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## New Canon Law Codifies Spirit Of Vatican II, Bishop States

Bishop Matthew H. Clark described the revised Code of Canon Law for the Catholic Church as "an incorporation of the theology and provisions of the Second Vatican Council into law, going beyond mere phrasing and punctuation changes, and beyond the elimination of outdated and irrelevant materials."



BISHOP CLARK

Bishop Clark made the comment yesterday, marking the promulgation of the revised Code by Pope John Paul II. Bishop Clark said that the publishing of the law "gives us the opportunity to revisit the spirit and effectiveness of the Second Vatican Council and to become more familiar with the reality of the Catholic Church's structure and practice, and with the rights and responsibilities we enjoy and share as People of God."

Pope John XXIII called for the Second Vatican Council of Bishops in 1962, and in 1963 established a commission to revise the universal legal system of the Catholic Church. Both the council and the revision of the law were seen as necessary for the updating of the Catholic Church.

"It is my hope that our clergy (priests, deacons, sisters and brothers) and laity alike will have the opportunity to study and contemplate elements of the new code in the months ahead, so that it will add to their understanding of the Church and the richness of its tradition," the bishop said.

The Second vatican Council ended in 1965 and the revision of the Code of Canon Law has proceeded since then, involving all the Catholic bishops of the world, other experts in religious matters, Catholic institutions of higher learning, seminaries, and other religious institutes. The result collects the universal laws of the Catholic Church, except for the Eastern Rite, into a single volume con-

taining approximately 1,700 canons. The previous Code of Canon Law, which had been promulgated in 1917, contained more than 2,400 canons. There were three U.S. members of the commission which completed the revision, John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago, and the late John Cardinal Cody of Chicago.

Bishop Clark commented that the new code reflects the theology of law as expressed in various addresses by Pope Paul VI. "While the code focuses on the sacraments and on Church as community," the bishop said, "it also provides guidance in a number of areas that were carefully studied and debated at the Vatican Council, including the expanded role of the laity, the decentralization of authority and the protection of individual rights."

In the revised code, conferences of bishops, such as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the U. S., have been given an "agenda" requiring decisions to adapt certain canons to the needs of their dioceses. It is anticipated it will take six months to a year to complete the activation of the Code of Canon Law throughout the country.

## THAT NUCLEAR LETTER

### Bernardin: 'No Substantive Changes'

Rome (NC) — Cardinal-designate Joseph Bernardin of Chicago said Jan. 18 that he foresees no "substantive" changes in the draft of the American bishops' pastoral on nuclear policy.

The second draft of the pastoral is undergoing revision prior to its presentation to the U.S. bishops for final voting on May 2.

The archbishop commented on the draft pastoral at a press conference and during a talk to students of the North American College at the mid-point of the meeting at the Vatican between representatives of several European hierarchies. He is chairman of the committee drafting the pastoral.

He said that considerable reworking of the document is taking place, to accommodate suggestions made by American bishops and others consulted, but that the alterations and expansions of the document would be "clarifying" ones and that the fundamental points of the draft will not be changed.

The key themes of the draft:

— The retention of the Church's traditional just war theory and saying that the tenets of the theory prohibit nuclear strikes against civilian areas.

— A serious skepticism about any "first use" of nuclear weapons and about the legitimacy of a limited nuclear response against military targets because of the danger of escalation and the just war's demand for proportionality.

— The moral acceptability of the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent, but only if that possession is coupled with serious bilateral efforts at reduction of armaments.

Archbishop Bernardin indicated that these key points would be preserved in the third draft.

"I personally would not see any substantial changes," he said, "although some might see them as such. For the most part, they will be clarifying changes, because of some misunderstandings and misconceptions about certain sections of the draft. I'm not sure that I would characterize the changes as substantive."

The archbishop, who has been designated by Pope John Paul II to become a cardinal on Feb. 2, outlined several areas of the draft which he said are "already undergoing" revision or expansion.

Among them is the section on deterrence, he said. "We're satisfied with our conclusion there," he added, "but we're not completely satisfied with the way the argumentation develops in the present draft."

## The Vatican: Bishops Within Authority

Vatican City (NC) — U.S. and western Europe bishops "have reaffirmed the responsibility and the moral authority of the Church concerning problems of war and peace," including nuclear weapons, a Jan. 19 Vatican communique said.

It was issued after a two-day meeting of Vatican officials and delegations representing the bishops of the United States, France, West Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands.

The American bishops draft pastoral on the moral aspects of nuclear policy was discussed at the meeting organized by the Vatican.

"In the face of the threats of the present time to life, to basic human values and to the survival of peoples, it seemed necessary for the episcopal conferences which are especially involved, though in different ways, in the problems of nuclear armament to act in concert in order to be informed about the realities experienced in different countries and to examine them in fidelity to the tradition of the Church and the teaching of John Paul II," the communique said.

It called the meeting an "informal consultation" and that

it was "an expression of episcopal collegiality." Topics discussed included the use of nuclear weapons, the morality of deterrence, the political context of the arms race and the values at stake, the Vatican said.

The meeting was called after the U.S. bishops had sent copies of their first draft pastoral to other national hierarchies and to the Vatican.

Cardinal-designate Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, head of the U.S. bishops' committee drafting the pastoral, said that private written responses from the French and West German bishops' conferences sent earlier to the U.S. bishops had arrived too late to be incorporated into the second draft but they would be taken into consideration in formulating a third draft. The U.S. bishops are scheduled to vote on the pastoral in May.

Another member of the four-man U.S. delegation, Father J. Bryan Hehir, said the Americans "feel quite good about the meeting. All of what was discussed will be taken into serious consideration as a part of the ongoing process of consultation."

Father Hehir is the director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for International Justice and Peace.

## Pro-Lifers Apprise Reagan of Goals

By Stephenie Overman

Washington (NC) — Pro-lifers met with President Reagan Jan. 21 at the White House to praise the president, ask for his continued help and tell him of efforts to pull the pro-life movement together.

National Right to Life Committee president Dr. John C. Willke said in an interview after the meeting with the president, that Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.) and Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) had consulted with each other and that they hope to talk with

Sen. Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.) "to see if they can agree on a version" of pro-life legislation. The three congressmen have sponsored different pieces of anti-abortion legislation.

"We have no commitment, no wording," on a new piece of legislation, Willke said, "but we were able to indicate to the president" that efforts are being made to bring the divergent pro-life views together.

"It's the sort of thing we have to do. We're foolish to split our strength." Willke

added. Pro-lifers have been divided over whether to have one all-encompassing anti-abortion amendment or whether to work in steps to bring an end to legalized abortion.

The White House meeting came the day before the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision which overturned most state restrictions on abortion.

That day 26,000 pro-life marchers, including many from the Diocese of Roch-

ester, filed for hours past the White House.

In addition to the president, Vice President George Bush, Edwin Meese III, counselor to the president, and Margaret Heckler, new secretary of Health and Human Services, attended the meeting, Willke said.

Pro-life participants at the meeting included Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of the Moral Majority; Gleing Williams, chairman of the NRLC; Sandra Faucher, director of the NRL PAC; and Nellie

Gray, president of the March for Life.

Miss Gray said Reagan told the group that "pro-life people have been much too gentle" with the American public and have not let people know about unborn babies being cut up and burned with acid during the abortion process.

She said she asked the president to require that judges and executive department appointees be screened to assure their pro-life views.

### Haitian Report Next Week

Rochester's Haitian refugees were slated to appear in the Buffalo courtroom of Immigration and Naturalization Service administrative Judge Gordon Sacks yesterday afternoon. The Courier-Journal will carry a complete report on the proceedings in next week's edition.