

In Ireland IRA Rejects Pope's Plea

Belfast, Northern Ireland (RNS) — Pope John Paul II's fervent plea for an end to violence in Northern Ireland has been given the brush-off by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"In all conscience," said the IRA in a statement, "we believe that force is by far the only means of removing the evil of British presence in (Northern) Ireland."

The stated aim of the IRA Provos' campaign of violence — bombings, assassinations, ambush attacks — is to force the British troops out of the province as a prelude to the reunification of the six heavily Protestant northern counties with the 26 Roman Catholic counties of the Republic of Ireland.

Nearly 2,000 people have been killed in the sectarian

violence in Northern Ireland since British troops were sent in 10 years ago. The violence has involved the Ulster Defense Association, an extremist Protestant paramilitary organization, the IRA Provisionals, British soldiers, and elements of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

During his recent visit to Ireland, Pope John Paul made an impassioned appeal for peace in Northern Ireland.

"I wish to speak to all men and women engaged in violence," the Polish-born pontiff said. "On my knees I beg you to turn away from the path of violence and to return to the ways of peace. You may claim to seek justice. All should believe in justice and seek justice, but violence only delays the day of justice. Violence destroys the work of justice. Further violence in Ireland will only drag down

and ruin the land you claim to love and the values you claim to cherish."

Firmly rejecting the papal plea, the IRA Provisionals in their statement, said that the roots of the present troubles have their source in social and economic deprivation for which the IRA blamed Ulster's Protestant majority and the British government.

Meanwhile, in Dublin, the political arm of the Provisional IRA issued a statement saying that Pope John Paul's visit to Ireland had not changed the fundamentals of the Northern Ireland situation, that there would be no point in a cease-fire unless it could lead to a permanent peace, and that there could be no permanent peace until Britain decided to withdraw from Northern Ireland.

Exiled Bishop Due Here Saturday

Bishop Eduardo Boza Masvidal, a Cuban who was imprisoned and then deported for his public criticism of the Castro government, will hold a press conference at the Airport Holiday Inn at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13. A

luncheon will follow there.

Living in exile, the prelate is bishop of Caracas, Venezuela. His visit here is sponsored by the Cuban Lyceum. The organization represents about 250 families of Cuban lineage who live in this area, ac-

ording to the secretary, Dr. Marcel Weiss. Bishop Boza Masvidal will celebrate Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 77 Whitney St., and in the evening will speak at a formal dinner at the Americana Hotel.

GEM Invites Public to Refugees' Party

Refugees from all over the world and the people who helped them settle in the Rochester area will be entertained Saturday night, Oct.

20 by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. The "World Community Celebration" will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Rd. The public is invited.

various religious and non-sectarian refugee sponsorship and host programs," the GEM announcement says. "Thousands of people fleeing persecution and famine in their own lands have settled here. They have become self-reliant and contributing members of our community. World Community Celebration Day is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the new life so many have found here and to learn about sponsorship programs."

Guess Whom He'd Invite To Dinner

Tommy R. Thomas, a third grader at St. Lawrence in Greece, had this idea. He came rushing home from school and greeted his mother, Wendy Thomas, with "Guess what, Mom, the Pope is coming to our country!"

"I know," answered his mother.

Well, Tommy asked, "Do you think we could have him over for dinner?"

Obviously the Pope has some appeal for youngsters and we have the suspicion that he would have liked to break bread with the Thomases.

Entertainment will include Laotian dancers and musicians, a Vietnamese band and performers from other countries. A coffee hour will offer international fare.

"Since 1975, through

Jail Ministry

Continued from Page 9

received eight immediate responses from the parishioners, a sizeable number from one parish.

There are few tangible rewards received from Jail Ministry, Hodgetts said. Many of the prisoners are not responsive to the volunteers and all the service provided by the volunteers isn't nearly enough to solve the problems of all the prisoners held in the jail.

"The biggest reward to me is that I've tried to do God's will. I know I've done my best to help these people, and once in a while I know that I've actually helped someone get through the ordeal of being in jail," he said.

NEXT WEEK: Several laymen who are studying for the Permanent Diaconate will discuss Jail Ministry and why they became involved in the program.



"John Paul II in Poland" Festival of Polish Films

SATURDAY Oct. 13 3 p.m., 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.
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