

Papal Advisor Tells Church's Role Vis a Vis Communism

Providence, R.I. (RNS)—Catholic Church contacts with Communist states, as with other governments, are required by a "moral imperative for peace and justice in the world," according to Pope Paul's personal theologian, Cardinal Luigi Ciampi, OP.

The Church has a "moral obligation and a right" to make itself heard on social issues, he said, and "We must never allow the Communists to be the only ones concerned about social reform."

The 68-year-old Dominican was here to accept an honorary doctorate from Providence College, a Dominican institution. He was interviewed by the Providence Visitor, diocesan newsweekly.

He has been the personal theologian to three popes, over the past 22 years. Pope Paul made him a cardinal last June.

He told the Visitor's reporter that there was a dangerous tendency among Catholics to belittle the teaching authority of the

pope. He spoke critically also of the U.S. theological study of human sexuality, and made some observations on traditional and progressive approaches to theology.

The cardinal's remarks on diplomatic contacts were comments on President Carter's appointment of an envoy to the Vatican.

The Church, he pointed out, "has almost 2,000 years of experience to share with various governments of the world. The Church has a right and obligation to intervene, to praise, to counsel, to condemn or illumine governments of the world, so peace, equality and justice may reign.

"The Catholic Church," he said, "cannot and should not renounce its contacts with governments of the world, be they non-Catholic or Communist...The motive of the Catholic Church in seeking or accepting diplomatic relations with various governments is a moral imperative for peace and justice...It is not a political motive.

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Communists to be the only ones concerned about social reform."

Of traditional and progressive schools of theology, he said they were not merely using different approaches, but were "actually opposed" to each other. Father Hans Kueng he characterized, as "too progressive: his theology is more Protestant than Catholic."

Of Human Sexuality, the study put together by members of the Catholic Theological Society of America, he said, "I have read the book, and while it contains many true observations about sexuality and marriage, the authors presume to interpret the teaching of the Church. But their opinions are not Catholic opinions. When they quote the Church's teaching, the quotes are partial quotes which are taken out of context."

The authors, he continued, "are speaking in their own names and are not faithful to the authoritative teachings of the Magisterium, which is, and must always remain, the primary teaching office of the Church."

Cardinal Ciampi went on to develop this theme. "The greatest danger (today)... is a tendency to lose respect for the teaching authority of the Pope. When we lose respect for his authority, the consequence is a great lack of charity within the Church." And from this lack "flows a crisis of faith, a crisis of peace, and a crisis of joy within the Church."

He said some segments of the Church "are dangerously close to heresy in matters of the Incarnation, the Trinity, priestly celibacy and questions of sexual morality." Theologians must strive, he added, for "complete unity and total communion" with the Pope in faith and morals, and

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Gardens for Life

Photo by Susan McKinney

At the Hun-Gar (Hunger Gardens) market in the Church of the Assumption parking lot, Marty Shramek and Patricia Henry display the produce for sale to Anita Turner. The project is a joint venture of St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Fairport, The Church of the Resurrection and St. Joseph's in Penfield as well as Assumption. Persons donate produce which is then sold at retail or below retail prices. All proceeds go to the Emergency Food Shelf of the Church Women United.

Father Francis Vogt Named Palmyra Pastor

Father Francis H. Vogt, who was at St. Bridget's for nearly a quarter of a century, has been named pastor of St. Anne's in Palmyra. He succeeds Father William H. Hickey, who has stepped down because of ill health.

Father Vogt has been administrator of the Palmyra parish since July 1, when Father Hickey moved to St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, as associate pastor.

Posted to St. Bridget's in 1953, Father Vogt became pastor in 1961, and host to a variety of social service projects, professional and volunteer.

He was an Army chaplain during World War II, serving in Germany. He attended Holy Redeemer School and the diocesan seminaries, and was ordained June 11, 1938, at Sacred Heart. He has been assistant pastor at St. Anthony's, Elmira; Holy Family, Rochester; St. Francis of Assisi and St. Salome's.



FATHER VOGT



FATHER HICKEY

Father Hickey, an Auburnian, attended St. Mary's grammar school and Holy Family High School in Auburn before entering the seminaries. He was ordained June 6, 1958, and has served

at St. Stephen's Church, Geneva; St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, and Holy Rosary and Annunciation parishes. He was appointed pastor of St. Anne's five years ago.

