

Today's Courier April 18, 1979

Clear Call 12

A loud and clear call from several parishes that parish assessments be reduced was heard before the CCGEB approved its budget to operate the Elmira Catholic Schools next year. Increasing parish costs in the face of declining income apparently was behind the plea for a lessening of the burden on the parishes for the schools' operation. The necessity of seeking outside funding sources was seen as the top priority.

Pope Raps Marxism..... 5

Pope John Paul II challenged a group of students in Rome to pursue social activism, but in the manner of non-violent Christians and not Marxist revolutionaries.

'Sports Night' 13

The Rochester Zeniths' Paul Zaretsky was the featured guest at St. Margaret Mary's annual "Sports Nite" recently. The event honors young athletes in the parish and Zaretsky was on hand to present trophies and to give the main speech.

Congress Set 5

Parishes throughout the Southeast Region have completed their plans for a region-wide "Mini Congress" to be held April 29 at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport. The gathering has been under discussion for nearly a year and will be a forum for airing the concerns of the region.

NFP Conference 7

Three nationally known experts in NFP, family counseling, and pro-life activities will be the featured speakers as the Conference on Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning opens next week at the Americana Inn Towne House. The speakers at the conference will be Dr. Paul Marx, the Benedictine priest-sociologist; Bonnie Mannion, the foundress of Birthright Oregon; and Jack Quesnell, the author of Marriage: A Discovery Together.

Laud Teachers 5

Teachers of religious education in the Northwest Region will be lauded for their work at a special dinner April 25. The evening will include further training for certification in the diocese.

Stop Aid 2

A major voice in the United States Catholic Conference, has called on Congress to reduce military aid to President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, in view of the violations of human rights which he said exist there. Father J. Bryan Hehir has testified before two committees who are deliberating the issue.

Celibacy

From 1

Christ and the Church and that promise is at the same time the proof of genuine fidelity to oneself, one's own conscience and one's own humanity and dignity."

The pope drew a parallel between the Catholic doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage and the permanence of ordination, concluding that fidelity to the priestly vocation should serve as an example to married couples of the permanence of their marital bonds. "Perhaps not without good reasons," he said, "one should add at this point that the commitment to married fidelity, which derives from the Sacrament of Matrimony, creates similar obligations in its own sphere. This married commitment sometimes becomes a source of similar trials and experiences for husbands and wives, who also have a way of proving the value of their love in these 'trials by fire.' Love, in fact, in all its dimensions, is not only a call but also duty.

"Finally, we should add that our brothers and sisters joined by the marriage bond have the right to expect from us, priests and pastors, good example and the witness of fidelity to one's vocation until death, a fidelity to the vocation that we choose through the Sacrament of Orders just as they choose it through the Sacrament of Marriage."

The pontiff stressed that "the priestly personality must be for others a clear and plain sign and indication" (of spiritual commitment). He argued that "it is very easy to let oneself be guided by appearances and fall victim to a fundamental illusion in what is essential. Those who call for the secularization of priestly life applaud its various manifestations will undoubtedly abandon us when we succumb to the temptation. We shall then cease to be necessary and popular."

Finally, the pontiff acknowledged that the Church is suffering from a shortage of priests, but advised greater spirituality and less emphasis on temporal problems to overcome this. "Perhaps in these recent years — at least in certain quarters," he noted, "there has been too much discussion about this priesthood, the priest's identity, the value of his presence in the world, etc., and on the other hand there has been too little praying

"Prayer helps us always to find the light that has led us since the beginning of our priestly vocation, and which never ceases to lead us, even though it seems at times to disappear in the darkness."

Columnists

Because of the Easter holiday, the Courier-Journal columnists are on vacation this week. They will return next week.

Anniversary

Geneya — The St. Stephen's Prayer Community will celebrate its seventh anniversary with an 8 p.m. Mass on Monday, April 23. Father Jerome Robinson, OP, executive secretary of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries will be the principal celebrant. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the Mass.

Cut Marcos Aid, USCC Asks Congress

Washington, D.C. — Citing first hand reports from missionaries of human rights abuses by the Philippine government, a U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) official urged Congress to make substantial reductions in the amount of military aid which the Carter Administration has requested for that country.

Father J. Bryan Hehir, the USCC's top political scientist, said the administration's aim to provide much higher military assistance to the government of President Ferdinand Marcos "will

negate whatever impact the cuts in last year's appropriations had, as well as the effect of U.S. diplomatic representations on human rights abuses."

In current foreign aid appropriations, the Carter Administration is proposing \$95.7 million for the Philippines as opposed to the \$37 million average of the four previous fiscal years.

Father Hehir, USCC associate secretary for social development and world peace, said, "approval by this

Congress of the full amount requested for fiscal year 1980 cannot fail to convince President Marcos that U.S. human rights diplomacy is pure rhetoric as far as he is concerned."

In testimony before both the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, Father Hehir said, "We urge the Congress this year to make more than a token reduction, and suggest that it might take the form of elimination entirely of the requested \$25 million of grant military aid."

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