

People and Events Of the World and Nation

Pope: Men, Women Should Be Treated Equally at Work

Vatican City (RNS) — Men and women should be treated as equals in the workplace, but allowances should be made for women because they are also wives and mothers, Pope John Paul II told some 30,000 people in St. Peter's Square at his Sunday noon blessing last week.

Quoting Pope John XXIII's encyclical, "Peace on Earth," the pontiff said that "the problem of juridical equality between men and women should be resolved through social legislation that recognizes the equality of men and women workers" but that protects women's "right to working conditions that are consistent with their needs and duties as wives and mothers."

Reiterating his own encyclical, "On Human Work," which called for government family subsidies to free mothers from the necessity to work outside the home, the pontiff said:

"The true advancement of women requires that labor should be structured in such a way that women do not have to pay for their advancement by abandoning what is specific to them and at the expense of the family, in which women as mothers have an irreplaceable role."

John Paul said a woman who dedicates herself to a family should be able to do so "without psychological or actual discrimination, without penalties in comparison with her counterparts."

He added: "This does not mean the exclusion of women from the world of work and from social and public activity."

Abortion Question Splits Community On United Way

El Paso, Tex. (RNS) — The abortion issue has split the El Paso religious community into emotional factions and

drawn residents into a battle of dollars and cents.

The battleground is the annual United Way fund drive.

Planned Parenthood of El Paso is one of about 40 agencies helped by the United Way funds. The local agency does not perform abortions but it does refer clients to doctors who do.

As the United Way campaign began in September, Bishop Raymundo Pena and an anti-abortion group called El Pasoans for Life called for a boycott of the funding organization because it refused to drop Planned Parenthood from its agency list.

The bishop said he was not working with El Pasoans for Life, a group mainly of fundamentalist Christians, but was following his conscience based on Catholic teaching. He happened to announce his non-support on the same day the Life group took a half-page ad in both daily newspapers.

Both the bishop and the anti-abortion group asked people to make donations to individual agencies, rather than contribute to United Way. Bishop Pena took this position despite the fact that two Catholic agencies, St. Margaret's Center for Children and Catholic Counseling, are receiving United Way funds.

Opposition quickly rose to the bishop's stand. A number of liberal Protestant, Jewish and secular groups created the El Paso Coalition for Choice and sharply criticized both the bishop and the Life group for dividing the community and trying to force their views on everybody else.

City Council got involved — three aldermen supported the boycott, and the mayor and two other aldermen backed United Way.

The situation got more complicated when United Way extended its campaign three weeks because it was \$780,000 shy of its \$3.1 million goal. About 287 donors asked that their money go exclusively to Planned Parenthood while 18 gave positive pledges to Catholic Counseling.

When the bishop learned of the shortage of funds, he reversed his early position and asked Catholics to contribute to United Way, asking that Planned Parenthood be excluded, so other agencies wouldn't suffer.

A Time to Go Caroling

The members of the St. Thomas the Apostle Rosary and Altar Society will have their annual Christmas party on Thursday, Dec. 17. Members will meet in the parking lot at 6:30 p.m. to go Christmas caroling at St. Ann's Home. The party will follow at 8:15 p.m. in the large hall.

Members are encouraged to bring a wrapped gift for a shut-in of the parish. The gift should be labelled as to its contents and whether appropriate for a woman or man. Examples of some useful, practical gifts are stationery, combs, playing cards, toiletries.

Hours Changed

The Memorial Art Gallery has changed the hours at the Charlotte Whitney Allen Memorial Library. Until further notice, the hours will be 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday; 2 to 5 p.m., Tuesday; 1:30 to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday.

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Reserved seats \$9. General Admission \$7.25. Groups of 10 to 15 \$6. Groups of 16 or more \$5. Tickets at all TICKETRON locations (Record Theatre Stores, The House of Guitars). Also at Wendell Harrison Music, The Music Lover's Shoppe, and The Music Loft. Tickets by phone: 654-9585. By mail: National Choral Council, 256 Rosewood Terrace, Rochester 14609. For information: 654-9585

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12/81

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