

What Do You Think of These Planks?

A delegation from this diocese, led by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, will be attending the U.S. Bishops Conference on Liberty and Justice for All in Detroit, Oct. 21 to 23. We are presenting a synopsized version of the recommendations to be voted upon at the conference in order to provide our readers the chance to tell the delegation their own thoughts on the recommendations. Opinions, ideas and suggestions should be sent to John Erb, Office of Human Development, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611, telephone, 328-6400.

HUMANKIND

Recommendation One — Peace and Justice Offices

1. That all Catholics cooperate in establishing offices for justice and peace.
2. That the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) Office of International Justice and Peace be encouraged and supported in its work.
3. That the USCC, through its justice and peace office, establish an office with professional staff of United Nations headquarters.

Recommendation Two — Education for Global Justice

1. A stronger focus by the bishops in their communications with each other and with the faithful on issues of justice and peace.
2. Initiation by bishops and mission societies of a program to invite representatives of the Church in the Third World to address and inform the American people of their needs and problems.
3. Invitations to all scholars to participate in the ministry of justice and peace by research into questions of global justice; establishment of justice and peace courses in colleges and seminaries.
4. Efforts by Catholic publishers and editors to use the Catholic press as a vehicle for bringing a larger and more comprehensive world view before the Catholic community.
5. Active efforts by Church leaders to make education for justice a strong element in the curriculum of Catholic schools and religious education.

Recommendation Three — Defense of Human Rights

1. Recommended that the nation's foreign policy be developed in line with the national values that have been openly reaffirmed during this bicentennial year.
2. That this assembly express its appreciation for the leadership on the issues of human rights given by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) and the USCC. We urge both to continue examining the moral dimensions of government policies and to address attention to the effects of multinational corporations with large investments in Third World countries.
3. That every Catholic and Catholic institution review their purchases and investments, applying moral and ethical criteria.
4. That in the light of the urgency of world hunger, the American Catholic community continue to implement the bishops' pastoral plan on hunger and that Operation Rice Bowl become a regular element in the annual observance of Lent.
5. That parishes promote enrollment in Bread for the World.
6. That the Catholic community continue its generous support of the relief, development and disaster aid programs of Catholic Relief Services.

Recommendation Four — Disarmament and Peace

1. That possession, proliferation, and threatened use of nuclear weapons, even in a policy of deterrence, should be evaluated in the light of consistent Church teaching on modern warfare.
2. That the Catholic community be among those who lead in resisting the spread of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.
3. That the bishops take the lead in defending human life by bringing the moral questions relative to the production and use of such weapons before the American people.

4. That peace education programs at every level of Church life emphasize the dangers and evils of the arms race.

5. That the U.S. Church support those who on the grounds of conscience refuse to serve in war or preparation for war; that Catholics support legal provision for selective and general conscientious objection to military service; and that the Church continue its support for amnesty for those who refused service in the Vietnam war.

6. That government and non-governmental agencies explore methods of promoting justice through reconciliation and economic and development assistance rather than through arms.

7. That services of penance focusing on past involvement in military combat be encouraged so that the Catholic community can face in prayer the fact that large numbers of people have already perished through the use of indiscriminate weaponry.

8. That Pope Paul's theme, "If you want peace, defend life" be explored throughout the Catholic community in various forums for study and discussion with the intent of linking the concern for the right to life with efforts to promote and end to the wanton destruction of life by modern warfare.

NATIONHOOD

Recommendation One — Political Responsibility

1. That all groups within the Church initiate programs aimed at developing greater awareness of the relationship between political responsibility and the traditions and experiences of the Catholic people themselves.
2. That committees for political responsibility be established at state, diocesan and parish levels, composed primarily of the laity.

Recommendation Two — Goals for Public Policy

1. A national commitment to avoid war and to undertake programs of disarmament should be promoted.
2. A national policy which respects human life by providing alternatives to abortion and by working to eliminate its causes.
3. A just and compassionate policy to reduce crime and to assist the victims of crime.
4. A serious national commitment to diminish poverty by providing jobs for all who can work and adequate income for those unable to support themselves.
5. Reform of public assistance to reduce the burden of taxation at the local and state levels, encourage self-reliance and community self-help.
6. A public policy of adequate health care at reasonable cost for every American, regardless of income, age, social status and place of residence.
7. Measures to limit speculation in land and natural resources and to control their use.
8. Speedy public action to insure decent housing at reasonable cost for all Americans.
9. A foreign policy aimed at providing economic, technical, and human assistance to less fortunate nations.

