

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

The Heart of Man — A House Divided

This past Christmas Eve on television the world had the unique opportunity to watch and listen to Pope Paul unseal the Holy Door into St. Peter's Basilica to mark 1975 as a Year of Jubilee, a Holy Year. For this occasion, he chose to speak of "renewal and reconciliation."



Throughout this Holy Year, we are called to contemplate what these words mean and what response they call for from us. Renewal and reconciliation go hand in hand; we cannot have one without the other. And to be renewed and to be reconciled we must begin with ourselves. As the Pope said in his proclamation of the Holy Year, "This renewal and reconciliation pertain in the first place to the interior life, above all because the root of all good and, unfortunately, of all evil, is found in the depths of the heart. It is in the depths of the heart, therefore, that conversion or *metanoia* must take place, that is, a change of direction, of attitude, of option, of one's way of life." (*Apostolorum Limina*, I)

First we must recognize where we are and why we have gone astray. A survey of our ills and those of our world shows us that we have lost our perspective on four levels: between man and God; between man and man; between man and nature; and inside of man himself. This loss, in turn, alienates us from God, our fellowmen, nature and ourselves. As a result we suffer disharmony, hatred, conflict and division where once we hoped to find order, love and peace.

Man's loss of harmony with nature has been vividly drawn to our attention because the good earth which man was directed to cultivate and improve has been ravaged so that it soon may no longer be able to sustain life. Waste and pollution mar the beauty of the world so that man finds it more and more difficult to recognize the loveliness and virtue of God in His creation. Sight, taste, feeling and hearing are less and less in touch with the natural order. As our senses are further removed from reality, we become increasingly isolated from the natural rhythm between man and nature. When men make ugly cities and deplete and lay waste the earth, the cities and the land take their revenge by producing ugliness and viciousness in men.

As individuals we are one, but soon we experience the conflicts within us. Flesh struggles against spirit; will resists the control of reason; mind and body are at odds. Such division as exists between man and nature is both indication and result of man's interior conflicts. Writing to the Romans, St. Paul most painfully describes this warfare within man: "I cannot even understand my own actions. For I do not that good which I will; but the evil which I hate, that I do. . . . For the good which I will, I do not; but the evil which I will not, that I do. . . . Unhappy man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" So confused, frustrated and tormented is man, so pulled now one way, now another, by forces he does not understand, that with good reason ours is called an age of anxiety and anguish.

Separation of man and nature, of man from himself, aggravates the disharmony among men. With scarcity growing, with

food and energy unequally divided, man ceases to regard his neighbor as his brother but comes to see him as an enemy in the struggle to survive. So there is war between the haves and the have-nots; war between rich and poor; war between those who wield power and those who would wrest it from them. So, too, is there war between the races, war between religions, between the sexes, between generations. Within the family, husband and wife clash and children rebel against parents. The aged and infirm, even where they have the wisdom of experience, are cast aside because the young see and fear in them what they too will some day become, and they do not comprehend the full natural cycle of human life. No other of God's creatures has ever devised such hatred, scorn, ridicule loneliness and neglect as man unleashes upon his own kind. "Nature red in tooth and claw" pales by comparison with "Man's inhumanity to man."

Man's alienation from nature, his fellowman and himself, are rooted in the fourth and most tragic rupture of all, that between man and God. Some men simply deny that God exists; some admit He exists, but exclude Him from their lives; and some seek Him but cannot find Him. For these people do not experience God; He is altogether absent from their lives.

Having considered man's disharmonies, in the next pastoral perspective we shall explore those sources from which men may draw strength and hope and faith; "For faith in God is the most powerful safeguard of the human conscience and is the solid foundation of those relationships of justice and brotherhood for which the world yearns." (*Apostolorum Limina*, I)

Pope Urges Peace for Jerusalem

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has called for a settlement of the Jerusalem issue that will make the Holy City "a symbol of peace" for all the peoples of the Middle East.

"How much we desire that Jerusalem, instead of being the object of continuing strife, may become the crossroads of a fraternal encounter for all who believe in the one God and a symbol of peace for the people of the Holy Land and for all the peoples of the Middle East," the Pope said.

Addressing a consistory of cardinals here, Dec. 23, the pontiff also urged that the Holy Year provide the occasion for "resolving" conflicts and violence in other parts of the world, especially in South Vietnam and Northern Ireland.

"To the generous and tormented region of the Middle East and to all the other parts of the world where — as in Ireland, which is always most dear to us

and ever present in our thoughts — conflicts and violence continue to disturb daily life, we send our fervent wishes for peace," he said.

