

Planet Needs Moral About-Face

Following is excerpted from an address given by Pope John Paul II to scientists and representatives of the United Nations University in Hiroshima.

Our future on this planet, exposed as it is to nuclear annihilation, depends upon one single factor: humanity must make a moral about-face. At the present moment of history, there must be a general mobilization of all men and women of goodwill.



Humanity is being called upon to take a major step forward in civilization and wisdom. A lack of civilization, an ignorance of man's true values, brings the risk that humanity will be destroyed. We must become wiser.

Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical, "The Development of Peoples," several times stressed the urgent need to have recourse to the wise in order to guide the new society in its development. In particular, he said that "if further development calls for the work of more and more technicians, even more necessary is the deep thought and reflection of wise men in search of a new humanism which will enable modern man to find himself anew by embracing the higher values of love and friendship, of prayer and contemplation."

Above all, in this country of Japan, renowned for its creativity, both cultural and technological, a country with so many scientists, scholars, writers and religious thinkers, I take the liberty of making a very special appeal. I wish to address myself to the wise men and women of Japan, and through them to the wise men and women of the whole world, in order to encourage them to pursue ever more efficiently the task of social and moral reconstruction, which our world so ardently awaits. Work together to defend and promote, among all people of your nation and of the world, the idea of a just world, a world made to man's scale, a world that enables human beings to fulfill their capacities, a world

that sustains them in their material, moral and spiritual needs.

We must say to the people of today: do not doubt, your future is in your own hands. The building of a more just humanity or a more united international community is not just a dream or a vain ideal. It is a moral imperative, a sacred duty, one that the intellectual and spiritual genius of man can face, through a fresh mobilization of everybody's talents and energies, through putting to work all the technical and cultural resources of man.

The people of our time possess, in the first place, tremendous scientific and technological resources. And we are convinced that these resources could be far more effectively used for the development and growth of peoples; let us envisage the progress made in agriculture, biology, medicine, the social communications media applied to education; then there are the social and economic sciences, and the science of planning, all of which could combine to direct in a more humane and effective way the process of urbanization and industrialization, and promote the new models of international cooperation. If all the rich nations of the world wanted to, they could call in an impressive number of specialists for the tasks of development. All of this obviously presupposes political choices, and, more fundamentally, moral options. The moment is approaching when priorities will have to be redefined. For example, it has been estimated that about a half of the world's research workers are at present employed for military purposes.

Can the human family morally go on much longer in this direction?

There is also the question of economic resources needed for giving a decisive impulse to the integral advancement of the human family. Here too we are faced with choices. Can we remain passive when we are told that humanity spends immensely more money on arms than on development, and when we learn that one soldier's equipment costs many times more than a child's education?

Bishop to Dedicate New St. Salome Altar

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will dedicate the new altar at St. Salome's Church at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, March 29. A feature of the rites will be the installation of three relics in the base of the altar, Father Conrad Sundholm, pastor, said last week.

The refurbishing of the sanctuary, he said, was the parish response to the theft of its tabernacle some months ago.

In the new rites to be used for the event, relics of Saints Oliver Plunkett, John Neumann and Conrad (John) Birndorfer will be sealed in the base of the new altar.

Sr. Kane To Speak Here

Sister Theresa Kane, the former president of the National Assembly of Women Religious who addressed the topic of opening more ministerial posts to women in the Church at the time of Pope John Paul II's visit to Washington, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 28 in the chapel of the University of Rochester's Interfaith Center.

Father Sundholm credited Father Robert McNamara, diocesan archivist and historian, with arranging for the proper disposition of the relics in the church.

The altar itself, Father Sundholm said, is a one-ton slab of granite surmounting a brick support. The relics will be sealed in a copper reliquary, in the support by a mason during the ritual. The recess for the relics will be faced with black marble.

Her address has been sponsored by, among others, the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church and the Diocesan Sisters Council.

