination as the seventh bishop of Rochester and I reflect on the Lord's generosity to me all the days of my life. My memory's storehouse is filled with His gifts. I treasure all of them and I want to express my gratitude. My litany of thanksgiving is endless as is the litany of His giving. With the Psalmist I wonder: What return shall I make to the Lord for all that He has done for me? Total recall of blessings is beyond me. But I can attempt a partial listing. I call upon you, dear friends, to join your voices to mine in this hymn of praise to Him from Whom all blessings flow:

LORD JESUS, I come before you in the emptiness of my being, aware that I have nothing which I have not received from Your gracious bounty.

I seek your forgiveness for the many times that I have been so absorbed in my own selfish dreams and plans that I was among the 'other nine' who did not return to say 'thank you.'

LORD JESUS, I thank You for these great blessings in my life: Humbly am I grateful for my parents who first taught me to say 'thank you,' for my family and my dearest friends, for my health and vocation, for my Faith, the clothes on my body and the home I can call my own.

FOR — others my age are homeless or without parents or friends or are ill, crippled, jobless, or poor and hungry and worse — without Faith or without a sense of purpose in life: **BUT FOR YOUR GRACE, O LORD, I WOULD BE ONE OF THEM.**

I THANK YOU FOR THE LAST TIME I BEHELD:

a glorious sunset
a baby's smile
a deep-rose rose
a friend's face
the sun rising at each new day —
BECAUSE I AM NOT BLIND.

ACCEPT MY ABIDING GRATITUDE FOR THE LAST TIME I HEARD:

a child's laughter
my favorite song
a compliment
church bells
singing birds.
BECAUSE I AM NOT DEAF.

THANKS FOR THE LAST TIME I FELT:

a warm handshake
a child's hug
a balmy wind in my face —
BECAUSE I AM NOT ILL OR ISOLATED.

THANK YOU, DEAR LORD, SO SENSITIVE YOURSELF TO GRATITUDE AND INGRATITUDE, FOR:

the times I failed to thank You
the times I forgot to thank You for life itself, and for all blessings —
GREAT AND SMALL.

LET ME BE SO GRATEFUL HENCEFORTH
that my life will be a "thanks-living" daily sensitive to these little things that make life worth living.

LET ME NEVER BE SO BUSY PLANNING THE FUTURE OR REGRETTING THE PAST
that I fail to accept the 'now' moments of sharing and struggling that are at the very heart of life.

AND, LORD JESUS, I, JOSEPH, CALLED TO LEADERSHIP IN YOUR CHURCH, THANK YOU:
for Your Holy Spirit Who breathed on me the fullness of Your Priesthood for Your breath that challenges me each day to set aside my fears and to venture forth on courses uncharted for Your Fire which invites me to burn away my selfish interests and which lights the path to my renewal and the renewal of Your Church.

I THANK YOU FOR THE VOICES YOU HAVE DIRECTED TO SPEAK TO ME —

for voices that have affirmed me when in doubt,
for voices that have been near to correct my erring steps,
for voices lifted in prayer each day on my behalf.

AND FINALLY — I THANK YOU —
for all the blessings I have failed to sense and for all the blessings I do not recall this day.

AMEN.

Food Parley Closes, Vatican's Stand Cited

Rome [RNS] — The United Nations-sponsored World Food Conference made some progress towards dealing with the medium- and long-range prospects for ending hunger and malnutrition in the world.

The Conference's 130 participating nations endorsed a major agreement to set up a World Food Council — an umbrella organization designed to coordinate an international food policy — and an agricultural development fund.

For the short term, the Conference did not produce the promise of sufficiently large supplies of grains or money for immediate distribution to the poorest countries, but this aspect may yet be dealt with when further talks are held by major grain producers and importers in Rome beginning November 29.

The Vatican's 10-member delegation to the Conference included an Indian, a Belgian and two Swiss. Among the delegation, which included four laymen but

no women, were four trained agriculturalists, among them Doctor Carlo Ponti, an agronomist who is director of the papal farm at Castelgandolfo in the Alban hills outside Rome.

The Holy See joined with Peru in calling for a reduction of military expenditures so that the funds so released could be allocated for increasing food production.

The original resolution asked for a cut of 10 per cent in each

nation's military spending, a call that was echoed by Sen. George McGovern, a member of the U.S. delegation. However, the proposal was watered down. Even then, the United States and most of its military allies publicly expressed "formal reservations."

The Holy See was the only firm contributor to the international fund for agricultural development. The head of the Vatican delegation, Msgr. Agostino Ferrari Toniolo, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations'

Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, announced during the Conference that the Vatican was donating \$100,000 as "a symbolic contribution" to the fund.

The Vatican also basically supported a resolution on women and food that stressed that women, through lactation, were responsible for the growth of healthy children and that therefore governments should entitle them, by law and fact, to full access to medical services and nutritious food.

This resolution also called for the means to enable mothers to space their children to allow maximum lactation.

The Vatican delegation, however, was the only one that expressed formal reservation on another resolution that called for the achievement of a desirable balance between population and food supply.

Dr. J.P. Dustin, observer for the World Health Organization, told Religious News Service that birth control programs in developing countries would not work until the poor could see for themselves that the children they produced would survive to adulthood to support them in their old age and live to bury them.

His sentiments were echoed by Bronson Clark, observer for the Friends World Committee for Consultation, who told RNS that the Quakers, who have worked in countries like Mexico, feel it is better to work through medical schools, helping to train the local people in birth control methods since "it doesn't look good for foreigners of foreign governments to tell people how to control their population."

But, said Mr. Clark, "real progress on population planning depends not on the pill or loop but on the improved social and economic levels of countries."

The Bishop's Public Appointments



December

- 1—St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing Graduation, St. Ann's Church, Hornell — 3 p.m.
- 2—Meeting of the Boards of Trustees of St. Bernard's Seminary and Becket Hall, Pastoral Office — 10:30 a.m.
- 5—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Conferral of the Ministry of Lector, St. Bernard's Seminary — 4:45 p.m.
- 6—New York State Bishops' Meeting — Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.
- 6—Confirmation, St. Monica's Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 8—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, 125th Anniversary, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rochester — 12:30 p.m.
- 9—Confirmation, St. Anthony's Church, Rochester — 7:45 p.m.
- 10—Business Meeting with Regional Coordinators, St. Mary's, Canandaigua — Noon.
- 11—Seminary Accountability Report Meeting, St. Bernard's Seminary — 10 a.m.
- 12—Confirmation, St. Gregory, Marion — 7:45 p.m.
- 13—Office of Human Development, Accountability Report Meeting, Piffard — 9 a.m.
- 14—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 15—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Installation of Parish Council, St. Mark's Church — Noon.
- 15—Confirmation, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester — 3 p.m.
- 17—Department of Education, Accountability Report Meeting, High Acres, Geneva — 9 a.m.
- 19—Celebration of Eucharist with Regional Coordinators, Episcopal Residence, Victor — 5 p.m.
- 22—Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Monroe Community Hospital — 3:30 p.m.
- 23—Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily for Diocesan Employees, Chapel of Our Lady of God Counsel, Pastoral Office — 9 a.m.
- 24—Family Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Sacred Heart Cathedral — 5:30 p.m.
- 25—Eddie Meath TV Christmas Show, WHEC, Channel 10 — 8 a.m.
- 25—Christmas Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, St. Ann's Home — 10 a.m.