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Bishop Endorses Stevens Boycott

My Dear People:

In the history of the People of God there have been countless struggles to seek justice. This justice, which is from God, consists of fairness, equality, dignity and freedom from fear. Remember the struggles of the Jewish people to serve God in freedom, the struggles of immigrants to seek a world of equality, and the struggles of workers to bargain fairly and work in dignity.

Among the many struggles for justice today is that of the textile workers in the South, striving to organize at plants of the J.P. Stevens Company, the second largest textile manufacturing company in the U.S. Since 1963, the Company has been involved in almost 1,000 violations of the law. It has been found guilty of violating the National Labor Relations Act more than any company in American history. Despite the vote of workers in 1974 to be represented by the Textile Workers Union of America (now part of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union), the company has resisted the rights of workers to unionize.

J.P. Stevens and Company has been found guilty of discriminatory employment practices, the firing and threatening of pro-union employees and the coercion of employees through interrogation. Thousands of workers have been disabled by brown lung disease, caused by cotton dust levels almost three times as high as national minimum health standards allow.

Since Pope Leo XIII in 1891 the Church has declared that Christians are responsible for the improvement of the conditions of labor. In modern times the words of the Second Vatican Council have challenged society to justice: "Among the basic rights of the human person must be counted the right of freely founding labor unions. These unions should be truly able to represent the workers and to

contribute to the proper arrangement of economic life. Another such right is that of taking part freely in the activity of these unions without risk of reprisal." (Gaudium et Spes. 68)

Many individuals and organizations have spoken prophetically in defense of justice for the workers at Stevens' plants. In March, after more than two years of studying the issues and offering to mediate the differences between the company and the workers, the six Roman Catholic bishops from the four Southern states in which most of the J.P. Stevens' plants are located, decided it was time to choose between justice and injustice. They endorse the consumer boycott of all J.P. Stevens products, terming it "a legitimate and effective instrument towards the promotion of justice" for workers.

I wish at this time to join my fellow bishops, the many individuals and groups in supporting the consumer boycott of all J.P. Stevens products, until the company responds to the rights of workers to organize and bargain in contract negotiations in good faith. I urge all parish councils and Catholic institutions in the diocese, all retailers and consumers, and all people of good faith to examine their conscience in regard to this dispute and respond to this call by so many workers and by my brother bishops. We affect the lives of others by what we buy and don't buy, sell or don't sell. My support of this boycott is, I pray, a witness to the action that the gospel promotes. Let us stand together seeking fairness and peace. May there be justice done in this case and reconciliation achieved.

Your Brother in Christ,

+ Matthew H. Clark

+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Vatican Sternly Assails Abuses

By Daniela Iacono
Religious News Service
Correspondent

Vatican City — Citing "concern at the varied and frequent abuses" in the Roman Catholic world, the Vatican has released a stern no-nonsense document that leaves no question as to its stand on such matters as the role of women in the liturgy, appropriate dress for priests, and the proper celebration of the Eucharist.

The text, released by the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, describes the consequences of excessive innovation as "scandal and bewilderment among the people of God and the near inevitability of violent reactions."

"Undue experimentation, changes and creativity bewilder the faithful," it

charges. The document was written in response to Pope John Paul's Feb. 24 letter to the bishops, and approved by the pope April 17.

In his letter, the pope had said that the church forbids such practices as priests' wearing inappropriate dress, administering Communion to those who have not been absolved of sin through confession, or permitting the reading of non-scriptural texts during the Eucharist.

The new document is being viewed here as the Vatican's definitive word to reform-minded Catholics everywhere.

The Vatican defines major abuses as:

— Confusion of roles, especially those of the priest and of the laity by in-

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Cancer Claims Father Beatini

Father Joseph Peter Beatini, an American-Italian who was decorated by the government of his parents' homeland for his work with immigrants to this country, and who later assisted earthquake victims in Italy, died Sunday morning, May 25, 1980. He had been pastor of the Church of the Assumption in Fairport for the past five years, and earlier had spent 21 years at St. Francis Xavier in innercity Rochester.

