

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Let Me Never Be Among The 'Other Nine.'

It is the eve of our annual day of official Thanksgiving, Lord.

May my act of gratitude never become only an annual event, nor one prompted only by official proclamation.



For my litany of indebtedness is endless and your giving is my daily bread.

Yet, I thank you for this special day which quickens my memory and spawns awareness of my total dependence on you, the Giver of all gifts.

I live each day, Lord, at the open end of the cornucopia of your blessings. I grasp at them as something that I have a right to expect.

The blessings I count today are such daily blessings that I have scarcely noticed them. Today I want to announce that I notice them and appreciate them.

I ask with the Psalmist: "What return shall I make to you, Lord for all that you have done for me?" I begin with a partial utterance of my dependence and plead for other voices to form a chorus to sing a hymn of praise to you Who are the source of all of our blessings.

LORD JESUS, I proclaim the emptiness of my being. I beg forgiveness for my moments of self-assertion in which I announce my own sufficiency to move mountains. I am helpless without you.

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 for Your eucharistic presence which seems to exhaust your goodness for 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-red 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 prophetic 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.

Judaism

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interpretation of the bond or adopting any political stance on Israel.

The statement, drafted by the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, was presented by Archbishop William Baum of Washington, D.C., the committee's chairman, and by Bishop Francis Mugavero of Brooklyn, N.Y., who heads the Catholic-Jewish Secretariat.

During discussion on the statement, Cardinal John Krol of

Philadelphia urged a modification dealing with Catholic-Jewish relations in the matter of church-related schools.

He pointed out that a number of Jewish groups have opposed Catholic efforts to gain state or federal aid for parochial schools and said this challenge should be reflected in the statement. He charged that legal briefs filed by major Jewish organizations in church-state court cases, particularly those affecting Pennsylvania, have been "hateful and antagonistic to Catholics." He said the statement "would not be fair to our Jewish friends" if it

does not reflect these areas of disagreement.

Later, the statement was amended to note that "certainly the Catholic view on aid to non-public schools should be the subject of serious dialogue and concern" among Catholics and Jews.

In an attempt to elicit special recognition for the current crisis in Lebanon, Bishop Joseph Tawil, Melkite Rite Exarch in Boston, urged the bishops to express their concerns for the "legitimate rights of other nations and peoples in the Middle East."

However, the motion was not approved.

The statement added that there is reason to believe that anti-Semitism is "at its lowest ebb" among Catholics, although far from elimination.

Regarding the Jewish origins of the Church, the statement pointed out that "Christians have not fully appreciated their Jewish roots. Early in its history, it went through a de-Judaizing process that dulled our awareness of our Jewish beginnings." It also noted that the de-Judaizing process "has surfaced from time to time in devious ways throughout Christian history."

Abortion

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encourage people to act conscientiously on the abortion issue.

The bishops' pastoral plan, in effect, denounces the growing acceptance of abortion and challenges "attempts to legitimize positive euthanasia through so-called 'death with dignity' laws."

The plan calls for an educational-public information effort, a pastoral program that will stress moral guidance for pregnant women and a "public policy directed toward the legislative, judicial and administrative areas" to ensure legal protection for the right to life at all human levels.

The plan also states that "efforts should continue at ecumenical consultation and dialogue with Judaism and other Christian bodies, and also with those who have no specific ecclesial alliance."

In the legislative public section of the plan, the bishops say the Supreme Court's abortion ruling violated the moral order and disrupted the legal process "that protected the unborn."

"Therefore," they noted, "a comprehensive pro-life legislative program must include efforts to pass a Constitutional amendment providing maximum protection to the unborn and passage of federal and state laws restricting abortion."

The plan also urged continuation of research on the 1973 Supreme Court rulings and "support for legislation that provides alternatives to abortion."

For implementation of the plan, the bishops proposed action on the state, diocesan and parish levels, as well as on the "congressional district" levels.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



DECEMBER

- 2— Priests' Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 2— Black Ministry Meeting, Becket Hall — 4:15 p.m.
- 3— School Visitation, DeSales High School, Geneva — 9:30 a.m.
- 4— Lopez Training Program, Pastoral Center — 8:30 a.m.
- 7— Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, St. Francis DeSales Parish Hall, Geneva — 1-5 p.m.
- 10— St. Bernard's Seminary Board of Trustees Meeting — 10:30 a.m.
- 10— Priests' Spirituality Meeting, Becket Hall — Noon.
- 10— Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Priests' Experience Seminar, St. Michael's Mission House — Conesus — 5 p.m.
- 11— Confirmation, St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street — 7:45 p.m.
- 12— Department of Education Meeting, High Acres, Geneva — 9:30 a.m.
- 12— Confirmation, Blessed Sacrament Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 13— Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 14— Confirmation, St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn — 3 p.m.
- 14— Confirmation, Sacred Heart Church, Auburn — 5 p.m.
- 18— Pastoral Office Staff Meeting — 9:30 a.m.
- 18— Celebration of Eucharist and Homily for Pastoral Office Staff — 11:45 a.m.
- 19— Financial Advisors Committee Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 21— Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Monroe Community Hospital & Home — 3:30 p.m.
- 23— Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily — Pastoral Office — 12:30 p.m.
- 24— Family Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Sacred Heart Cathedral — 5:30 p.m.
- 25— Eddie Meath Show, Channel 10 TV-WHEC — 8 a.m.
- 25— Christmas Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Ann's Home — 10 a.m.