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Workers Need Ownership Role, Pope Says in 3rd Encyclical

By Religious News Service

Pope John Paul II has issued an encyclical saying that the best way to insure the dignity of workers is to give them a stake in the ownership of the means of production.

The essay-like document was issued in connection with the 90th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's landmark social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which endorsed the right of workers to organize.

John Paul's encyclical, the third of his pontificate, *Laborem Exercens* (Performing Work) urges a balance between "rigid capitalism" — which it says makes a "dogma" of the exclusive right to private ownership of the means of production — and state ownership, a system of socialism which the pope said may offend basic human rights.

The pope noted that the encyclical had been scheduled for release May 15, *Rerum Novarum's* anniversary, but was postponed when he was shot on May 13. He revised the encyclical while recuperating.

The new release date of Sept. 15 gave a special relevancy to the document on the pope's Polish homeland, where workers of the independent union movement, *Solidarity*, are seeking greater involvement in decision-making in the communist-run country.

But while the pope endorses the need of the worker to have a role in the ownership of the means of production, he also cautions that unions should not become political parties.

The pope said Catholic social teaching supports "proposals for joint ownership of the means of work, sharing by the workers in the management and/or profits of businesses, so-called share-holding by labor, etc."

"Whether these various proposals can or cannot be applied concretely, it is clear that recognition of the proper position of labor and the worker in the production process demands various adaptations in the sphere of the right to ownership of the means of production," he said.

"While the position of 'rigid' capitalism must undergo con-

tinual revision, in order to be reformed from the point of view of human rights, it must be stated that, from the same point of view, these many deeply desired reforms cannot be achieved by a prior elimination of private ownership of means of production," he said.

"For it must be noted that merely taking these means of production (capital) out of the hands of their private owners is not enough to ensure their satisfactory socialization. They cease to be the property of a certain social group, namely the private owners, and become the property of organized society, coming under the administration and direct control of another group of people, namely those who, though not owning them, from the fact of exercising power in society manage them on the level of the whole national or the local economy.

"The group in authority may carry out its task satisfactorily from the point of view of the priority of labor; but it may also carry it out badly by claiming for itself a monopoly of the administration and disposal of the means of production and not refraining even from offending basic human rights.

"Thus, merely converting the means of production into state

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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, left, addresses northeast region parish representatives last Wednesday night at St. Thomas More School. More than 300 attended the workshop.

Bishop Clark Explains Appeal to Workers

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has met with representatives of 44 Catholic parishes and missions in eastern Monroe and western Wayne and Ontario counties last week to explain the first annual Thanks Giving Appeal.

The bishop spoke at a

workshop at St. Thomas More School for parent volunteers who will be working on the appeal on Sunday, Nov. 15.

The bishop explained that the goal is \$2.204 million with 80 percent of all money raised

by an individual parish over its quota being returned to the parish for its local needs.

Some of the programs to receive aid, as cited by Bishop Clark, are religious education; college campus ministries; chaplaincies for hospitals,

nursing homes and prisons; the Human Life Commission, the Office of Family Life and programs to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Providing Rochester area leadership for the Thanks

Giving Appeal are Donald McConville of Rochester and Michael Piehler of Fairport, Northeast co-chairmen, and vice chairmen E. James Hickey, Charles Fitzgibbon and John Piehler of Rochester; Michael Hanna, John Nawrocki, Kathi

Piehler, Joseph Piehler and Kevin Leonard of Fairport, and John Greisberger of Pittsford.

Serving as chairman of the appeal is John Glavin of Rochester, executive vice president of the Xerox Corp.

The Reasoner View

By Joan M. Smith

Harry Reasoner and the CBS "60 Minutes" TV crew were in town last Wednesday. The occasion was to interview Aquinas science teacher, Patricia Brennan, for a future segment on the postal service. Their interest in Mrs. Brennan stemmed from the fact that a few years ago she, along with husband J. Paul Brennan, operated a private mailing service in downtown Rochester.

The CBS crew including Reasoner, Drew Phillips, Patti Hassler and a bevy of TV technicians, arrived at Aquinas quietly and left just as quietly. And that's Harry Reasoner — the same quiet, affable professional seen on "60 Minutes" every Sunday evening.

CBS policy disallowed

sitting in on the Brennan filming, but the *Courier-Journal* had the opportunity to talk with Reasoner who, along with Mike Wallace, started the "60 Minutes" broadcasts in 1968. The program, now in its second decade, still maintains top ratings. Its continued success in Reasoner's opinion is due to the capabilities of Don Hewitt, the producer; the program's time slot, "good for broadcasting;" and the fact there is no host but four reporters.

Along with his colleagues Wallace, Morley Safer, and Ed Bradley who replaced Dan Rather, Reasoner is on the road much of the time pursuing "60 Minutes" stories. Ideas for these features, he explained, came from suggestions received in the

mail, or from the producers. There are five producers for each reporter.

Months can elapse between the birth of an idea and the final delivery on a broadcast. Once the idea is given the go ahead, the phone calls determining if it's really a story begin, then the research, and finally the interviewing.

"I interview differently from, say, Mike Wallace," grinned Reasoner. But he said he will vary his method of interviewing depending on the type of interview — sympathetic or aggressive — and the subject. He said it was tough to pinpoint a favorite interview because there were so many categories. He did say that one of the more unique stories had been the

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Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