After a brief illness, Father Beatini died of cancer at the age of 58.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was principal concelebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial last Thursday in the Fairport church. Father Beatini lay in state at his home parish, St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls on Tuesday and at Assumption on Wednesday.

He was born in Seneca Falls Dec. 15, 1921. He attended school there, at St. Patrick's and Mynderse Academy, and went on to St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Bishop James E. Kearney ordained him June 11, 1949, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, and assigned him to St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn, for six years. In 1954, he was posted to Rochester's St. Francis Xavier, and from 1964 until 1975 he was pastor of the Bay Street parish. He



FATHER BEATINI was Diocesan Director of Sodalities, 1959-61.

His next-of-kin are two brothers, Eli and Peter Beatini, both of Seneca Falls. There are several nieces and nephews.

In March, 1967, Father Beatini was made a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity, in recognition of his work among Americans of Italian descent, and especially of his assistance to immigrants over the years. The honor was conferred at the Italian General Consulate in New York City.

After two devastating
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Three Pastorates Filled

New pastors were named last week for St. Andrew's Parish, Rochester; St. Agnes, Avon, and Holy Ghost, Coldwater.

Father John Hempel will return to diocesan duty to take the St. Andrew's post vacated by Father Bernard F. Dollen, who was appointed in April to St. John of Rochester.

Father Hempel has spent the past year as a Veterans Administration chaplain in San Francisco.

Father Charles A. Bennett of Old St. Mary's will leave his downtown apostolate for St. Agnes, Avon. The parish has been without a pastor since the death of Father Henry Atwell March 24.

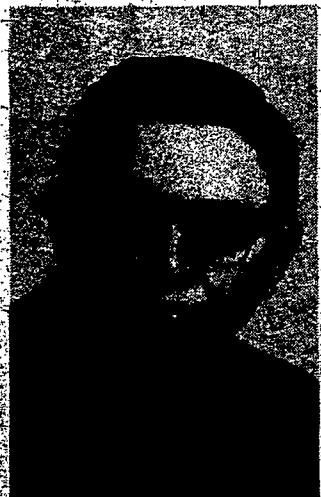
Father Gennaro J. Ventura, pastor of St. Francis de Sales in Geneva since 1970, will move to Holy Ghost when Father Edward E. Steinkirchner takes up his new pastorate at St. Michael's, Newark.

All of the appointments announced over the past several weeks are effective officially on June 25.

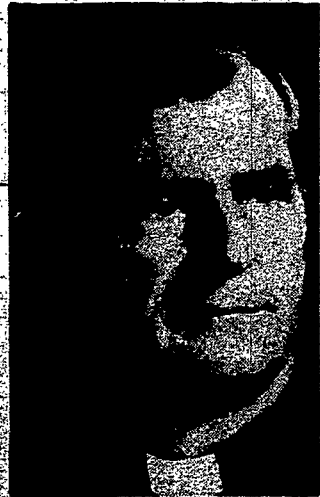
Father Hempel was ordained from St. Bernard's on June 5, 1954. He had chosen the priesthood after five years of Army service, as an enlisted man and a commissioned officer during World War II. He is a former Becket Hall rector, Human Development director and chaplain at St. Ann's. He also was a National Guard chaplain here for 15 years, and has served at Blessed Sacrament, St. Anne's, St. Jerome's, and Holy Cross in Charlotte. He attended St. Ambrose School, Aquinas Institute and Fordham University before entering the seminary, and did graduate work at Catholic University.

Father Bennett was ordained June 12, 1949, at his home parish, St. Alphonsus, Auburn. He has been an associate at St. Mary's in downtown Rochester off and on for 16 years, developing a regular "beat" among

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FATHER BENNETT



FATHER HEMPEL



FATHER VENTURA