

IRELAND: Is Unity Possible?

By Julie Delany
Religion Today

News item: A cross is carved in the forehead of a child in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

News Item: Ulster assumes unyielding stance on Catholic issue after night of Catholic-Protestant riots, gun battles and widespread arson. Five men were shot dead and 10 seriously injured in Belfast violence.

News Item: Cardinal William Conway, the Roman Catholic primate of all Ireland, said religion is not an issue in the crisis and his church has no desire to impose its moral outlook on Protestants in a united Ireland.

After 10 years of bitterness, 2,000 dead and 20,000 injured, a peace settlement in Northern Ireland will not be easy. Michael Mills, a correspondent for The Irish Press and a resident of Dublin, said:

Many Irish-Americans have an oversimplified approach to the problem, he feels. "Get the British out," they argue, "and the problems will be solved."

This "superficial thinking" is not peculiar to Irish-Americans; many Irish people hold the same view, which has bedeviled the situation," Mills said.

"It has added to the terrible record of death and destruction because it has given impetus to the provisional Irish Republic Army's savage campaign."

"The British government has a special responsibility for finding a solution to the problem. It was created by the British, they have largely ignored it for almost 60 years and they must now work for a settlement to provide permanent peace and stability in the area," he said.

A suggested solution is the concept of power-sharing to give recognition to the aspirations of the Catholic minority for a united Ireland. But Protestant Unionists fear they will be pushed out of Great Britain and forced into a united Ireland.

Unionists still object strongly to the notion of sharing power in government with the Catholic minority and it will

take considerable persuasion. Mills said by the British government to get them to change their minds.

He said power sharing has been supported for a long time by all the political parties in Britain but that there has been some concern lately that Margaret Thatcher's government may be weakening its commitment.

"Unless Catholics can have a share in the administration and unless they can give allegiance to the executive, there is no way Northern Ireland can be governed. Fair and just government can only operate by consensus and this has been absent in Northern Ireland up to the present time," Mills stressed.

For 50 years, until the civil rights campaign in Northern Ireland 10 years ago, the Unionists ran Northern Ireland and the minority population, Mills said, was reduced to "second class citizens" in their own country.

The civil rights campaign exposed the "blatant injustice" of 50 years of misrule. The British government has given a commitment that it will not be restored.

In an area with a population of roughly 1.5 million persons, there are about a million Protestants and the rest are Catholics. One side professed an allegiance to Britain and the other side aspires to a united Ireland.

"Irish unity will come about only when the bulk of the million Protestants who now form the majority within Northern Ireland recognize that their best interests will be served in the unity of their fellow countrymen, North and South."

"If the British government were to pull out of Northern Ireland tomorrow, it would not make the slightest difference to the Unionists' abhorrence of the idea of being forced into what they regard as a Catholic-dominated Irish Republic," Mills said.

The journalist said that many prominent churchmen have argued that the events of the past decade in Northern Ireland have nothing to do with religion and that the division is the result of social, economic and political causes.

"Religion has, however, played a major part in the troubles for upwards of 150 years," he said.

Mills said since Britain created the problem and has helped maintain it for so long, Britain must come up with a formula for settlement. This may mean obliging the Unionist majority, by some means, to share in a new administration with the Catholic minority.

hammer and sickle are tranquil enough — but through fear. Prisoners are tranquil in a prison — but through force. Such "peace" is only extrinsic to persons — it is not within them.

Inner peace comes from the tranquility of order. Order prevails when everything is in its proper place. There is peace in a classroom when there is order in the classroom. Still this is only external peace. True peace, peace within the human heart, prevails when order springs from the virtue of justice. When everyone wants to give to others, to God, to neighbor what is their due. Then they will experience peace of heart,

the peace the world cannot give, only God.

Therefore Jesus said, "I have come for division" — to make war against selfishness, war against sin, war against hate, mistrust, economic injustice, godlessness. God hates peace in those destined for war. We are destined for war — not with swords that drive outward to kill neighbors, but war with swords that run inward to the sins of our own heart.

Fr. Albert
Shamon



Word for Sunday

Foreign Policy In Error

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 12:49-53. (R1) Jer. 38:4-6. 8-10. (R2) Heb. 12:1-4.

Perhaps some of the most shocking words in the Gospel are these: "Do you think I have come to establish peace on earth? I assure you, the contrary is true: I have come for division." Shocking words, aren't they? Don't we generally view Jesus as a man of peace? When He was born, angels sang, "Peace on Earth." When He was going to die, He promised His own, "My peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." And yet he says, "I have come for division" — not peace! What did He mean?

