

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

The Battle For Justice

Throughout the world men, women and children are suffering the loss of their basic human rights. Some are being tortured, imprisoned or even put to death. It is a well-known fact that there are repressive governments which continue to stifle the freedom of their citizens. During the past several months we have heard abundant news about repressive governments in Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia, Southeast Asia, Korea and South America that have denied people their human rights. As a people of Faith we believe we have a responsibility as Christians to respond to the call of Isaiah, "to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free." For this reason, I am calling upon all of the good people in our far-flung twelve county diocese to join me this coming Sunday, September 18, 1977 in a Day of Prayer for Human Rights. As members of the Church of Rochester, it will be our privilege to tell the world and those who are suffering: WE CARE AND WE WILL HELP YOU. Monsignor Romano Guardini, in his book called THE VIRTUES, says "the whole history of mankind could be recounted under the heading: 'the battle for justice.'"



Any mention of human rights must involve the question of justice. I like Monsignor Guardini's explanation: "Justice is that order of existence in which man can participate in the world and carry on his work, and can form with other persons relations of friendship, of association, of love and fruitfulness according to the demands of his conscience. And, we must emphasize this again, this is true not only of one or another, not only of the powerful or fortunate or talented person, but of every man because he is human."

We are conscious of the many areas in our world today where human rights are being denied. There are so many "captive" nations and they must remain our concern so that we may keep the hope of freedom alive in the many people who do not enjoy the same kind of liberty and freedom which we do.

Cries for justice and human rights are heard all over the world these days. Our own diocesan missionaries in Brazil and Chile informed me of the atrocities of oppressive governments when I visited them last May.

It becomes our duty to involve ourselves in the plight of our brothers and sisters. We must unite ourselves with them in the words of our blessed Lord:

"Happy are those who work for peace among men; God will call them his sons!"

As we observe this day of prayer and concern we call upon our heavenly Father, the Father of all humankind, in the declaration of the Third General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 26, 1974:

"Prompted by the love of Christ and illumined by the light of the Gospel, let us nurture the hope that the Church, in more faithfully fulfilling the work of evangelization, will announce the total salvation of man or rather his complete liberation, and from now on will start to bring this about. The Church, in fact, as a community totally involved in evangelization, must conform to Christ who explained His own mission in these words:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for this He consecrated Me with anointing and sent Me to announce glad tidings to the poor, to give the prisoners their freedom, the blind their sight, to set the oppressed free." (Luke 4:18).

I invite you to join me in prayer this coming weekend as we call upon God for justice and peace in our time. May we be in solidarity with our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

Sisters Council Opens On 'Surprising' Note

By JOHN DASH

Two developments in diocesan activity brought reactions of surprise from members of the Diocesan Sisters Council, meeting last week for the first time in the new season.

The developments occurred within the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission and the diocesan Planning Office.

Father James Anderson, an Episcopal priest who sits on the justice and peace commission, addressed the council. He noted that the commission has grown from about eight people to about 18. He said that the major portion of the past year has been spent on questions of self-organization.

The commission, he said, was trying to find a common theology and approach to the issues as they came to the attention of the commission.

"Out of this kind of process," he noted, "the

commission has divided itself into three smaller parts.

There is an executive committee, "which steers the proper issues to the proper places," the second is a task force concerned primarily with human rights issues. Out of that task force has come such noted statements as the declaration on social justice in South Africa and the statement on political prisoners in Chile.

Both of these groups, he said, illustrate the supportive role the commission hopes to fulfill especially in the area of human rights, between the diocese and the emerging nations.

The third is the developmental group which both gathers and disburses funds to projects in the third world.

This last was a case of a previously established program in the diocese being assigned to the commission, he said.

Father Anderson then listed a number of projects funded through the commission, projects which actually span the globe.

The commission has its own budget, he said. Income for the group breaks down to \$5,000 from the mission Sunday collection, \$8,000 which represents the local administrative costs of the Catholic Relief Services and \$1,500 from the World Hunger collection.

This money is allocated to third world projects if they meet certain criteria.

Those considerations include such points as whether or not the project to be funded will be expected to grow in scope and therefore need greater monies in the future, whether the project will involve a deep change in the lives of the people involved. Father Anderson noted here that the commission does not want to fund projects that are remedial, "band-aid" approaches to problems.

The commission also considers whether or not the funding of projects represents a geographical balance for the mission sense of the donors of the diocese, whether the

projects are "credible and well-planned;" and whether there is a reasonable chance the project will succeed in its objectives.

The commission also looks to projects that have a "broad range," a value beyond the particular problem they attempt to alleviate.

Father Anderson stressed another aspect of the commissions work. He noted that a recent donation to a mission of Mother Teresa in India drew the response that the famed missionary is more in need of prayers than the

financial contributions the commission could offer.

