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Pope Endorses U.N. Goals on Housing

United Nations, N.Y. [RNS] — Pope Paul, warning that rapidly changing social conditions are leading to a world crisis of housing and the urban environment, has strongly endorsed the goals of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat), which is scheduled for Vancouver in June 1976.

In a letter to the Secretary General of the conference, Enrique Penalosa of Colombia, Pope Paul noted that the problem of habitation "is one of the most serious and urgent facing humanity today."

Citing the "lamentable" contrast between the luxurious dwellings of the rich and the shantytowns of the poor, he called for a new priority to achieve "minimum conditions for a decent life for all."

The papal letter cited the adverse effects of speculation as a cause of the problem. "We cannot ignore that these deplorable conditions are aggravated by those who speculate in real estate to procure excessive profits to themselves."

Penalosa, who has called upon all religious organizations to

support the goals of the conference, was received by the Pope in a special audience in September. He said afterward, "There is no doubt that His Holiness is deeply concerned with the issues before the conference and he questioned me closely on all its aspects."

Pope Paul also cited spiritual and social needs. "The legitimate aspiration of man for a better quality of life demands a level of habitation which goes beyond shelter from the elements and fosters the full realization of his material, cultural and spiritual needs, and contributes in this way

to that which is most essentially human," he said.

The letter continued: "In order to be truly human, habitation must satisfy fundamental needs which have not been sufficiently recognized in the past. These needs fall into two categories: one which is concerned with private, personal and family life, the other with social life."

"In the first case, it is necessary to assure conditions of privacy, tranquility and intimacy which are indispensable to personal and family life. Families must be provided housing that is

proportional to the number of their children in order to allow for a normal life and for the spiritual and cultural development of all its members without restricting new births. Other needs are related to the widening of human interchange and mutual enrichment. All of this requires an insightful planning of cities, towns and villages and of their spatial arrangements."

Pope Paul also noted that the struggle for decent housing and environment was an issue of "social justice," calling the right to adequate habitation "one of the fundamental rights of man."



Father Ehmann, Bishop Hogan.

Photo by Ben Susso

14 Receive Degrees at St. Bernard's

Fourteen persons received degrees at the academic convocation held at St. Bernard's Seminary on Oct. 16. Featured in the ceremony was the presentation of an honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity, to Father Benedict A. Ehmann.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan conferred the degrees, assisted by Father Robert McNamara, dean of the faculty, and Father Sebastian Falcone, academic dean.

Receiving a Master of Theology

degree was Daniel M. Gennarelli, a deacon of the Diocese of Syracuse. Thirteen persons received the Master of Divinity degree: St. Bernard's students Thomas F. Berardi (Diocese of Albany), Peter Fabian, Jr. (Diocese of Syracuse), and Matthew A. Kawiak (Diocese of Rochester); deacon alumnus from Providence, R.I., Bernard J. Duffy; and two Rochester laymen, James M. Chappell and John J. Erb.

The priest alumni who received

the degree were Fathers Walter J. Hanss, Bernard F. Dollen, Terence K. Fleming, Robert L. Collins and Thomas F. Nellis from the Diocese of Rochester, and Douglas A. Morrison and A. Andrew Ventresca from the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn.

Father Ehmann is the second person in the history of the school to receive the Doctor of Divinity degree. A native of Rochester and an alumnus of St. Bernard's, he was ordained in 1929. He studied music under the late Philip Kreckel and at the Eastman School of Music, and taught church music at St. Andrew's Seminary, St. Bernard's, Nazareth College and the Eastman School. He was editor of the Catholic Choirmaster, a national publication, from 1942 until 1952. For many years he has been the leading director of choral music in the Rochester Diocese, and he is at present a member of the diocesan com-

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Would You Believe . . .

Jews, Irish Catholics Top Religio-Ethnic Wealth

. . . According to Survey

Jews and Irish Catholics are the most wealthy religio-ethnic groups in American society, according to an analysis just completed by the Chicago based National Opinion Research Center. Italian Catholics take third place in the income sweepstakes and Protestant denominations and ethnic groups lag behind.

The study, entitled "Ethnicity, Denomination, and Inequality," was carried out for the Ford Foundation, by a team headed by Andrew M. Greeley. It was based on a "composite sample" of almost 18,000 Americans put together from 12 separate representative national surveys.

Its purpose was to determine whether and to what extent the immigrant groups which have come since the Revolutionary War have been able to succeed economically and educationally through the "equality of opportunity" the American experiment provided them.

Non-white and Spanish speaking groups were not included in the study because much better data on them is available in the data banks and

reports of the United States Census, Father Greeley said.

He acknowledged that even though the sample is the largest ever used to analyze ethnicity and inequality, research scholars would like to have better data.

Average annual income for Jews is given as \$13,340 (in 1974 dollars); for Irish Catholics, \$12,426; for Italian Catholics, \$11,748. German Catholics with \$11,632 and Polish Catholics with \$11,298 come next and then in sixth place come the highest income Protestant group — Episcopalians — who earn \$11,032 per year.

The poorest white Americans are Baptists whose annual income averages \$8,693 and Irish Protestants who earn \$9,147, according to the survey.

Among the generation under 30, both Polish and Italian Catholics have surpassed the national average in the proportion of their young people attending college. The Irish have been higher than the national proportion in college attendance since World War I. Of the Jewish young people under 30, 88 per cent have gone to college.

The NORC team found that

despite the educational and financial achievement of Catholics, there is some evidence that they are under-represented at the highest levels of professional, business, and academic life. "Irish Catholics," they write, "have the best education and the best income of any Gentile group in the country. Still, in cities in the North, British Protestants have a higher rate of occupational mobility than do Irish Catholics — they get higher prestige jobs than do Irish Catholics with the same education."

The authors report of Italian Catholics that "their educational and financial mobility is the highest in the country, but occupationally, their mobility is less than average. . . . Italians get more education than do other Americans for the same parental educational level and make more money on their jobs than do other Americans with the same kind of educational background and the same kind of jobs, but they do not get jobs nearly as prestigious as do other Americans with the same educational background."

"The question must be raised whether there is discrimination against these three groups at the

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Bishops Seek Direction For Future Social Action

The Bishop's Committee for the Bicentennial is searching out an approach for future social programs of the Catholic Church. Regional hearings throughout the country are being held to gather data from any interested person or group under the general heading of "Ethnicity and Race." The aim is to collect proposals and suggestions for social action for the next five years.

The final hearing of the series will be in Newark, N.J. Dec. 4, 5, 6. The hearing team is headed by Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark, chairman of the subcommittee sponsoring the hearings. Anyone may testify and speakers are not restricted to the theme, but may speak on any topic they feel is relevant. Groups already scheduled include the New York State Parents Group, speaking on education, and the Criminal Justice committee of the

State Catholic Conference. Members of that committee include Father Charles Mulligan, of the Rochester Office of Human Development and Sister Mary Sullivan.

The effort to collect suggestions will continue this winter with parish consultations throughout the country. Then in October 1976, a national justice conference in Detroit will develop proposals for a five-year plan for social action for the Catholic Church in the United States.

Anyone interested in testifying may contact John J. Mitchell Jr., bicentennial coordinator, Bicentennial Office, 300 Broadway, Newark, N.J. 07104. The telephone number is (201) 482-5082. Requests should be made as early as possible, as the scheduling is now going on.

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