Jesus meant, "I have not come to bring external peace necessarily. I have come in fact for division, should peace mean a compromise with truth or principles." Sam Rayburn, a great congressman, used to say, "To get along, go along." Sounds good. But to go along, even when it is wrong, just to get along, is wrong. Is peace at any price. The enemies of Jesus asked Him to go along with them to get along with them. "Come down from the cross, and we'll believe," they said. "Don't be so uncompromising about sin about your Father's rights, your identity. You upset people, the order of things."

The fundamental error in

our foreign policy since 1945 has been this acceptance of peace at any price. Such compromise leads to the false peace of slavery. "They enslave their children's children who make compromise with sin."

St. Augustine defined peace as the tranquility of order. Peace is not tranquillity alone. The peoples under the Soviet

A COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE!
15,000 CUSTOMERS CAN'T BE WRONG!
Visit our complete kitchen & bathroom showroom — blown cellulose insulation/roofing/siding/remodeling

FEATURING KITCHENS BY **436-9696**

McCOMBS Co. Inc. FREE ESTIMATES OUT CALL
3315 CHILI AVE.

Buying & Selling New and Used

Oriental Rugs
Expert Cleaning, Repairing, and Appraisals

Shop at your leisure
See the largest selection and showroom in the area

EST. 1925 ARSEN SOLICKIAN
106 East Avenue / 325-5351
Mon. Fri. 9-5:30 Thurs. 9-9 Sat. 9-1 thru July & Aug.

COURIER-JOURNAL Vocations Guide

Can YOU Stand A CHALLENGE?
Are you generous of heart? The Lord is waiting for you. Offer yourself in His Service.
DOMINICAN SISTERS
3000 WEST 31st STREET
JUSTICE, ILLINOIS 60458

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF CHRIST, prayerful and actively working new Community of Brothers serving Christ through parochial, apostolic work. Previous Religious experience no barrier.

P.O. Box 1932 Montego Sta. Ocean City, Md. 21842

LIVE ON IN MY LOVE... LET YOUR LOVE AND MERCY BE SEEN IN THE WORLD AS A PRIEST OR BROTHER IN THE ORDER OF OUR LADY OF MERCY

For info write: Director of Vocations 6398 Drexel Road Philadelphia, Pa. 19151

Profession

Brother James P. Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bamill Hamilton of Rochester, has made his first

profession as a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. Brother Hamilton is a graduate of Bishop Kearney High School and Iona College.

PLUMBING **24 HR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

REPAIRS... REPLACEMENT
No Jobs Too Small
FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
REASONABLE RATES
235-0010

R&R PLUMBING AND HEATING
372 SAXON ST., ROCHESTER

Licensed by City of Rochester & Towns All Work Guaranteed

The Shire at Culverton Adult Home & Village Apartments
for Senior Security and Leisurely Living

The Shire at Culverton Adult Home offers the kind of security & independence and convenience that your loved one deserves with complete personal care including:

Trained Personnel, 24 hrs. daily	Waitress Service	Health Club & Green House
Intercom Call System	Beauty, Barber & Grooming Shops	Arts & Crafts
Security Guards	Special Activities Program	Weekly Shopping & Field Trips
Delicious Meals	Quiet Park Like Grounds	Religious Services

Life at THE SHIRE AT CULVERTON ADULT HOME is geared to our residents, their comfort, their needs, their interests.

Tours Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Also available, spacious one & two bedroom garden apartments designed for total senior security and leisurely living. The door is always open at The Shire at Culverton Adult Home & Village Apartments.

TEMPORARY RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME

Please Call **467-4544**
Sharon Cubitt

2515 Culver Road, Rochester, New York 14609

SISTERS OF ST. RITA — WHO ARE THEY

Write to:
SR. ANGELICA SUMMER
3920 N. GREEN BAY RD.
RACINE, WIS. 53404

holy family

"missionary"
The word calls up visions of faraway places. But our territory is just North America. Think you could settle for that?

We work with the bodily and spiritual needs of the underprivileged and the alienated. We work with them for better education and housing, for jobs, for equal economic and social power. We work to discover together real Christianity.

For an illustrated booklet write:

Vocation Director
Missionaries of the Holy Family
2500 Ashby Road
St. Louis, Mo. 63114

I would like more information on becoming a Holy Family ☐ BROTHER ☐ PRIEST

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone A.C.