Diocesans Asked For Good Shoes To Help Poland

An emergency call for donations of shoes for the people of Poland went out last week from the Polish-American Congress.

According to Greg Duch, area spokesman for the congress, the need is for good usable shoes, men's, women's and children's, and in particular for Winter shoes and boots.

He said the shoes will be collected 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, at St. Stanislaus School auditorium. Transportation costs for the shoes will be paid by the congress, he said, and the shoes will be distributed through agencies of the Polish Bishops' Conference.

Duch added a personal appeal as well. He said that he had spent six weeks during the summer studying at the University of Krakow, and had the opportunity to see the need of the people for shoes at that time.

He said that shoes are rationed to a single pair a year, but even that minimum cannot be reached.

"The problem is just incredible," he said.

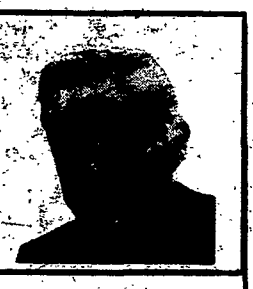
ME Weekend Scheduled In Brockport

Married couples in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Brockport will have the opportunity to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend organized especially for the parish Feb. 4-6 at Brockport SUNY.

Further information and reservations are available from Jim and Laura Griffen, (716) 381-5930.

Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord



Checking The Second Draft

Some personal reflections on the second draft of the bishops' statement, "The Challenge of Peace":

1. It is a good, serious effort to deal responsibly with an extremely difficult moral problem. It is worth a careful reading, but its length and style will result in its being known mostly through quotations and reports.

2. I know of no other effort anywhere in Catholic thought to deal as seriously and as broadly with the theological significance of modern warfare, modern weapons.

Considering the seriousness of the dangers, such thinking is an urgent need. The effort deserves respect. It should not be subjected to cheap shots about the incompetence of the bishops to say anything significant regarding weaponry and national policy.

If other groups choose to do comparable work to develop their own judgments, fine. But at least the bishops should be credited for a serious effort to develop some public evaluation of life and death issues.

3. There are clear moral judgments in the second draft which contradict our present national policy. Most prominently, the draft judges as immoral our present threat of using nuclear weapons in response to any overt aggression against western Europe.

4. While the statement certainly raises problems of conscience for Catholics in the armed services and for those involved in building nuclear weapons, I do not see that it demands any specific new response out of religious obedience.

The statement calls for serious, conscientious thought about these issues. It's not likely to result in the massive departure of Catholics from military service or from defense industries.

5. For me, the most important, practical implication of the statement has to do with my response as a citizen of this nation.

Neither the bishops nor the individual citizens can formulate the specific steps by which diplomatic and defense goals can be attained.

We can, however, and we must take responsibility for giving our officials direction regarding fundamental policies and goals.

After a careful reading of the statement, these are some of my firm convictions:

• Efforts to reduce the threat of war and to negotiate a reduction of nuclear weapons must be an absolute priority of our national leadership.

• As a citizen, I do not accept the judgment that our nation cannot afford to take risks in pursuing these goals. We are, in fact, taking horrendous risks in the continuing escalation of nuclear weapons.

• As a citizen, I am not naive about the dangers confronting our nation from the Soviet Union and from other sources. I think we need an adequate military capability, but I also think it reasonable to assume that other nations would be equally interested in moving back from the danger of nuclear disaster, from the immense expenditures involved in such weapons.

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