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Pope Hails Convicted Rhodesian Prelate

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul among many other churchmen and civic leaders, sent a personal message of support to Bishop Donald Lamont, O. Carm., of Umtali, Rhodesia, who was sentenced to 10 years at hard labor by a Rhodesian court for aiding anti-government black nationalists.

The pontiff's message expressed the wish "certainly shared by all who maintain the same high ideals of racial justice for which he fought, that his dedication to the cause of racial equality will contribute to a more rapid realization of the desired conditions of justice and brotherhood" in Rhodesia.

"The recent efforts towards a

solution of the Rhodesian problem give hope that these attempts will not have been in vain," he added.

Bishop Lamont, who has said he will appeal the sentence, was convicted under a law which states that government authorities must be notified of the presence of nationalist guerrillas in an area. Bishop Lamont admitted that black nationalists had visited a Catholic mission station with his knowledge and permission but defended his position as a proper Christian response to those in need.

The general Vatican reactions to his sentencing was one of "surprise and bitterness because it occurred just when it seemed a solution had

been found for dealing with the situation which has led to the bishop's trial."

Sunday's (Oct. 3) edition of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican daily, observed that Bishop Lamont, as president of the Rhodesian bishops Commission for Justice and Peace, was noted both in his own country and abroad for his stand against racial discrimination and said the bishops in the United States, Australia and West Germany had expressed their solidarity with the Irish-born Carmelite prelate.

During his trial, Bishop Lamont maintained that the Rhodesian government of Prime Minister Ian

Smith, by insisting on the continuation of white minority rule, was leading Rhodesia on the path to chaos. While the trial was in progress, Mr. Smith, after consultations with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, finally agreed to accept black majority rule within two years.

The Vatican's press spokesman, Father Romeo Pancero, said in a statement that the 65-year-old Rhodesian prelate is well-known for his "public stand concerning the racial discrimination policies enforced in Rhodesia and for his courageous defense as a Christian and still more as a bishop of the principles of equality... among the peoples of the country."

He said the Vatican, which has followed the trial of Bishop Lamont with "great attention," has made known its concern over an eventual court ruling "which, beyond the person of the bishop, could also strike against the principles of justice and humanity upheld by him."

"Unfortunately," Father Pancero said, "this sentence was pronounced. The worthy prelate, to whom the Holy Father has sent a message of comfort, receives the good wishes certainly shared by those who have at heart the high ideals which he (Bishop Lamont) affirmed."

Among the world leaders who
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Consolidated School Plan Presented to DSC

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

An Urban Catholic School Task Force report which calls for the consolidation of Catholic schools by 1978 highlighted the Oct. 9 Diocesan Sisters Council meeting. Sister Marie Brown, consultant for the Religious Education Coordinators, said that there has been a real need for an in-depth study of urban schools to find ways to insure their survival.

The Task Force is working on the premise that parish supported schools can't continue much longer. They believe that all Rochester schools will have to be run through some sort of common school fund.

One "non-negotiable" item for the proposed consolidation is to save inner-city schools. The goal of the Task Force is to arrive at a method of continuing to educate the poor, Sister Marie said. Answering questions after Sister Marie's report, Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendent of the Department of General Education, said the task force work has just begun. "Everything is still in the planning stage," she said.

Sister Roberta explained that the Urban Catholic School Task Force

is concentrating on Rochester schools because "this is where the most acute need is."

The 45 member task force represents "almost every" school and is now headed by William Brown, consultant for educational planning.

Sister Roberta said that she hopes the Task Force would have its final recommendations by Feb. 1, 1977, and the plan implemented by 1978. She admitted that the Task Force proposals will probably meet some parish opposition. An information program has started to explain why such actions are necessary. Implementation of the final plan is subject to Bishop Hogan's approval.

Following the education report, Father James C. Marvin, Priests Council president, gave a report on a newly proposed procedure for the selection of bishops.

He said the priests councils throughout New York feel that dioceses should have some input in the selection of bishops.

In a prepared paper titled, A procedure for the Selection of Bishops in New York State, the priest councils propose that a

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Father Paul McCabe

Bishop Names Liaison To Charismatic Groups

Father Paul McCabe, co-pastor of St. Augustine's Church, has been named temporary liaison from the Pastoral Center to Charismatic Renewal groups in the diocese, it has been announced by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The appointment will be in effect until a permanent liaison team is named. This team will consist of

from two to seven persons and will be geographically representative of the diocese.

Father McCabe will meet with the bishop to inform him of important happenings in the charismatic community to acquaint him with any emerging problems and the responses of charismatic groups to such problems. The liaison also will keep the bishop posted on renewal directions on the national level.

Father McCabe will establish frequent, direct communication with the bishop; will represent the charismatic community on national and regional conferences; be available to individual renewal groups within the charismatic community, and will help prepare the job description of the permanent team.

Father David P. Simon is the other co-pastor at St. Augustine's.



Father Robinson, John Holmes, chairperson of the Board of Directors for the local black ministries office; Jagers, Roberson and Father Bell.

Black Ministries Leaders In First Meeting Here

Executive directors of black Catholic ministries from across the country gathered in Rochester last weekend for the first meeting in what is expected to be a loosely-knit group "sharing information, resources and support," according to Father Jerome Robinson, OP, diocesan director of the Office of Black Ministries.

The meeting, convened at the Pastoral Center Saturday, Oct. 9, included discussions of problems shared by the relatively new offices in the Church. (The first was founded in 1970.)

Chairing the meeting, Father Robinson noted, was "Grandfather" Garland Jagers, executive director for the Black Secretariate in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Mr. Jagers earned his nickname, Father Robinson said, by being the first such officer in the country.

Understandings which come from the meeting, Father Robinson noted, included a consensus that the Church must meet the needs of the community, rather than the community facing the needs of the Church.

The group noted that the various

offices feel that their funds should not be "totally the responsibility of the dioceses," but that monies should come from the larger community as well.

The group also agreed to be signatories to letters to the U.S. Catholic bishops and the public at large over the question of deaths in South Africa.

The group will meet again in March. Father Robinson was named convenor.

Other participants were Cynthia Roberson, executive director for the Secretariate for Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington; Sandra Willingham, executive secretary for the Black Catholic Caucus of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati; Father Joseph Bell, OSB, executive director of the office of Black Ministries for the Archdiocese of New York; Brother Joseph Davis, SM, executive director of the National Office of Black Catholics.

Liturgy Workshops Open in Regions

"Focus On Parish Worship," a workshop for parish liturgy committees, will be held in two series at nine different locations in the diocese. The first series will be held on four successive weekends from Oct. 23-30 through Nov. 19-20; a second series of workshops will be held in January, 1977.

Dates and locations for the first series are: Oct. 29-30, Notre Dame High School, Elmira; Nov. 5-6, St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua; Nov. 11-12, St. Catherine of Siena

Church, Ithaca; Nov. 19-20, St. Anne's Church, Rochester.

The workshops, conducted by the Diocesan Office of Liturgy, will address the development of liturgical renewal and the role of the liturgy committee. Format includes general talks, small group sessions, and prayer.

Registration information can be obtained from individual parishes or by calling the Office of Liturgy, (716) 325-3210.

Financial Review

The Diocese of Rochester this week presents its annual financial review. There is reason for thanks this year. See the special introductory letter to the review by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on Page 13.