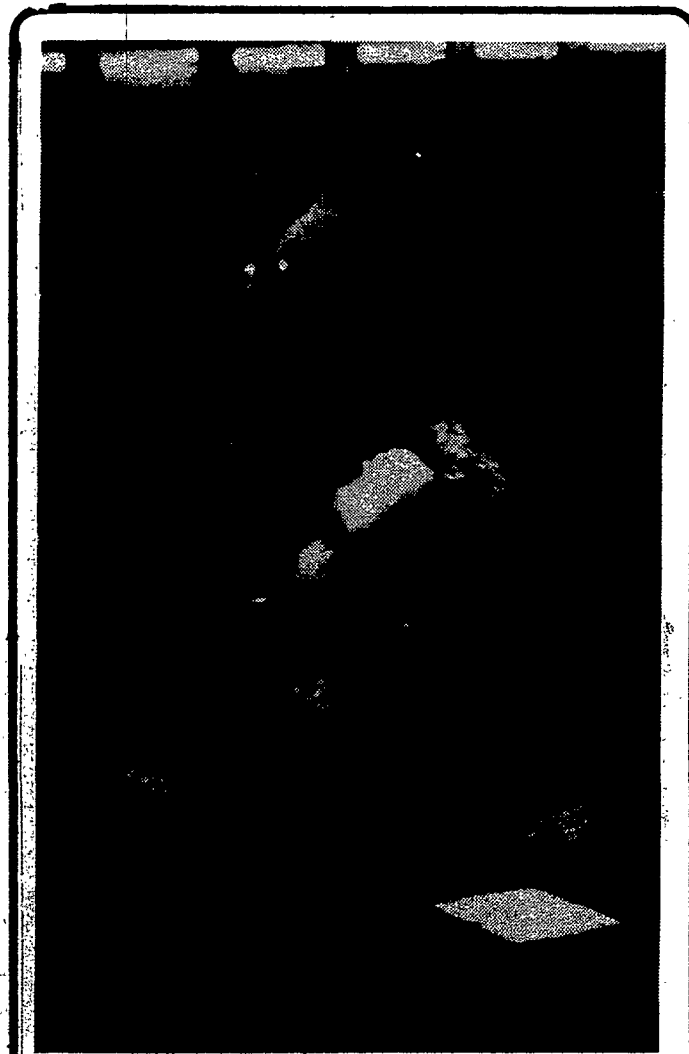


Photo by Anthony J. Costello

Mrs. Walter Conley of Ithaca kneels in prayer in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception moments before the church is filled with celebrants of the ordination of her son, Bishop Thomas Kelly, as Auxiliary Bishop of Washington. The story is told in pictures and words in the Centerfold.

Basil Vaillancourt Dies in Elmira

Elmira — Basil J. Vaillancourt, a leading Catholic layman for many years in the Elmira area, died Aug. 16 at the age of 79. Mr. Vaillancourt had been a resident of Mark Twain Apartments.

Active in Knights of Columbus activities, he also was local representative for the Courier-Journal for years. He was a fourth degree member of Knights of Columbus Council 229.

Past Faithful Navigator, Past Grand Knight, Past District Deputy, and Past Master of the Fifth N.Y. State District of the Fourth Degree. He also was involved in the operation of the former Columbus Center, home of the Knights in Elmira.

Mr. Vaillancourt was the Courier-Journal advertising and editorial representative in the Elmira area for 35 years before his retirement seven years ago.

"But even in retirement he took an interest in the newspaper," said Courier-Journal General Manager Anthony J. Costello. "He called on accounts from time to time and sold ads — in fact the Chemung Canal and Trust Co. ad in the Aug 3 Courier was Basil's work."

"He was a fine worker and a dedicated Catholic," Costello added.

Mr. Vaillancourt is survived by a niece, Mrs. Florence Konstantos of Dearborn, Michigan. His wife, Anna D. Vaillancourt, passed away May 6, 1975.

Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Patrick's Church on Aug. 18, where Mr. Vaillancourt was a parishioner.

Internment was in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery.