

Reconciliation Is Not Sign of Weakness

Following is excerpted from Pope John Paul II's Aug. 6 letter to the bishops of El Salvador.

I am perfectly well aware that the discords and divisions that still disturb your country and cause new conflicts and violence have their true and deep root in situations of social injustice: a problem that has erupted with force at the political level but is above all ethical in nature.



The methodology of violence, which has led to a fratricidal war — placing on the one side those who consider armed battle a necessary instrument for obtaining a new social order, and on the other side those resorting to the principles of "national security" to legitimize brutal repression — has no rational, much less Christian, justification.

In the face of methods of violence, the necessity arises of establishing methods of peace. These "ought to be established in truth, and they ought to be practiced in liberty." (cf. Message for World Peace Day, Jan 1, 1981)

You well know, venerable brothers, that the church is always concerned for man's sake, man in all his wholeness and dignity ("Redemptor Hominis," n. 13-14); you know that she watches over and nourishes his values. She contracts solid defenses on them for the rights of the human person (ibid., n.17) and the moral

and cultural identity of a Christian nation. She has recourse to them for constituting the moral strength of a country, when it is a matter of overcoming crises with a dimension that is moral before it is social

So it is that, in union with you, I make myself the interpreter of your people's profound yearnings, for it has long desired to make a reality of genuine concepts of liberty, the dignity of the human person, and social justice, which are founded on the twofold aspects of love; love for God the provident giver of all good things, and for one's brothers.

Your faithful are thirsty for truth and justice. Continue to offer them with all fervor and enthusiasm the proper teachings of the social doctrine of the church, motivated by a deep concern for the sufferings of the nation. Be in agreement in proposing an adequate response to the demands of the current moment, united by a renewed impulse in your pastoral activity.

Fresh constitutional prospects have opened before the country in recent months. This fact makes more urgent a commitment to incarnating the methods of peace in the ministry of reconciliation through the word of the Gospel and the action it inspires:

Reconciliation is not a sign of weakness or disgrace. It does not mean renouncing rightful justice of defense of the poor and the marginal. It means an encounter between brothers willing to overcome the temptation of egotism and to renounce the goals of pseudojustice. It is the fruit of powerful, noble and generous sentiments leading to the establishment of co-existence

based on respect for every individual and the values proper to every civil society.

Such reconciliation must therefore be able to be realized at all levels, above all among brothers bearing arms, motivated by contrary interests and guided by ideologies that sacrifice the fundamental aspirations of the human person. For the one and for the other, an indispensable condition for reconciliation is the cessation of all hostilities and the renunciation of the use of arms, with the sure guarantee that no one will be the object of reprisals or vengeance after having given his or her own adherence to the noble aim of joining efforts and initiatives that may assure the nation a renewed vitality and an ordered progress.

Reconciliation must also be achieved within the family, to which you devoted particular attention in your collective pastoral letter of last Dec. 24; in parishes and broader sectors of the church; in workplaces, where human problems that torment the national community are so often sharpened to the point of exasperation.

You, venerable brothers in the episcopate, and your fellow workers with you, are called to be ministers and witnesses of the work of reconciliation in the light of the Gospel ideal of charity. Christ set this before his followers and all mankind. It is the only thing able to resolve the contradictions inherent in the social phenomenology of disunion, discord, injustice and armed conflict. May a call to hope reach your fellow workers and faithful through you. May it bear them up in the difficult circumstances of the present and help them to do their particular duties.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

Wasteful Lawsuit Settled

An embarrassing lawsuit against the U.S. Catholic Conference has been settled out of court. It should have been settled years ago.

Harry Costello, a Catholic book publisher, had obtained rights to distribute a book containing the text for the morning and evening prayer of the church. The book had been published in Ireland; Costello was distributing it in this country.

The office for the bishops' committee on the liturgy objected. Its complaint was not based on anything like doctrinal or liturgical errors. The text, after all, had been approved for use by the bishops of Ireland.

The complaint was that this particular text was not the one which had been approved for liturgical use by the bishops in this country.

There could have been no legal objection if the bishops' committee had simply issued a statement saying that the book did not have official approval for use in this country.

Instead, the office made a serious mistake in sending out a bulletin urging Catholic book dealers to refrain from stocking the publication.

Costello protested. The liturgy office refused to budge. The publisher brought suit against the U.S.

Catholic Conference for violation of the anti-trust laws.

The case dragged on for years. The eventual costs to the USCC have been estimated at close to two million dollars.

In an important decision, an appellate court ruled that the First Amendment does not shield a religious organization from anti-trust liability if it engaging in competitively significant conduct. That judgment stands as a precedent even though the case was finally settled out of court.

There's little doubt that the bishops' office made a mistake in the way it dealt with Costello, but it wasn't about to admit it.

He never challenged the bishops' authority over liturgical celebration, but he felt he was treated in a high-handed way by an insensitive ecclesiastical bureaucracy. The bulletin sent to book dealers gave him a legal issue on which to base his protest at this treatment.

The result: a significant waste of money, time and energy, and a legal precedent the bishops would have preferred to avoid. With more sensitivity, the major terms of the final settlement could have been reached without litigation.

All of the USCC officials who were involved in the original conflict with Costello have moved on. With this case out of the way, it may be useful for the present staff to consider ways of avoiding such wastes in the future.

At Your Parish...

St. Leo
Hilton — Parishioners and friends feted Father Chester M. Klocek on his 35th anniversary as a priest June 13, it was learned last week. On hand to congratulate the pastor of St. Leo's Church here were Fathers Donald J. Curtiss, Joseph D. Donovan, Charles L. Borgognoni, Robert C. Bradler, and Eugene H. McFarland. Bishop W. Thomas Larkin of St. Petersburg, Fla., sent a congratulatory tape. Mrs. Bernice M. Klocek, his mother, and Mrs. Camilia Banasiak, his godmother, were also present. Planning the occasion were Thomas O'Gorman, president of the parish council, and his wife Ann, Patricia Benson, John and Sharon Corcoran, George and Marie Herbert, Jeanne Puceta, Thomas and Barbara Snape, James and Carol Steiger and Michael Tarkulich.

St. Patrick

Victor — The summer Parish Renewal, now under way at St. Patrick's Church here, is featuring a number of speakers. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is addressing the question of "Why Renewal;" Father Robert Collins, "Who Am I;" Father L. John Hedges, "Who Is Jesus;" Father Raymond Booth, "Who Is the Church?"

In addition, Father John Aurelio is speaking on "Prayer and the Word;" Father John Walsh, "The Sacraments;" Bill and Patti Ranney, "Christian Family;" and Dick Murphy, "Single Parent." Parishioners will also speak, among them, Tom Biviano, Sheila Cody, Stacy Antosen and Karen Ranney.

Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles Parish recently completed a two-week Bible school program, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." More than 500 children from the area attended each day from July 26 to Aug. 6, according to Kathleen Nichols, director of religious education.

St. Mary of the Lake

Ontario — The annual summer festival for St. Mary's of the Lake Parish will be held Aug. 19, 20 and 21 at Firemen's Field, Route 104.

The event will feature rides by Charlie's Amusements, short-order foods, beverages, a cake booth and both a five-kilometer and a 10-kilometer fun run.

In addition, the festival will feature an auction of both

items and services, and a chicken barbeque.

St. Charles

Les Troubadours, a youth choir from Aix-en-Provence, will perform 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece.

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3 tier serves up to 100, \$40
4 tier serves 175 to 200, \$60
3 tier whipped cream, custard filling serves up to 100, \$60

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Decorator cakes, whipped cream & strawberry, lemon, pineapple, custard filling; 1/4 sheet, \$7.00; 1/2 sheet, \$10.00; full sheet, \$18.00. Decorator cakes butter cream frostings, half sheet, \$9.00; full sheet \$16.00.

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