

End 'Siege,' Pope Tells Polish Union, Rulers

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, in a strong public statement, appealed to the government and the independent trade union Solidarity to resume negotiations, and to end the "state of siege" in his native Poland.

"We must return to the road of renewal, based on dialogue and with respect for the rights of every man and of every citizen," he said. "This road, for understandable reasons, is not easy, but it is not impossible."

Taking note of the martial law ordered by Poland's Communist leaders, the pope declared: "The force and authority of power are expressed through such

dialogue and not through the use of violence."

The pontiff, who read the five-minute message first in Polish, then in Italian at the end of the Dec. 16 general audience, was repeatedly interrupted by applause by the 4,000 people assembled in the Paul VI auditorium.

Thanking people around the world for their expressions of concern for his homeland, Pope John Paul said the concern was "well-founded."

He quoted from a discourse by Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Polish Catholic primate, after the government proclaimed martial law, sharply restricted civil rights and

suspended the operations of Solidarity.

Archbishop Glemp described the situation as "a state of siege," said the pope, declaring "that it cannot take place without the violation of fundamental human rights."

"The state of siege carries with it, in many instances, contempt for human dignity, the arrest of innocent people, the humiliation of men of culture and science, and uncertainty in many families," the pope quoted Archbishop Glemp as having said.

According to sketchy reports from Poland, the authorities moved quickly to crush strikes and round up

defiant workers, intellectuals and Solidarity union activists.

Pope John Paul continued: "Under current conditions, I again address my solicitude to my homeland, to the nation of which I am a son and which, like every other nation, has a right to particular solicitude from the Church. This solicitude embraces at this moment all Poland and all Poles.

"Poles, as a nation, have the right to live their own lives and to resolve their own internal problems in the spirit of their own convictions, in conformity with their own culture and national traditions."

The pope acknowledged

that the problems were "undoubtedly difficult ones," but, he insisted, "they cannot be resolved through the use of violence."

Reiterating his recent appeal to avoid the spilling of Polish blood, the pope said: "Already on Sunday (Dec. 13), after getting the first news of the introduction of the state of siege, I recalled the words I had pronounced in September that 'Polish blood must not be spilled. Too much of it has already been spilled, especially during the last war. Today I repeat those same words.

"And together with all the Church and, in particular, with the Church in Poland, I entrust to Christ, who is the

Lord of the future, and to his Mother in Jasna Gora (shrine of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, Poland's patron saint and symbol of Polish nationalism), my entire homeland, a nation which is being tried not for the first time in its struggle for its just right to be itself."

Vocations Discussion Scheduled

The Sisters of Mercy Vocations Team has slated an evening of discussion on the vowed life for women interested in investigating the subject 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 6, at St. Salome's Convent, 4242 Culver Road.

More Opinions

Three Crimes, Then Death?

Editor:

The prison bond issue occasioned a good deal of comment including a paid ad by a religious order in your issue of 10/28/81.

A representative of the State Department of Correction said in essence that the department was obligated by law to incarcerate convicted persons, and that there had to be more room. A sheriff contributed an opinion based on fact and experience.

The people who opposed the bond issue seem motivated by a vague idealism untainted by any touch of reality. I believe they represent the same people who, through the same unreal liberal permissiveness, have sponsored the great upsurge of crime in this country.

In a recent year in New York State only six percent of those charged with a felony actually were jailed. The rest were free to go out and commit more felonies. Many were freed by liberal judges.

Violent physical crimes are increasing; many people live in fear. The chief fault in this trend lies not with the criminal element but with the unreal permissive types who seize any and every excuse to coddle criminals and shield them from the only thing which will deter them from committing crime — punishment.

The alternatives given to incarceration are unproven. Obviously, even if they have substantial merit, it would be years before they could have any significant effect on criminal behavior. Meanwhile, unincarcerated criminals would be roaming our streets and invading our homes preying on the innocent even worse than now. I sometimes think unreal idealistic types don't even read the daily papers.

I have never thought it necessary that to be a Christian one had to be a fool about human nature. Could I be wrong?

