

'Justice' Reform Urged

Newark, N.J. — "When the administration of criminal justice becomes a system solely of retaliation, there is no longer true Christian justice," the New York State Catholic Conference declared in a paper delivered here during the bicentennial hearings Dec. 4, 5, 6. Concerning both state and nation, the statement called for a criminal justice system "characterized by forgiveness, reconciliation, rehabilitation and renewal."

Under the theme "Liberty and Justice for All" bishops acting for the United States Catholic Conference heard three days of testimony concerning social problems, especially those involving minorities.

(The New York presentation was prepared with the assistance of the state conference's Criminal Justice Committee. Father Charles Mulligan and Sister Mary Sullivan are Rochester members of the committee.)

The committee explained its position, quoting from scripture the lessons Christ taught concerning forgiveness: "Then Peter went up to Him and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy times seven.'" (Matt. 18:21,22)

The statement emphasized that "all too often a prime motive for the existence of criminal justice sanctions is retributive retaliation

or punishment" that runs contrary to the true Christian spirit.

It recommended that "the United States Conference of Bishops take the opportunity of the Bicentennial to set forth a clear national statement of Gospel principles basic to criminal justice to build upon the 1973 statement on Prison reform."

"Now is the time," the statement continued, "to create the context for a consensus of values as the basis for monitoring, evaluating, strengthening and reforming the criminal justice system over the next five years."

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Tonight is Christmas eve.

If I were Santa, or even Mrs. Santa, I would stuff every available adult-size stocking with this little list. No poems, no cute phrases, no slogans or certificates or novel theories. Nothing captivating. No "newer" or "bigger" gimmicks.

Just a little list.

For those among you (and there are many) who have requested documentation sources, and for those who haven't; for those who have intended to ask and for those who haven't... here are six of the most helpful sources of information I have. Because it is Christmas eve I haven't included the UNICEF or WHO publications, nor those from Planned Parenthood (national and international), nor Zero Population Growth, SIECUS (Sex Information and Education Council of the United States), and Intercom. For, in spite of the good works some of them touch upon, they are all engaged in the promotion of values and principles which are diametrically opposed to my faith in God, and are therefore out of place here tonight on the eve of the celebration of the Holy Birth.

The following publications present to thinking and grateful Americans the "other side" of numerous moral controversies which are penetrating and diluting our senses — penetrating and diluting our spiritual, physical and intellectual strengths. They represent scholarly reasoned and faithful responses to the attacks on human life in America, and on the Catholic Church in America. Their editors recognized long ago the correlations between abortion, the captive nations atrocities, euthanasia, missing POWs, fetal experimentation, contraceptive sterilizations, public sex education, drugs and population control.

L'Osservatore Romano the Vatican newspaper. Weekly edition in English is \$18.50 annual

subscription. Order from the Daughters of St. Paul, St. Paul Book & Film Center, 2105 Ontario St., Cleveland, Ohio, 44115.

Pro Ecclesia, published monthly. Edited by Timothy Mitchell, president of the Catholic Central Union of America. Contributing editors include Charles Rice of the Notre Dame University School of Law, William A. Marra, Ph.D., of Fordham University, John H. Ryder, S.J., and Father David F. Rea. \$12 a year. Pro Ecclesia, 663 Fifth Ave., New York City, 10022.

Social Justice Review, a monthly journal. Very valuable, it is, I believe, underpriced at \$8 a year. Order from Central Bureau Press 2835 Westminster Place, St. Louis Missouri, 63108. Harvey J. Johnson, editor.

Trousersed Apes, by Prof. Duncan Williams. Book of the Year in Great Britain in 1971 (the Times of London, Sunday Press), it was published in the United States in 1972. "We cannot live without God, and when we try, we lapse into carnality, seeking fulfillment in the senses." Arlington House Publishing, 165 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801. \$6.95 hardback. \$2.25 paperback.

Christ and Revolution, by Marcel Clement. Translated from the French by philosopher-scholar Dr. Alice von Hildebrandt, it is the obvious though seldom voiced response to the veritable "flood of liberation theology now inundating in churches and campuses in America." Arlington House Publishers. Same address as above. \$6.95 hardback.

The Ethics of Fetal Experimentation, by Paul Ramsey, Harrington Spear Paine Professor of Religion, Princeton University. The title is self-explanatory. Yale University Press, 92 A Yale Station, New Haven Connecticut. \$2.95 paperback.

Yes, it's Christmas Eve. And what a beautiful moment to learn again that we who fight for the sanctity of all human life, unborn and born alike, are not alone. The purity of a disciplined faith is given rebirth on this eve of the celebration of the Holy Birth.

PEACE

NEXT: A New Year's message to the Diocese of Rochester.

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Deaths

E. Vaillancourt

Elmira — Edward H. Vaillancourt of Inglewood, Calif., died Dec. 5, 1975, after a brief illness. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 9 at St. John's Church, Inglewood.

Mr. Vaillancourt was a brother of Basil J. Vaillancourt of the Mark Twain Apartments. Other survivors are his widow, Emma; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Ann Evans of Norwalk, Calif., and Mrs. Eileen Ramsey of Inglewood; two granddaughters and a niece, Mrs. Florence Konstantos of Dearborn, Mich.

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Holiday Hours

The Main Office at 89 East Avenue will close Wednesday, December 31, at 12 noon in observance of the New Year. Regular hours will resume Friday, January 2.

The Bull's Head and Hudson Avenue offices will close at 1 PM on Wednesday, December 31, and will reopen Friday, January 2, from 9 AM to 6 PM. They also will be open Saturday, January 3, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

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