

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

16 Pages

Wednesday, June 30, 1982

35 Cents

Pope to U.N.: 'Besides Peace, the World Desires Disarmament, The World Needs Disarmament'

Following is a translation of the pope's French-language message on peace to the United Nations special session on disarmament.

When the first extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on disarmament met in June 1978, my predecessor Pope Paul VI sent it a personal message. In it he expressed his hopes in the results that mankind was entitled to expect from such an effort of good will and political wisdom on the part of the international community.

You are once more gathered, four years later, to ask yourselves whether those expectations have been — at least partly — realized.

The answer to this questions seems to be neither very reassuring nor very encouraging: a comparison between the situation of four years ago and that of today in the matter of disarmament shows very few improvements. Some even think that there has been a deterioration, at least in the sense that the hopes aroused at that time might now appear to have been sheer illusions. This observation could easily lead to discouragement and drive those responsible for the destinies of the world to look elsewhere for solutions to problems — whether general or particular — which go on upsetting the lives of the peoples.

That is how many see the present reality. Figures from various sources indicate a serious increase in military ex-

penses. This means higher production of the various kinds of armaments and according to specialized institutes, is accompanied by a fresh upsurge in the arms trade. Information media have recently given much attention to research into chemical weapons and the use of them on a large scale. New atomic weapons have come into being.

There is no need, with such a competent assembly as yours is, to go in detail into figures which your organization itself has published in this regard. Permit me, by way of indication, only to cite a study according to which the total of military expenditure on this planet amounts to an average of \$110 per person per year. For many inhabitants of this planet that represents the income available to them for maintaining life over the same period.

In view of this state of affairs, I very willingly express my satisfaction that the United Nations has once more proposed to face the problem of disarmament. I am grateful for the opportunity courteously offered me to address my words to you on this occasion.

Even though it is not a member of your organization, the Holy See has had its permanent observation mission with it for some time. This has permitted the Holy See to follow its activities day by day. No one is unaware of how my predecessors appreciated your work. I myself had occasion to make their words of esteem for your organization my own, notably when I visited the headquarters of the United Nations. Like them, I comprehend its difficulties, and I



Pope John Paul II has been a longtime critic of nuclear stockpiling. Here, delivering his World Day of Peace message on Jan. 1, 1979, he warned that "only 200 of the 50,000 nuclear bombs that are estimated to exist already would be enough to destroy the major part of the largest cities of the world."

acknowledge its precious and irreplaceable role for assuring the world a more serene and peaceful future. At the same time, I would express a wish that such efforts may be rewarded by bigger, more important and better results.

The voice that your courtesy permits me to make resound once again in this hall is that of one who has no political interests or powers, even less military force. Here, where the voices of practically all nations, big and small, converge, my voice brings with it the echo of the moral conscience of mankind in the pure state, if you will allow me the ex-

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Enjoying The Bubbly

Matt Wolanski, 9, does the big brother act for his sister, Erin, 1 1/2, as they join the 40th anniversary celebration last weekend at St. Joseph's Villa. They are the children of a former resident of St. Patrick's Home for Girls and the Villa. Bishop Matthew H. Clark also was on hand to celebrate Mass for the occasion. Other photos on Page 3.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Mercy Sisters Take Charge of Melita House

(RSMs Open Novitiate in Latin America, Page 2. Sisters Send Team for Summer in Chile, Page 2.)

Sisters of Mercy Jane Schur and Patricia Kenny have been appointed co-directors of Melita House by their congregation's executive council.

The appointments make final the Mercy take-over of the refuge for single pregnant teens and women founded two years ago by the Rochester Catholic Worker. Although the religious congregation helped staff Melita House when it opened, it only took on responsibility for and sponsorship of the institution in April of this year.

Sister Jean Marie Kearse, major superior of the congregation, said last week that "it seems more than coincidental that in our jubilee year we have been called upon to serve women directly in a kind of service our foundress, Catherine McAuley, envisioned and that is unprovided for anywhere else in this geographical area."

Melita House was founded in 1980 as a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality, with programs and services geared

to the specific needs of the single pregnant woman and the unborn child.

The idea for the house evolved from Bethany House, also a Catholic Worker project, but for battered women and their children.

According to Sister Jean Marie, the Melita staff contacted the congregation and indicated that there was a feeling at the institution that the Catholic Worker model could no longer provide the stability necessary for the continuance of the ministry.

She said that the decision "has meant some initial financial responsibility, staffing considerations and significant time investment."

Yet, "We go forward together in hope and confidence that again the Lord will bring to completion the work that He has begun," she said.

Sister Jane has been a teacher at St. Rita's School in West Webster. Sister Patricia received her BS in Nursing from Nazareth College this spring. A third, Sister Joanne Deck, guidance counselor and teacher at Cardinal Mooney High School, has volunteered to help at the house this summer.