

DISARMAMENT

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for Survival issued a "New Year's Pastoral Letter on Human Survival" in New York during the first week of 1978, to be sent to churches and synagogues throughout the country. It was signed by 70 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders.

"Let us consecrate 1978 as the Lord's Year of Power," the pastoral letter urged, "a year in favor of human life. Let us proclaim our horror at the neglect of the poor, the violation of life worked in our midst by the sinister presence of nuclear idols. Let us work with our people, especially in areas of nuclear contamination and danger, to create root communities of resistance."

At a press conference held to announce the pastoral, Dr. William Sloane Coffin Jr., senior pastor of the Riverside Church in New York, declared that "the arms race is out of control and arms control is not the answer."

He explained that "in the first place, arms control hasn't worked; more importantly, it validates the arms that remain. Disarmament is the only answer and nuclear disarmament the first order of business. If we say nuclear disarmament is impossible, are we not really admitting that nuclear warfare is inevitable?"

Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican's top diplomatic negotiator, made a similar point in addressing an ecumenical service in New York marking Pope Paul's World Day of Peace observance. He said that "man is condemned to peace if he does not want to be condemned to catastrophe," and called for

"total and general" disarmament in the world and "elimination of the causes of violence."

The Vatican official also stressed that a preoccupation with security has caused major powers to escalate their arms potential which "besides imposing a heavy burden on world economy, perpetuates a psychology of insecurity, instability, fear and the possibility that 'acts of desperation' will be provoked."

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), a noted evangelical activist, has contended that proponents of advanced nuclear weapons who see them as deterrents to actual warfare are guilty of faulty reasoning.

Writing in *The Interpreter*, monthly program journal of the United Methodist Church, the Conservative Baptist layman notes that "because a prospective enemy would realize such precision reduces NATO's hesitancy to use these weapons in response to a conventional attack, the neutron bomb is said to increase the likelihood of dissuading an enemy from launching such an attack."

But, Sen. Hatfield continues, "an inherent, inescapable risk outweighs this possible benefit. The very characteristic that gives these nuclear weapons their deterrence capability — the belief that they could be used as a localized, battlefield weapon — increases the likelihood they would be used."

Disarmament conferences and appeals for an end to weapons of war are not new. An unprecedented joint pastoral issued by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales to mark Peace Sunday (Jan. 29), pointed out that "it is already 12 years since Vatican II declared: 'The arms race is one of the greatest

curse of the human race and the harm it inflicts on the poor is more than can be endured."

The British Catholic leaders said they "want to encourage organizations working for peace; want constructive support for more research... want to promote centers for peace studies... above all, want to replace people's apathy and despair with creative hope and to encourage among you that will to peace without which the work of the United Nations conference will come to nothing."

Other disarmament conferences have failed to halt the spread of arms. But the upcoming UN session presents an unusual opportunity. Alan Geyer writes, "The special session is potentially the most crucial disarmament meeting ever convoked. It is surely the most substantial opportunity the UN has yet offered to bring the world's multiple arms race under effective international security and control."

He points out further that "if it does not turn out to be a forum for negotiations (and it probably will not be), it can be a landmark event in concerning the policies of governments and mobilizing opinion and public will."

The opportunity is there. Religious leaders and communities have already mobilized to meet it. The next step is up to the UN and its constituents.

Pope on Lent

Share Goals

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul has urged Catholics to make Lent a special time of sharing of goods with others, from almsgiving to individuals, to contributions to charitable fund-raising campaigns.

"Lent," said the Pope in his 1978 Lenten Message, "is a time that brings us closer to Christ, and, through Him, closer to one another. Lent is a time for fellowship and fellowship involves sharing in common."

He referred to a description of the life of the first Christians in Acts 2:44: "Those who believed shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one's need."

"Thus," the pontiff continued, "the first

Christians spontaneously practiced the principle that the goods of this world are intended by the Creator to meet the needs of everyone without exception. So sharing is a fundamental attitude, and the Christian finds joy in sharing... the heritage that God has generously placed at the disposal of everyone."

"The Christian finds joy in the many ways of showing love for one's neighbor, from almsgiving to deserving individuals, to collective contributions for the advancement of peoples who are at material disadvantage."