The pontiff expressed a special concern over the situation in South Vietnam. "How could we not express our anguish in the face of the difficulties that peace continually encounters, as in Vietnam, where it was hoped that peace had finally been established?" he said.

Speaking of the problems of peace in general, Pope Paul stated that "today more than ever" mankind stands in need of the Church's constant cries for peace, "because fading memories of the horrors of war threaten to soften resolutions of peace."

"In the end," he declared, "the world cannot stand on its own, without Christ. The world desperately needs God."

In the opening passages of his address, the Pope invited the

Catholic faithful to meditate during the 1975 Holy Year on such "present aspects" of the Church as her "perennial youth," which, he said, is rooted in and nourished by her "traditional" teaching down the years.

"Tradition," he said, "is for the Church a living and coherent truth that reaches back to the original source of her historical and divine institution and to the authentic deposit of her supernatural doctrine and transmits it . . . ever more alive through successive ages for an ever imminent and possible Springtime. Tradition is a guarantee of the Church's fidelity to the mission entrusted her by Christ."

The pontiff urged the faithful to "rekindle the flame of the charity of Christ, and "reawaken in the world the sense of brotherhood" and of "a more dynamic and effective justice."

He also called for "restoration" of the "primacy of prayer" in

daily life, and of "internal peace" in the Church.

Alluding to his recent statement sharply criticizing dissent in the Church, the Pope said it was "inadmissible" that contestation within the Church should become habitual.

Rather, he said, "if the Church is united in herself she will be better able to make effective contribution to world unity and peace."

Memorial Service At Rome Airport

Rome [RNS] — A memorial service was held at the Catholic chapel of Rome's Fiumicino Airport on Dec. 17 for the 33 victims of a Palestinian commando attack at the airport on Dec. 17, 1973.

In the attack a year ago, the terrorists shot at random in the airport's waiting room, blew up a Pan American jetliner, and hijacked a Luftansa plane to Athens and Kuwait.

Crowds Gather In Holy Year

Vatican City [RNS] — A crowd of pilgrims, tourists, and Romans — estimated at about 50,000 — gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Sunday noon blessing of Pope Paul on the first Sunday of the Church's Holy Year.

The crowd was considerably larger than at a normal Sunday noon papal appearance.

The 77-year-old pontiff, who had cancelled a public appearance in St. Peter's Basilica, where he was to have presided at a Sunday Mass, appeared at the window of his apartment overlooking the Square and expressed his "great joy" at seeing so many of the faithful who, he said, had come to venerate the tomb of St. Peter, as part of the Holy Year observances.

Some six to seven million pilgrims are expected in Rome during the Holy Year of "renewal and reconciliation" which was inaugurated on Christmas Eve.

Fears have been expressed in the Italian media that the influx of visitors to the Italian capital during 1975 will tax the city's already overcrowded public facilities.

Rome's Mayor Celio Dairda, however, has been quoted in the press as saying he was "optimistic" that his city will be able to cope with the influx.

Some newspapers have raised the question of possible dangers to health that may arise when so many people from all parts of the world continue to pour into an overcrowded metropolis.

On the other hand, a spokesman for the Vatican organization concerned with the welfare of Holy Year pilgrims has said that "the faithful of the whole world can come to Rome" for Holy Year observances "without fear of either pollution of epidemics."

Meanwhile, Roman police have brought in large reinforcements from the provinces to deal with the expected increase in such crimes as purse-snatching and pocket picking.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



January

- 14—Spanish Apostolate, Accountability Report Meeting, St. Bridget's School — 9:30 a.m.
- 14—Priests Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 1 p.m.
- 15—Priestly Spirituality Committee Meeting, Episcopal Residence, Victor — 12:30 p.m.
- 16—Board of Trustees Meeting, St. Joseph's Villa — 10:30 a.m.
- 17—Catholic Charities, Teen Seminar, Diocesan Tribunal, SPOF Departments — Accountability Report Meetings — 9 a.m.
- 18—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 20—Theological Lectures, St. Bernard's Seminary — 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- 21—Theological Lecture, St. Bernard's Seminary — 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- 24—Liturgy, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Vocation Department, Hospital Chaplains — Accountability Report Meetings — 9 a.m.
- 26—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Notre Dame High School, Elmira — 10 a.m.
- 26—Regional Conference, Chemung-Schuyler Region, Notre High School, Elmira — 2 p.m.
- 27-28-29—Clergy Conferences, Becket Hall.
- 31—Campus Ministry, Accountability Report Meeting, RIT — 10:30 a.m.