I don't want criminals loose in our society nor do I want to support them in prison. I am beginning to think that upon a third felony conviction the

criminal should be put to death. This would cut short the criminal career in one way or another.

John F. Starkweather
1840 Middle Road
Rush, N.Y. 14543

Parents Must Speak at Forum

Editor:

In recent weeks the Monroe County Coalition on Teen Pregnancy (of which the diocese is a member) has held a series of community forums hoping to hear from parents and teenagers about their views on these questions:

1. Do we as a community, or as families within our community, have problems related to teen sexuality, pregnancy, and/or parenthood? If so, what are the causes and the implications?

2. We have many resources in our community including community agencies, schools, government, and religious organizations. How do you think these resources should be helping teens and families with problems related to teen sexuality, pregnancy and parenthood?

3. What should be the role of the family in guiding teenage children, and what role, if any, should be played by community resources in providing support to the family?

To date (Dec. 17), the forums sponsored by the diocese have yielded just 16 people testifying specifically as parents. All other witnesses have been professionals (and a few teens).

We've never spoken with a parent who didn't have strong views on the kinds of questions above. Strong opinions — no show. Why?

Part of the answer can be the time of the year and not enough publicity. We simply had no choice on the timing. The foundation which would fund an eventual proposal set the deadline which made the Advent season forums necessary. We know that a number of parishes and diocesan groups made a serious effort to publicize this opportunity for parents to speak out. Still, no show. Why?

Perhaps the strongest message heard by the Family Ministry Task Force (which issued its report to Bishop Clark in July) was that parents know they are the primary educators, but they have a crippling lack of confidence/knowledge about "how to."

The task force report proposes no magical answers, only begins to set a direction for increasing the ability and confidence of parents in speaking their values to their children. But for the moment, and for the sake of the one remaining forum on teen pregnancy, we would like to reverse the decades of "parental trepidation" in a few words:

Parents, SPEAK OUT! Your opinion and beliefs not only affect your own children, but can genuinely impact the direction of your community. It need not be polished sentences, loaded with statistics and in-depth analyses. We have plenty of that. Simply look at those questions and speak what you believe!

The one remaining forum is at St. Ambrose parish, Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Also, written testimony may be mailed to Ivette Salgado, 380 Andrews St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Frank and Sue Staropoli
Co-directors
Family Life Office
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Reader Mistaken

Editor:

A reader in a recent letter to the Courier-Journal (12/16/81), claimed that the Vatican Council of Pope Paul VI, changed the words of consecration from "shed for many" to "shed for all men."

In the first place, the missal of Paul VI was issued in 1969, four years after the adjournment of the council. The revisions were based upon broad guidelines contained in the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy" and not upon any specific rewordings emanating from the council.

More to the point, however, the official Latin

text has retained the wording *pro vobis et pro multis* (for you and for many). Therefore, if the reader has a complaint, it is with the American translation of the Latin text rather than with any particular activity of the council. Pope Paul VI, or the revisers of the Missal.

I might also add that the idea that Christ's blood was shed for all is hardly heretical. The Apostle Paul speaks of the "reason he died for all" in II Corinthians 5:15, and in Hebrews 2:9 he states "... he had to experience death for all mankind." The first epistle of John (I John 2:2) similarly states that "... he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's." The American translation of the Words of Institution, admittedly loose, simply affirms this basic biblical teaching.

Vincent A. Lenti
41 Tamarack Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14622

Reaganomics Drains the Poor

Editor:

We all hope that in the long run Reaganomics will work. But we can see now that at best it will be a long, long run. We can see, too, that in the short run, right now, quite apart from whether or not Reaganomics works, tens of millions of victims of the budget cuts that go with it will be made to pay the biggest price. It is not the ones who can afford it; not the strong, the well-to-do, the solidly employed who are being asked to make the big sacrifice. It is those who cannot defend themselves. It is those who are being told they must risk health and the essential needs for living for the health of the economy. It is the poor, the elderly, the uneducated, the unemployed victims of the recession and especially the children who must pay.