"Let us make a practice of sharing as a sign of friendship with everyone," Pope Paul urged, "for everyone is called to share in the mystery of the cross and resurrection of Christ."

Lenten Series Scheduled

Corning — A Lenten lecture series on Wednesday evenings beginning Feb. 15 and ending March 15 will be offered at Corning Catholic School South. Sponsored by the education committees of St. Mary's and St. Vincent de Paul parishes, each session will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. The series is open to the public.

Joseph Kelly, director of continuing education at St. Bernard's Seminary, will be the featured speaker for the first four meetings. On Feb. 15, he will discuss "What is Scripture?" On Feb. 22, "Two Creation Accounts in the Book of Genesis" will be his topic, followed by "Properly Understanding Old Testament Prophecy in Christian Context" on March 1. On March 8, he will discuss the Book of Job, "If God is a God Why is There Innocent Suffering in the World?"

On March 15, the film "Passover" will be shown, followed by a discussion led by Marcia Cohen.

Parish Sets Two Series Of Lectures

In addition to the Bible study talks scheduled at St. Boniface for the next three Thursday nights, a series of five lectures will be presented on Wednesdays, beginning tonight, by the parish education committee.

Opening the series tonight at 7:30 will be Dr. Janet Foy. Her topic: The Church and the Aging Person.

On Feb. 22, Sister Josepha Kennedy will sketch the history, and possible future, of women in the Church. Her talk will be preceded by a pot-luck supper at 6.

CORRECTION

The Diocesan Pastoral Council Retreat Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18, is scheduled for Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Rd., East Rochester, and not the Cenacle Retreat House as reported previously.

Panama

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assure the senators of their support of the treaties. Timothy McCluskey, a third year student at St. Bernard's Seminary and Human Rights Task Force member, is also sending letters to other groups and agencies in the diocese, such as faculty members at area colleges and universities, members of GEM, and editors of area newspapers explaining the commission's reasons for favoring the Panama Treaties and asking for their support.

The background paper includes information on how the canal came to be, the treaty that is now in effect, U.S. interests in the canal, how the treaties being debated would affect our relations with other third world countries and what Panama's interests are.

The paper also quotes Archbishop McGrath of Panama, visited by Bishop Hogan last year, who strongly favors Panamanian control of the canal.

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Apalachin Retreat Set

Apalachin — Better World Movement will conduct a four-day retreat at St. Margaret Mary's Parish here beginning Feb. 20.

The Lenten Retreat will begin nightly at 7 and will focus upon Christian Community. A visiting priest, sister and lay person will form a team to lead the discussion sessions.

All parishioners and persons interested are invited to attend, according to Father Elmer Schmidt, pastor.

McGowan stated that both are on record as supporting the treaties and the commission hopes that support continues.

Copies of the paper have been sent to all parish human development committees and the Social Action Committee of the Consultative Bodies (Diocesan Pastoral Council, Diocesan Priests Council and Diocesan Sisters Council) asking them to

NFP Class Scheduled Feb. 23

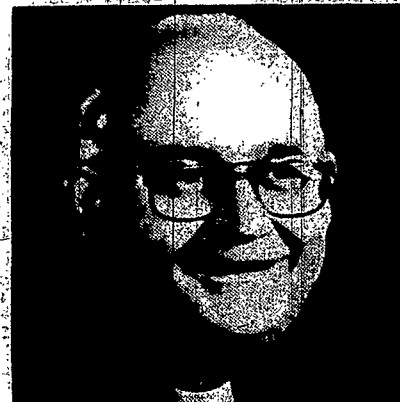
A Natural Family Planning Program class is scheduled for 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23 at Christ the King parish in Irondequoit.

The class is limited to six couples and registration, which is required, may be made by calling the NFP office at 716-464-8705.

NFP offers the classes for engaged or married couples with a fee of \$15 to cover costs of books and supplies, though the office notes that it never turns away any couple for lack of funds.

Ed and Maxine McDonald and Al and Marty Cardona will be the instructors. They have completed an intensive training program and are certified to teach the method, according to the NFP office.

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