

Pope Paul Hails the Bicentennial

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — In a Bicentennial message received last week by the U.S. Bishops, Pope Paul VI called upon all American Catholics to seek "increased holiness of life" as a witness to their compatriots.

And if all Americans of good will were to follow the "sound moral principles" of the Founding Fathers, he said, this country would be a "beacon of light" for the entire world.

In a 3,000-word message that addressed every segment of society, the Pope thanked America for its generosity to the poor of the world, citing particularly the work of Catholic Relief Services and the Campaign for Human Development.

He called upon the bishops to proceed with spiritual renewal "along the path of Vatican II."

He asked priests to set their priorities "in prayer and in the service of the Word," urged deacons to carry out their "ministry of service in the fullness of faith and the Holy Spirit," and exhorted the laity to give witness "of good works before the world," especially in the context of the Christian family — "a stronghold of true conjugal love, of unity and of peace."

And the Pope observed "We renew our solicitude for the full participation of women, in accordance with their role, in the life of the Church."

The pontiff went on to mention the young and the elderly and urged that various Church groups determine to "work in unity" so that the world may believe in Christ. He stressed the "ecclesial service" of the religious, particularly in education and working among the sick and suffering.

The papal message was dated June 6, Pentecost Sunday. It touched on such divergent issues as evangelization, the forth-coming International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, abortion, the mass media, ecumenism, materialism and drug abuse.

At one point, the Pope asked the bishops to revive "the heritage of Latin," particularly in the seminaries.

In pointing his message to the U.S. Bicentennial, Pope Paul expressed hope that the Holy Spirit would "bring to completion and fruitfulness the works that have been begun among you with great generosity, sacrifice and love."

"We are one with you in all your many efforts to help bring about renewal," he stated. And he urged the bishops, "united with your clergy, your religious and laity — as a single people, in communion with the entire Church of God — go forward along the path of spiritual renewal and reconciliation, along the path of Vatican II, for its full application in every sphere."

"All your efforts will likewise constitute a hymn of thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit whose action has brought such a great blessing to Christ's Church in our day," he added.

"In a word, what we view as the aim to be achieved is, without doubt, increased holiness of life, holiness that will be manifested at every level of the Church and will be a witness to society," Pope Paul declared.

He also told the bishops that the "inheritance" of the recent Holy Year to the entire Church is evangelization and he prayed that the U.S. Church would generously keep alive the missionary spirit and intensify it in an effort to make disciples of all nations.

He stressed that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of all evangelization" and of all Christian life.

The Pope also called to mind the fact that "intimately linked with progress in evangelization is the need for prayer. We are confident that you yourselves (the bishops) will be exemplars in this regard and encourage prayer among your people, especially family prayer."

Besides Catholic education and catechetics, which he described as important apostolates, Pope Paul explored the wide vistas of social action, thanking the bishops for promoting liberty and justice and for their concern with the "many needs" of their people, ranging from migrants to immigrants.

Turning to the mass media, which he said is of "special interest," the pontiff asserted that the Church's aim in the employment of the media is "crystal clear: to preach effectively Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life."

Emphasizing his support "in facing the special dangers to your country and society from abortion and euthanasia," Pope Paul insisted that "the rights of minorities call out for protection as do the rights of the poor, the handicapped, the incurably ill and all those who live at the margin of society and are without voice."

"Above all the precious right to life must be affirmed anew," he stated.

In a most topical section, Pope Paul said "we know of your efforts to fortify your people against the materialism and hedonism that menace all sectors of society." And he noted that he recently told a group of U.S. Congressmen: "At every turn, your Bicentennial speaks to you of moral principles, religious convictions,



inalienable rights given by the Creator."

"If all Catholics and people of good will were united in those sound moral principles formulated by your Founding Fathers and enshrined forever in your history," he told the bishops, "what a beacon of light America would be for the world."

Turning his thoughts "to all your beloved people, especially to those

who suffer physical and mental anguish," Pope Paul said "we pray that the rising generation will know how to bring understanding and love into the world and accept the Christian discipline necessary for them to fulfill their mission of compassion."

"We are confident in Christ's power to sustain you all in His love and in the joyful hope of His coming," the Pope said.

A Look at the Centennial in the Catholic Press

By Martin Toombs

A grand picnic will take place on the Fourth of July for the benefit of St. Mary's Orphan Boys Asylum. In the midst of lavish expenditures by which many of our citizens will manifest the ardor of their patriotism on this hundredth birthday of our National Independence, let us hope the orphans will not be forgotten.

