

ROUND 3 The Bishops Versus The Bomb

By Jim Lackey
NC News Service

Washington — The committee of U.S. bishops preparing a pastoral letter on war and peace has begun writing the third draft of the letter and has met again with Reagan administration officials to clarify certain aspects of U.S. defense policy.

Cardinal-designate Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the five-member committee drafting the pastoral letter, characterized the two-hour meeting with administration officials as "constructive."

"We didn't resolve all of the difficulties," Archbishop Bernardin said. But the meeting did result in clarifications by both the committee and the administration on current defense policy and on points made in the second draft, he said.

The second draft questioned several aspects of nuclear weapons policy and included a moral condemnation of some elements of nuclear deterrence.

In addition to the meeting with the Reagan aides, meetings also are scheduled in Rome with representatives of various European bishops conferences, Archbishop Bernardin said.

The third draft of the pastoral is scheduled to be debated by the U.S. bishops at a special meeting in Chicago May 2-3.

Archbishop Bernardin said the meeting with representatives of the State and Defense departments and the National Security Council was a followup to a critique of the second draft by William P. Clark, President Reagan's national security adviser.

Clark complained that the document reflected "fundamental misreadings of American policies."

No additional meetings with administration officials are planned, Archbishop Bernardin said, although one could be held if either side thought it useful.

Archbishop Bernardin said the meetings with representatives of European bishops were scheduled to begin this week. At-

tending will be delegates of the French, West German, English, Welsh and Scottish hierarchies. Representing the U.S. bishops will be Archbishop Bernardin, Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, NCCB general secretary, and Father J. Bryan Hehir, NCCB staff adviser to the War and Peace Committee.

The committee has begun the task of redrafting the letter, reviewing some 300 pages of comments received by the committee on the second draft. Each committee member was assigned a portion of the pastoral to rewrite, Archbishop Bernardin said. The committee will meet in Washington Feb. 17-18 to examine its redrafting efforts. The committee has set a March 1 deadline for completion of the third draft so it can be typed and into the hands of all U.S. bishops by April 1.

Unity Theme Has Irish Origin

By NC News Service

St. Patrick may be presiding over this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25.

The week's theme, "Jesus Christ, Life of the World," has an Irish origin and services suggested by the week's sponsors include an ancient Irish prayer.

The theme was proposed by an ecumenical group in Northern Ireland and approved in December 1981 by a special mixed commission of the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. The theme is the same as that of the sixth general assembly of the World Council of Churches, scheduled for July 24-Aug. 10 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The suggested order of worship issued by the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute in Garrison, N.Y., for use in ecumenical prayer services during the week includes responsorial prayers based on the ancient Irish prayer known as "St. Patrick's Breastplate."

The concept of Christian unity central to the week is no

longer that of a return of other Christians to the Roman Catholic Church, said Atonement Father Charles V. LaFontaine, co-director of the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute. "The whole idea of a return to Rome is out the window as a result of the 'Decree on Ecumenism,'" he said.

Ecumenical observances of the week are much more common now, with Catholic priests and clergymen of other Christian denominations exchanging pulpits, a practice which "would have been unheard of" in former days, Father LaFontaine said.

Noting that the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity have collaborated in recent years in promoting observance of the week, Father John F. Hotchkiss, director of the secretariat of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said Christians are praying for "that unity which Christ wills for us. One thing the Lord wants is for us to share in the Eucharist. Until we reach that stage, the search for unity is not over."

Bishop

Continued from Page 1

Court's decision which removed protection for unborn life and sanctioned abortion on demand. By contrast, the rapidly developing science of fetology has confirmed more and more clearly in these 10 years that indeed life does exist in intricate detail and individuality from the time of conception. What we lack as a people is not the knowledge that life exists in the womb, but we lack the courageous reverence for that life.

Women in tragic circumstances are urged to see abortion as a panacea, while the rest of society in turn can continue to ignore the tragic circumstances. The unborn person becomes the scapegoat, then, for our collective failure to insure a dignified life for

all people. It is for this reason that approximately half of the funds allocated to our diocesan Human Life Commission are channeled to women with unexpected pregnancies.

As with the issue of nuclear disarmament, we are obliged by all that our faith and reason elicit in us to cry out for peace and justice. I ask you to join me in a pledge to increase both faith and knowledge, and in turn to communicate our convictions to those in political office who determine our common responses.

Your brother in Christ

Matthew Healy
Bishop of Rochester

Cardinal

Continued from Page 1

every moment of existence," Cardinal Terence Cooke said last week.

The Jan. 22 anniversary should be "a time of prayer and reparation and of rededication to the principle of the sanctity of human life," said the cardinal who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Cardinal Cooke called the abortion decisions "a national tragedy" which he said have made it legally impossible for government at any level to fulfill one of its fundamental duties — the protection of the

most dependent and defenseless members of society, "the innocent unborn."

"As a result of these disastrous decisions," he said, "the lives of more than 15 million human beings have been destroyed."

"This is a statistic which we cannot camouflage with positive-sounding phrases, such as 'pro-choice' or 'termination of pregnancies' or 'reproductive freedom,'" Cardinal Cooke said. "It is a devastating loss of human life and we must do everything in our power to bring it to an end."

The cardinal paid tribute to those who have kept the pro-life issue in the public eye.

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz To Give Eight Talks

Elmira — Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz will be the featured speaker at the Ecumenical Preaching Mission at The Park Church here this year.

Ms. Isasi-Diaz will speak on the beatitudes at 7:30 p.m. each evening from Sunday, Jan. 23, through Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The Ecumenical Preaching Mission is a combination of the old Lenten Preaching Mission and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service.

The nightly events are open to the public and will feature music by the Cantata Singers, Interchurch Cluster Choir, St. Mary's of the Lake Folk Choir and Our Lady of Lourdes Folk Choir.

In addition, Ms. Isasi-Diaz will also address the annual meeting of Church Women United, Wednesday, Jan. 26. Her topic will be "She Stood Upright and Glorified God." The noon event is open to the public.

Ms. Isasi-Diaz has been slated for a morning series of talks on feminist liberation



MS. ISASI-DIAZ theology, 10 a.m. Monday through Wednesday at the Marian Center of St. Mary's Church. The program is open to clergy, pastoral assistants and religious leaders.

Following the Preaching Mission, Ms. Isasi-Diaz will assume the position of Lecturer in Professional Development at Union Theological Seminary in New York.



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