

Distinguished Guests

Father Joseph Reinhart (l), director of the diocesan Office of the Propagation of the Faith, welcomes Bishop Patrick Chakaipa, the first black Bishop of Salisbury, Rhodesia, and Msgr. Colin Davies, of the diocese of Ngong, Kenya, to his offices. The African churchmen are touring the United States.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO
[Fifth in a series]

To a people eager to be led into that suffocating nothingness of uniformity and self-idolatry, the message of Christian restraint and Christian orthodoxy is faint and unpopular. It always has been. Christ's traditional message of the sanctity of human life as well as the search for a human perfection is spoken by few, amplified by few, and heard regularly only by those who are willing to search for it.

Like the parable of the seed which fell onto the wayside, the rocks, the thorns and the responsive ground (Mat. 13:18-23), many today who profess to believe — including some who have attained educated positions of leadership within the Christian structure — have retreated from the rigid code of the Cross. They sway effortlessly with the prevailing social winds, embracing abusive technologies and humanistic philosophies.

Some Christian leaders have joined and supported organizations like UNICEF, Planned Parenthood and SIECUS which seek to camouflage anti-life activities with food, fun, and sex. There are Methodists in the ranks. There are Episcopalians. There are whites. There are blacks.

And there are Catholics.

I fear that in the long run, it will be these Christian leaders who will need a flood of Christian prayers, mine included, perhaps even more than the mothers who demand abortions, the doctors who perform them, and the institutions who profit from them. These who speak for, or remain silent about, abortion and euthanasia will surely have the intercession of the aborted saints and the forgiveness of an injured Mother Church.

But the human damage is irreparable.

I share with you the words of a Christian bishop who has the blessed gift of eloquence; a bishop, some of whose followers have begun to taste the temporary sweetness of disobedience; a bishop whose deep pain and deeper faith are

reflected in the lines marking his gentle face: Paul VI, Bishop of Rome, Successor to Peter, Vicar of Christ, and Teacher of all the Faithful

May 9, 1975. Gaudete In Domino. "Technological society has succeeded in multiplying the opportunities for pleasure but it has great difficulty in generating joy. For joy comes from another source. It is spiritual. Money, comfort, hygiene and material security are often not lacking; and yet boredom, depression and sadness unhappily remain the lot of many. (We must) hope for joy . . . the elating joy of existence and of life; the joy of chaste and sanctified love; the peaceful joy of nature and of silence; the sometimes austere joy of work well done; the joy and satisfaction of duty performed; the transparent joy of purity, service and sharing; the demanding joy of sacrifice . . .

"It is man — in his soul — who finds himself without the means to take onto himself the suffering and miseries of our time . . . the meaning of life escapes him.

"Man has desecralized the universe, and now he is desecralizing humanity. He has at times cut the vital link between himself and God."

July 9, 1975. On Holiness. "He who agrees to be a Christian in a positive way realizes at a certain moment, and this may be precisely the moment for us, that he is caught up in a more and more compelling necessity. What is this necessity? It is man's perfection.

"We must not fear . . . The Church invites us to such perfection and reminds us that this perfection is not optional, but compulsory for every follower of Christ. Does it have a name, this perfection? Yes it has a name. And you know it; it is called Holiness . . . the grace of God plus the will of man."

The Vatican does not remain silent to the face of Humanism. Nor does the Vatican condemn those who do. Paul, the Holy witness, leads us. It is for us now to respond.

NEXT WEEK: The concluding column: Further words of Paul VI.

CENACLE PROGRAMS

The Cenacle Retreat House has issued its schedule of Fall retreats. Included a Legion of Mary Retreat led by Father Aedan McGrath CSC, Sept. 12-14; Effective Living Seminar, Sister Mary Wehner, RC, Sept. 19-21; Day of Recollection (2-8 p.m.) Sisters Marie Hallican and Elizabeth Rogers, Sept. 28; Women's General Retreat, Father John Walchers, SJ, Oct. 3-5; General Retreat for men and women, Father Paul Vaudreuil AA, Oct. 17-19.

ROSARY GUILD

The Rosary Guild of St. Pius the Tenth Church will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1975, in the parish center at 8 p.m. Father Donald Murphy, pastor, will show movies and give a brief talk on "the way it was" at the beginning of the parish.

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Committeemen Named at Parish

Genesee — New committee chairmen have been named to assist the St. Mary's Parish Council in planning and coordinating parish activities during the coming year.