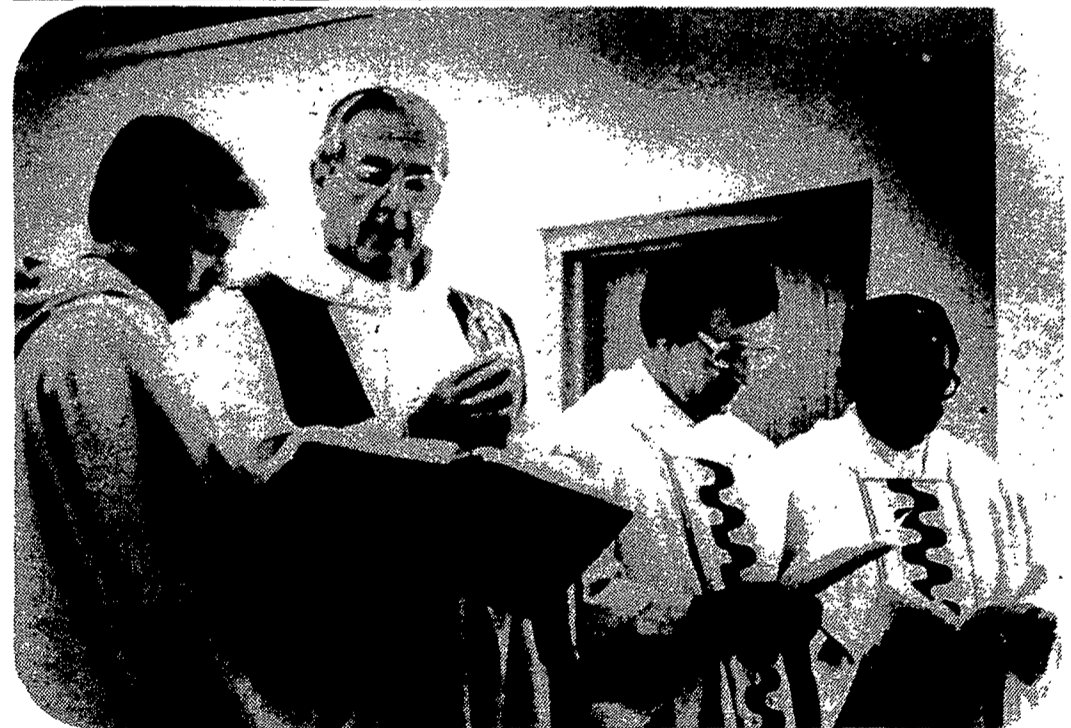
The sisters also heard from Father Peter Bayer and William Brown, both of the diocesan Office of Planning. Father Bayer, after a lengthy accounting of the history of his office, revealed that computer hardware has recently been installed to aid the diocese in its planning efforts.

Several sisters welcomed the news and appeared eager to use the data the new installation can provide.

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The sisters also approved a motion which prohibits token donations to private groups from the administrative fund of the council. It had, occasionally, been the practice that the sisters would endorse the work of private groups with both a resolution and a donation.

The sisters also heard reports from Sister Frances Sweeney on the work of the council's own Social Concerns Committee, and from Sister Marlene Vigna on the recent meeting of the National Association of Women Religious.



Photos by Susan McKinney

Anniversary

St. Mary's Hospital noted its 120th anniversary Thursday, Sept. 8. In the photo above, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan offered a special Mass with, from left, Father Michael Conboy, Father John Rosse and Father Joseph Reinhart. At right, Mayor Thomas P. Ryan presented a proclamation to Sister DeChantal, the hospital's executive director.



Bishop Hogan

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already shown our sensitivity to the world community by our concern for the people in our missions in South America. Our DIOCESAN INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION has been extensively researching and promoting ways in which we may show our concern and solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are suffering the loss of their human rights.

In conjunction with suggestions from individuals in these repressive countries, our Diocesan Commission and I believe that, at this time, a day of prayer throughout our twelve county diocese can best help those who are struggling to be free. And so, on this day, September 18, 1977, I urge you to pray for and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. Let this be a good beginning that we may continue in our diocese and in our parishes to be concerned with their struggle for freedom, justice and peace.

With every best wish, I remain
Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester.

New Pastor For Auburn Ukrainians

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Peter and Paul in Auburn has a new pastor, Father Roman Golemba, the Pastoral Office announced last week.

Father Golemba came from St. John the Baptist Parish in Syracuse Sept. 1 to take the place of Father John Squiller. The latter, pastor of the Auburn church since June 1969, is teaching at St. Basil's Preparatory School in Stamford, Conn. The priests are under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, Conn.