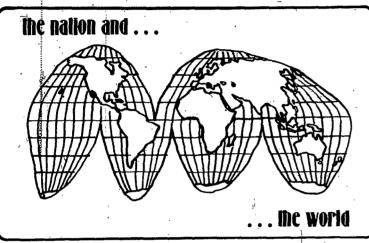


Dorothy Day's Message

Dorothy Day, famed founder of the Catholic Workers Movement, testifies at the U.S. Catholic bishops bicentennial hearings in Newark, N.J. Her message to the bishops — and to the nation about to celebrate its bicentennial — was a call to the practice of voluntary poverty, reform of the prison system, involvement in the peace movement, elimination of waste of natural resources, a simplification of the American way of life, all to form "the kind of society in which it is easy to be good."



About 10,000 Italian women marched through Rome demanding legalized abortion in Italy at the same time a permissive abortion bill cleared a major hurdle in the Italian Legislature. It is estimated by the Italian media that the number of illegal abortions equals live births there ... In Montreal, Cardinal Pericle Felici, chairman of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law, told the Canadian Canon Law Society, "A canon law is above all a pastoral law It must reflect the charity and love of God who is love and justice."

A paradox: a recent court case in Rome has unearthed the fact that it is a crime to insult religion in Italy — but not in Vatican City. A sharp lawyer discovered that the Vatican Civil Code says that it is a crime punishable by excommunication to insult the Pope, but no crime to insult religion.

A Roundup on Chile: The Nobel Peace Prize winning American Friends Service Committee has nominated the Committee for Cooperation for Peace in Chile for the 1976 award. The Chilean group, an interreligious peace and social action committee, was recently ordered disbanded by the military rulers of that country. The Quakers said the peace prize "would lift the hearts of many who are suffering in Chile and around the world." . . . Two Catholic priests recently expelled from Chile have testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on International Organizations of the Committee on International Relations that there are "shocking violations" of basic human rights in Chile. Fathers Philip Devlin and Daniel Panchot made the accusations. Together they have served more than 30 years in Chile.

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Cardinal's Last Letter Hits Abortion

London [RNS] — The last pastoral written by the late Cardinal John Heenan was read in all the churches of the Archdiocese of Westminster on the first Sunday of Advent.

Prepared on Oct. 7, a month before his death, the pastoral condemned abortion and euthanasia and told Roman Catholics that they could do much to counter "the trend of the times in order to restore some moral and social values."

Cardinal Heenan, the Roman Catholic primate of England, had prepared the pastoral for delivery on the first Sunday of Advent. Diocesan authorities asked that it be read at all Masses on that day.

In his last published words, Cardinal Heenan pointed out that in many respects "modern citizens are far more civillized and charitable than their forbears."

But, he went on, "we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that human life is no longer regarded as sacred. Now the attack is legalized."

"It has become respectable to uphold abortion, euthanasia and other forms of violence. This is partly because faith in God and His commandments has diminished."

He condemned "people calling themselves Christians" who do enormous damage to religion by murder. "Despite the sad fact of sectarian strife we know that whate is needed to restore confidence and a sense of security is faith in God and respect for God's law."

Cardinal Heenan began his

pastoral by pointing to social evils at home and abroad but then commented, "Why do I paint such a picture on this first Sunday of the Church's year?

"I do so for two reasons: First, I want to balance this gloomy picture with the good things we usually forget; secondly, I want to remind you that we do not have to wait hopelessly for the worst to happen. We can do a great deal to alter what I have called the trend of the times in order to restore some moral and social values."

In the final words of his pastoral, Cardinal Heenan wrote: "Let this Advent see the beginning of our apostolate to bring our beloved fellow countrymen to knowledge of Christ and the Church he founded for our salvation."

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