We are told that all of this is justified because if they make the sacrifice, take the risk, there will be more jobs and more productivity and as a result all classes will benefit. Stockman called it "trickling down." Now he says it will be a long, thin trickle. So what do we say to a baby crying for food? "Don't worry, honey,

it'll be trickling down." Do we tell a pregnant woman who has not enough food, "Don't worry. This one may die or end up in an institution, but by the time the next one comes it will have trickled down?"

What if Reaganomics does not work that way and there is no trickle down?

Underlying all of this is the fact that President Reagan wants to cut the taxes of the rich and well-to-do and at the same time spend more and more billions on weapons. John Anderson, Independent candidate for the presidency last year, said cutting taxes, increasing military spending and at the same time balancing the budget could only be "done with mirrors." President Reagan intends to do it at the expense of the poor.

When will we Christians, individually and through our Churches, cry out in a loud and unified voice? Protestant theologian Valerie Russell, speaking of inertia in the Church at a recent National Council of Churches meeting, said, "The Church is made up of the bland leading the bland, and is suffering from gall bladder trouble... Where is our rage?"

Adolphe and Loë D'Audiffret
RR 2
Naples, N.Y. 14512

APAG Proposal Defended

Editor:

I was very upset to read the front-page article on teen pregnancies in the Nov. 11 Courier-Journal. I was upset mainly because of the many inaccuracies in an article given such prominence in the paper. Many people who have no other information will believe all that was said. As a longtime reader of the Courier, a mother of two children, and a member of the Adolescent Pregnancy Action Group, I feel that more thorough research should be done before printing an article that will be as thought-provoking as that one.

Teen pregnancies have not actually increased in the last few years, but rather people are becoming more aware of the ongoing "problem" and it is finally addressed rather than pretending it does not exist. Statistics show that in

Monroe County in 1979 there was a total of 2,210 pregnancies in females ages 10-19 and in 1980 there was a total of 2,215 for the same age group.

The APAG proposal in no way interferes with the right of parents to guide their children's sexual behavior. In actuality it is an attempt to give teenagers some much needed information and advice that many parents are neither comfortable giving nor correctly informed themselves to give. I agree in principle that this is primarily the parent's responsibility, but in reality it is often not done. Also, many teenagers feel more comfortable talking to a member of the medical profession when they have questions concerning their bodies — including its reproductive functions — than they do talking to their parents.

Furthermore, the physicals given for athletic programs and applications for work permits have no "tie in," as was stated in the article, with sexual counseling; as part of the work permit application exam a health history, including all body systems, is taken (the first step in most thorough exams). Then questions and concerns are clarified during an interview by the nurse and the doctor. Questions are asked about smoking in relation to the respiratory system, about drinking in relation to the gastro-intestinal system, etc. To single out the reproductive system and say related questions should not be asked is like an ostrich burying its head in the sand.

We were not proposing to establish any system in two city high schools, which is specifically for "inquiring into the sexual activity of any teenager seeking a work permit or physical certification for athletic activities," and "no specific agency has been named at this point to do any counseling.

Adolescent pregnancy is a very important issue. Parents need to guide their children to develop proper moral values. Persons in the health-related fields need to ensure an adequacy of correct knowledge and information, and it is the intended purpose of the APAG group to do this.

Catherine Buggie
295 Varinna Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

COURIER
Po
Re
St.
Bo
Venic
stolen f
one of s
Venice p
Police
said the
century
stolen f
Venice
found in
of Veni
the saint
The I
skeleton
stolen
Nov. 7
Geremi
police p
The I
all the
that bec
snatche
enclosu
The
arrested
suspect
year-old
describe
member
derworl
Polic
been id
priest a
church
robbery
The
tailed T
and has
had un
where t
were hi
Lev
Uni
Cha
The
preside
officer
will ser
of the
Cross C
No
second
which
May
was th
years,
more
the be
local h
Vic
Presto
manag
& Co
Roche
Chapt
Cross.
De
Cla
De
A M
place
29, a
for M
life n
She w
many
was
Home
years.
at
Hospi