Ministries; and Art Hatton and James McNally, Communications and Research.

Mrs. Mary Miskell, president of the council, listed the committee chairmen as follows: Mrs. Donna Kelsey, Christian Formation; Mrs. Barbara Battaglia and Mrs. Pam Hatton, Liturgy; John Schoder, Lay Apostolate; Mrs. Jeri Quirk, Parish Life; Barrett Quirk and William Derby, Supportive

The following council members will serve as liaison representatives with the committees: Mrs. William Derby, Worship; Nicholas Orlando and Mrs. Ruth Clouser, Christian Formation; Joseph Quirk, Supportive Ministries; Mrs. Ruth Clouser, Communications; Mrs. Mary Miskell, Lay Apostolate; and Daniel Mullin, Parish Life.

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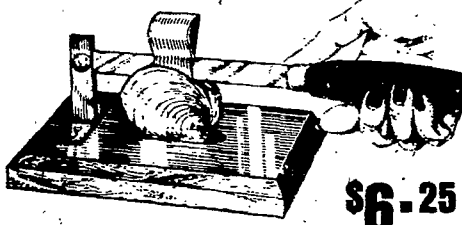
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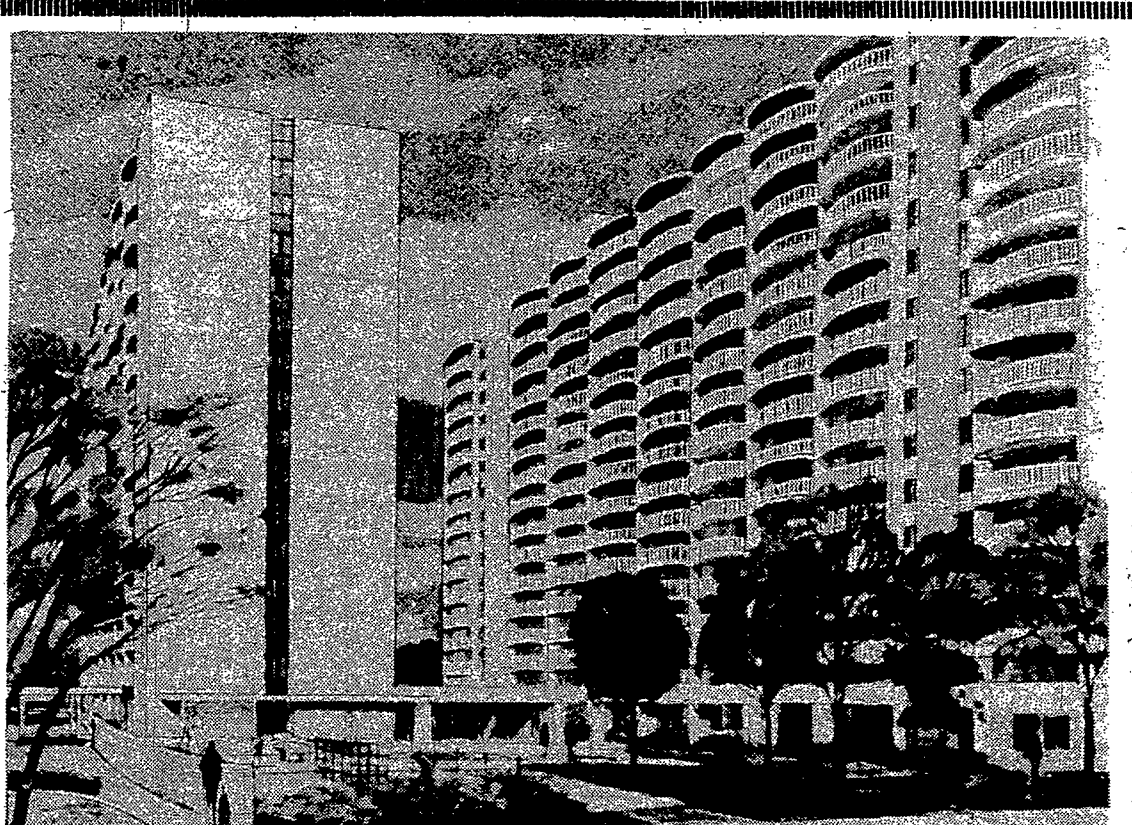
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