Recommendation Three — Morality and Public Policy

1. That this assembly commend and our bishops lend moral support to the many voluntary Catholic and interreligious groups that challenge national actions on issues of peace, disarmament, world hunger and human rights.
2. That agencies of the Church support research into the relationship between economic and political power in America that has led to such great disparity of wealth among our own people.
3. That citizens develop techniques to hold the media, especially television, accountable for the ethical and esthetic quality of its programming.
4. That government support for educational reforms aimed at promoting equal educational opportunity and an authentic pluralism of school systems, public and private.

Recommendation Four — Ongoing Implementation

1. That the NCCB establish an advisory committee

drawn from the delegates to this conference to assist in implementing its recommendations.

ETHNICITY AND RACE

Recommendation One — Equality in the Church

1. That the NCCB bring about a just representation of racial and ethnic groups in the formulation and implementation of Church policy.
2. That all church agencies establish policy objectives and affirmative action programs.
3. That in the allocation of human and financial resources, preparation of budgets and making investments, every effort should be made to see that action is taken to combat discrimination and promote justice.

Recommendation Two — Cultural Pluralism

1. That Church leadership clarify its commitment to a unity of faith in a pluralism which recognizes the right of diverse ethnic racial and social groups to maintain and develop their traditional culture or special interest.
2. That the NCCB should communicate its desire to respond to proposals for action which comes from Catholic ethnic and cultural organizations.

3. That facilities for seminary and other training for ministries among ethnic and racial groups should include multilingual and multicultural education.

4. That Catholic educators should develop multicultural programs designed to help teachers and educators become more aware of the cultural realities.

5. That scholars in colleges and seminaries study the many peoples composing the Church in the United States.

6. That diocesan and national liturgical commissions and agencies should insure adequate representation of minority groups and provide positive assistance to such groups by helping them articulate their cultural heritage within the context of prayer and worship.

7. That the NCCB take immediate action to secure more representative membership in the hierarchy of the ethnic, racial and cultural groups within the Catholic community.

Recommendation Three — American Indians

1. That the U.S. honor its treaties, executive orders and special agreements with Indian people and tribes.
2. That the NCCB support the creation of a national American Indian legislation office in Washington, D.C.
3. That the bishops support creation of attendant legislation in those states with significant Indian populations.
4. That the bishops increase their support of direct assistance to Catholic schools serving Indian children on reservations and increase assistance to Indian children living off reservations who wish to attend Catholic schools.
5. That bishops promote special higher education scholarships and financial assistance programs for Indians interested in Catholic colleges and universities.

Recommendation Four — Church Response to Discrimination

1. That this assembly commend the work of the National Office for Black Catholics and the Secretariat for the Spanish Speaking of the NCCB.
2. That the Social Development office of the USCC cooperate with the above agencies in formulating and implementing church policy on public issues.
3. That the NCCB establish a task force, with representation of the NOBC, the Hispanic community and the American communities to evaluate the work of the Bureau of Indian and Negro Missions.
4. That all official and semi-official agencies of the Church dealing with education join to make a public report on the educational needs of black, Spanish speaking and American Indian people.
5. That the Church make every effort to end all forms of discrimination, particularly in such public policy areas as housing, education, neighborhood development and job opportunities.

Archbishop Reaffirms Woman Priest Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. (RNS) — Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, president of the U.S. Catholic bishops' conference, issued a statement here in response to news reports from the Episcopal General Convention that indicated he believes the Catholic Church may "some day" be convinced to ordain women priests.

He strongly reaffirmed current Catholic Church teaching "that women are not to be ordained to the priesthood."

The prelate said he does not recall making a comment attributed to him by Bishop John M. Krumm of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, to the effect that

Episcopalians should decide the issue of women's ordination and that "some day you may convince us and we may do it, too."

"My view of the matter," said the Catholic archbishop, "remains as I expressed it in a statement in October 1975. I said that 'honesty and concern for the

Catholic community, including those of its members who advocate the ordination of women, require that Church leaders not seem to encourage unreasonable hopes and expectations, even by their silence."

"Therefore, I am obliged to restate the Church's teaching that

women are not to be ordained to the priesthood."

Bishop Krumm's reference to Archbishop Bernardin's alleged comment on the ordination of women came during the recent Episcopal convention, when the Episcopal House of Bishops endorsed the ordination of women.