COUPLES RETREAT

Father James Mason, CSSR, a Toronto-based priest, will give a two-day retreat for Couples, "Bloom Where You Are Planted," April 4 and 5 at the Cenacle Renewal Center on East Avenue. Reservations are made by calling the center, (716) 271-8755.

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Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

Ministry Must Be Shared

Ministry, for me, is a personal investment in the proclamation of the kingdom through loving service of others. There is only one ministry—the ministry of Jesus Christ.

What I may call my ministry is really His ministry. Ministry arises out of my baptismal experience, my immersion in the Paschal Mystery of the Lord Jesus. From those baptismal waters, I emerged as a member of the Body of Christ—I emerged as Church, which means to be for others. The kingdom that I have invested myself in proclaiming is this: a kingdom that is unity in the Body of the Lord, a kingdom that lives the dying and rising of the Paschal Mystery. Ministry is not a job but is at the core of who I am as a baptized woman. It is a gift I share with others—a gift that has no meaning apart

from a relationship with God, a gift that must be shared to be worthwhile, a gift of myself.

Living out this vision of ministry in the area of liturgical formation is the particular way I live out my baptismal commitment. I am involved mainly in parish worship and thus work primarily with parish liturgy committees and liturgical ministers, namely lectors, eucharistic ministers, musicians, and members of the assembly. Working through the diocesan Liturgy Office, I may give an evening of recollection to eucharistic ministers, a formation program to lectors, analyze performance and prayer for choirs, or listen to a parish liturgy committee wondering where to go next.

Weekends may find me giving more extensive training sessions to liturgical ministers or involved in a parish evaluation of liturgical celebrations. Weekdays are filled with preparing formation programs, listening to people who are attempting to provide authentic worship experiences for their parish, writing articles for office publications, and keeping up with current liturgical theology and practice. In all these experiences and many more, I am caught up in the mystery of resurrection. I am privileged to share

faith with people intensely serious about their proclamation of the kingdom and, at times, to celebrate that faith in authentic celebrations of the Eucharist.

The Paschal Mystery involves dying, too, and I must admit that liturgical ministry includes that aspect of Christian living. For one who is trained in liturgy, it is difficult to worship in churches where authentic, meaningful liturgy is replaced by a hurried, half-hearted, even careless celebration, based on pre-Vatican II theology and ecclesiology. It is painful to listen to and witness that segment of the people of God who gather Sunday after Sunday, only to be submitted to the poorest of liturgical celebration. It is frustrating to see decisions regarding liturgy made without pastoral considerations. It is devastating to have to tell a person she may not perform a liturgical function for which she is adequately prepared only because she is not male, and to be told that because I am not ordained, I can't possibly answer a question about liturgy.

Yes, the ministry of liturgist involves the Paschal Mystery. Yet, for me, it is the best way to respond to the challenge of Baptism to which I have committed myself in my profession as a religious woman. It is the best way to proclaim that kingdom which, as I move among the people of God, is definitely "near at hand."

Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ, is associate director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Formerly Married Invited

Horseheads — "Footsteps on Shifting Sand," an ecumenical program for the formerly married, is being conducted on four consecutive Friday evenings through the sponsorship of the Elmira Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics Group. The first program was March 20; the series will continue March 27, April 3 and April 10, with each session beginning at 7 p.m. in the St. Mary Our Mother Auditorium.

The sponsors offer the program as an opportunity for personal renewal; a team from Rochester will present the program.

Scouting Dinner Scheduled

The 34th annual Scouting St. George Emblem award dinner will take place at 6 p.m., Sunday, April 26, at the Carriage House, 525 Paul Road.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will make the presentations. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Tickets are available from Al Piccoli at 254-0438.

CARD PARTY

The Catholic Mission Guild will hold a card party at noon, April 8, at the Knights of Columbus building at the corner of Thurston Road and Brooks Avenue.

HOLY HOUR

Father Robert Miller will lead the Peoples Eucharistic League Holy Hour at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 26 at Holy Trinity Church, Webster.