That was the only mention of the 1876 centennial celebration in that year's July edition of the "West End Journal and Orphan's Advocate," the first Catholic newspaper printed in the Rochester diocese.

The comment must have been effective, as the August edition reports profits from the "picnic" of \$713.70 for the orphanage, at a time when a year's subscription to the monthly paper cost fifty cents, plus twelve and a half cents postage.

Father Robert F. McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary recently lent the Courier-Journal his bound copies of the early monthly.

The "West End Journal" was established in 1870 with the aim of raising funds for St. Mary's Orphan Boys Asylum and St. Patrick's Female Orphan Asylum. Financial reports in the paper reveal profits of as much as \$800 a year turned over to the institutions.

While the fund-raising purpose of the paper was always evident, the editors sought diocesan appeal by printing items of interest to the entire diocese, including fiction and poetry.

The outstanding figure during most of the paper's existence was Katherine E. Conway, editor from 1872 until the final edition in 1877. The "West End Journal" provided her with a start on a career that took her to the established Boston newspaper, the "Pilot," and then to the Boston based magazine, the "New Republic."

Two to three pages of the eight-page paper were each month devoted to serialized fiction and poetry, with a "Children's Department" providing a story with a moral for young teenagers. The paper's final three pages were advertising, with pages four and five used for "Diocesan Intelligence," describing parish activities.

During its nearly eight years of publication, the paper usually included listings of 40 Hours Devotions, Confirmations, and for a few months, a listing of Mass times in every parish in the diocese.

The newspaper provides an interesting view of the diocese when the United States was celebrating its centennial.

In 1870, the diocese was just three years old; news accounts followed the activities of Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid on many long trips through the diocese, dedicating new churches and schools and confirming.

The larger parishes in the diocese at the time were Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, St. Francis de Sales in Geneva, and the parish that became St. Patrick's Cathedral. There were only four English speaking parishes in Rochester, with German-speaking churches apparently important, but largely unmentioned in the "West End Journal."

AND ORPHAN'S ADVOCATE.

Vol. 7. ROCHESTER, N. Y., July, 1876. No. 7.

Eight deaths at St. Mary's Hospital reported in the July 1870 issue provide an insight into the population of Rochester at the time. Seven of the deceased were born in Ireland, the eighth in Germany.

The April 1870 inaugural edition reports that Bishop McQuaid was expected in New York shortly, returning from the first Vatican Council in Rome. Papal infallibility, first defined at the council, was the subject of a lengthy discussion in the September issue that year.

A description of St. Patrick's Female Orphan Asylum in the September 1870 issue praised the eight Sisters of St. Joseph there who cared for the 130 orphan girls.

The January 1876 edition reported that Bishop Wadhams of Ogdensburg had visited the diocese's schools. The account notes that he was especially impressed with "St. Mary's, Rochester, and St. Francis de Sales, Geneva."

A letter to the editor in March 1876 decried the state of literature for teenage boys, asserting that if "most vicious matter, mainly pirate, highwayman, and Indian stories" could be suppressed, "the reform school for boys would soon be empty."

The 1876 issues also noted the opening of Holy Ghost parish in Coldwater, and the establishment of a school in the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Brockport. There was also a notice that Nazareth Academy, located on Jay Street at Frank, charged \$150 for "Board, Tuition, bedding and washing, per an."

Occasionally the paper, not without problems, missed a publication date completely. In the April 1876 issue, the anniversary issue, the editor lamented that "the Journal has its limitations — too well defined for our liking. For the last three years we have noticed that despite our efforts, its profits do not rise above a certain point. Actual results are always falling

below what we have had cause to anticipate. Subscribers are slow oft-times, in paying their dues, and for this and other reasons the little paper is always a source of disappointment to us."

On July 26, 1877, the "Catholic Times," a truly diocesan paper, began publication in Waterloo, edited by Father Louis A. Lambert, pastor of St. Mary's there. The "West End Journal" acknowledged the weekly's establishment in its August edition, and concluded publication with the December 1877 issue.

The "Catholic Times" continued publication every Thursday until 1888 when Father Lambert lost his position as a priest of the diocese during a dispute with Bishop McQuaid. Father Lambert was reinstated by the Vatican, and became pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville in 1890. But in the meantime, "The Catholic Journal," forerunner of the Courier-Journal, had begun publication Oct. 5, 1889.