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Pope in Strong Plea for Peace

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul, in his 1978 World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) message, has once again made an eloquent plea for peace, scoring, as he has done frequently before, the very concept of modern war as an "absurdity," and denouncing with special vigor the "spreading" phenomenon of individual and "private" group violence.

The message, with its theme, "No to violence, yes to peace," was described by the Vatican as a natural extension and application of the Pope's 1977 World Day of Peace theme, "If you want peace, defend life."

The text of the 1978 papal message was presented to reporters Dec. 20 by Father Roberto Rucci, SJ, director of Vatican Radio.

Addressed to all persons of good will, and in particular to world leaders and moulders of opinion, the message pleads for deep reflection on the meaning of true peace.

It noted that "the history of our time is studded with the flowers of splendid documentation in favor of peace — a peace that has been carefully thought out, desired, organized, celebrated, and defended

... This will be confirmed by the next special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which will be devoted to the problem of disarmament, and also by the numerous efforts of both great and humble workers for peace."

The Pope went on to remark that "one still has confidence that (the world can avoid the) desperate recourse to the use of arms, which today, as never before, is insanely murderous and destructive."

"The conscience of the world," he said, "is horrified by the hypothesis that peace is nothing but a truce and that an uncontrollable conflagration can be suddenly unleashed."

"We would like to be able to dispel this threatening and terrible nightmare by proclaiming at the top of our voice the absurdity of modern war and the absolute necessity of peace — a peace not founded on the power of arms that today are endowed with an infernal destructive capacity (let us recall the tragedy of Japan), and not founded on the patient, rational, and loyal dedication to justice and freedom, such as the great international institutions of today are promoting and defending."

Pope Paul then lashed out at what he called "the phenomenon of passionate or premeditated violence" of individuals and "private" groups.

"This phenomenon is spreading in modern civilized life," he said. "(It) is taking on alarming proportions, to the extent that it is becoming habitual. By reason of the anti-judicial terms in which it is expressed, it could be called criminal."

The pontiff said this violence stemmed from "a decay of the moral conscience, which... had extinguished in the spirit the taste for commitment to honesty... as well as for true, noble, and faithful love."

He continued: "Often the psychology of violence takes its origin from the depraved root of deliberate revenge... The only restraint is the fear of incurring some public or private sanction. Hence, the usual expression of this form of violence is one of hidden actions, of cowardly and treacherous acts."

"Violence is not courage. It is the explosion of a blind energy that degrades the person who gives into it."

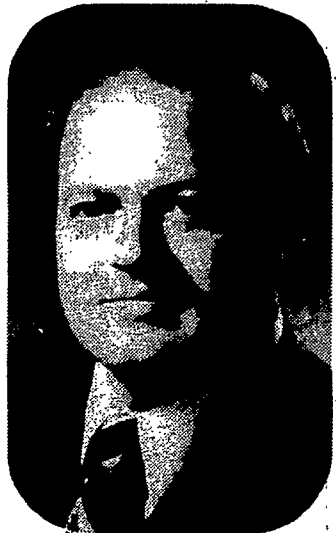
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Every Christmas Day it is the custom of the Pope to deliver his "Urbi et Orbi" (to the City of Rome and the world) address from the outer balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. (Religious News Service photo).

Sr. Suzanne Joins Brazil Mission

"Be not afraid, I go before you always," was the theme of the Departure Ceremony for Sister Suzanne Wills last week at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse



ANTHONY J. COSTELLO

Named Director

Anthony J. Costello, publisher and general manager of the Courier-Journal, has been named an at-large member of the Board of Directors of the New York Press Association. As an at-large director, Costello will represent the more than 200 newspapers across the state that belong to the association. He will serve a two-year term.

Sister's family and friends gathered to "send" her in the name of the Church to spread the Gospel in Brazil.

Sister Jamesine Riley, Superior General of the congregation, delivered the homily. The presentation of the mission cross was followed by prayers for Sister as she begins her missionary work. A reception followed the rites

Sister Suzanne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Wills

Vila Bella Sends Thanks

The 2,500 families of Vila Bella who received water filters and shoes for their children through a special Courier-Journal campaign last Spring send their thanks to diocesans in a special two page spread on Pages 8 and 9.

The filters and shoes are defenses against worms infestation, the major disease afflicting children throughout South America. Vila Bella is in Brazil where Sisters of St. Joseph work as missionaries. The Sisters also send their thanks to the diocese in a letter which is part of the special two pages.



SR. SUZANNE

of Holy Rosary Parish, made her final profession as a Sister of St. Joseph in 1970. She will leave Rochester Jan. 1 to join other members of her congregation working in the interior of Brazil.

She has served seven
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Father Siudara Dies, Was Newark Valley Pastor

Father Matthew A. Siudara, associate pastor of the Church of the Annunciation and former pastor at Newark Valley, died unexpectedly Dec. 22, 1977. He was buried Tuesday from his home parish, St. Stanislaus, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Father Siudara would have celebrated in the new year 35 years of service as a priest of the Diocese of Rochester

Born in 1918, the son of Andrew and Stephanie Hubinski Siudara, he attended St. Stanislaus grammar school, St. Andrew's High School and St.

Andrew's Minor Seminary. He was ordained from St. Bernard's Seminary on June 5, 1943, by Bishop James E. Kearney.

Father Siudara's first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, a post he held until 1959, when he was named pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Newark Valley and St. Francis Church in Catatonk

During his pastorate he supervised the redecoration of both churches as well as their parish halls.

He celebrated his silver jubilee as pastor of those parishes.



FATHER SIUDARA

In 1973, Father Siudara established the parish council in the area

Father McDonald Named St. Augustine's Pastor

Father Elmer McDonald, former pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Greece, will become pastor of St. Augustine's on Jan. 4, the Pastoral Office announced.

Father McDonald was assistant pastor of the Chili Avenue parish in the mid-sixties and continued to live there while he was organizing St. Christopher's in North Chili. The latter was established in June 1968 and had a modern church and

rectory by January of 1971. The founding pastor was the first regional coordinator for the South West Region.

The Courier-Journal recorded in September 1968 that Father McDonald had logged 6,000 miles during the summer traveling between St. Augustine's and the St. Christopher neighborhood, where "church" was in the Medical Arts Building. An earlier story told of his making a

2,000-mile flight in one day to hear a single confession. As a Navy chaplain stationed at Kodiak in the Aleutian Islands, Father McDonald had the duty of hearing the confessions of a priest in Adak, 1,000 miles away, the story explained. He also made a 1,200-mile trip every six weeks to say Mass for five men at an isolated Coast Guard station.

Before going to the Far

North, Father McDonald was with the Navy in Korea. He entered the service in 1953.

He has served also at Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He was born in Rochester Aug. 23, 1924, entered St. Andrew's Seminary from St. Monica's School and was graduated from St. Bernard's and ordained to the priesthood in June 1949.