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Just War Debated by Area Students

By Joan M. Smith

Can there be a just war? Can the use of nuclear weapons ever be justified? And what do "proportionality" and "discrimination" have to do with today's nuclear threat? Heavy questions and ones that are being tackled by diocesan high school students especially at Nazareth Academy.

In attending a Church History class of Ms. Mary Rose McCarthy, the Courier-Journal learned that the theory of a just war, historically, politically, and morally, is not a new aspect of Nazareth's Church History and Morality classes. What is new is the tie-in with the bishops' pastoral on war and peace.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, when he returned from Chicago after the pastoral had been made official, said that he expected the letter to be read and discussed in parishes and among parish staffs and have a place in the school curricula.

It seems the diocesan high schools anticipated the bishop's words. They have been actively interested in the pastoral since its inception. Mercy students, in Sr. Anne Curtis' Social Justice classes have not only been debating its contents but sent a delegation, headed by Maria Mendola, to Bishop Clark's public information hearing in April.

At Nazareth in Ms. McCarthy's 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 18 class, the students generally were in accord with the pastoral letter which Bishop Clark had said issues "a very strong no to war of any kind." In discussing the issues of war, Ms. McCarthy's students took the just war theory back to its beginning in the times of St. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. They examined the criteria for considering a war "just," including the necessary right intention, last resort, probability of success, proportionality, just means and just cause, to answer the question, "Can any nuclear war be a just war?"

For the most part the students agreed that in the times of Augustine and Aquinas and the barbarian invasions, the just war criteria held up.

They were adamant, however, in their opinion that the criteria, with the development of nuclear weapons, render any conflict "unjust." As one student, referring to the just cause element which allows war to protect innocent life, to preserve conditions necessary for decent human existence and to secure basic human rights, put it, "what good the cause if everyone is destroyed!"

Not everyone agreed with that premise. Another

Continued on Page 4



MARK S. KAVANAUGH

FATHER MILLER

VALERIE SMITH

YOLANDA RAMOS

Mission Team Named To Serve in Tabasco

Four persons have been selected by Bishop Matthew H. Clark for the first permanent diocesan mission team to Tabasco, Mexico.

Three laypersons, Mark S. Kavanaugh, Valerie Smith and Yolanda Ramos, and a priest, Father Neil Miller, constitute the team which will serve in our sister diocese of Tabasco.

Bishop Clark will commission the team on Aug. 14 and they will immediately begin their training. They will depart for Mexico on Sept. 5 and will be on site shortly after. They will serve up to four years on the mission assignment.

Bishop Rafael Garcia of Tabasco and Bishop Clark agreed on the necessity of the team and the concept as approved earlier this year and applications sought. The team will work in the town of Oxoltan, about 55 miles southwest of Villahermosa, the capital of the state of Tabasco, which also is the diocesan see city. Oxoltan, which in Indian means "the house of the tiger," is part of the parish of Tacotalpa which has some 2,000 residents, most of them Zoque and Chol Indians. Father Albino Hernandez is the pastor.

According to the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, the team also will work with five rancherias, small rural communities, serviced from Oxoltan. The church building and adjacent convent, now being refurbished, will house the team. The two structures were built by Dominican Spanish missionaries in the 16th Century and, because of their massiveness, were the only church buildings not razed during the 1930s religious persecution.

Kavanaugh is a 1983 graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University with a degree in political science, public administration and international business management. He has studied at the Center for Multicultural

Bilingual Studies in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and took part in a seminar program sponsored by the Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.

"I studied and lived with people from all over the world in Mexico," he said. "My experience in Mexico was extremely fulfilling."

Kavanaugh is a member of St. Charles Borromeo parish in Greece and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kavanaugh.

Valerie Smith is a 1982 graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in political science and a certificate in international relations. She studied Spanish at the Boston Center for Adult Education.

Like Kavanaugh, she also

has previous experience in Mexico: "I was a member of the (diocesan) missionary team to Tabasco and lived with the people of Tamulte for three weeks working and talking with them" in the summer of 1982.

She is a member of St. Patrick's parish in Oneida and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Asa Smith.

Yolanda Ramos, a native of Puerto Rico, is a Nazareth Academy graduate. In May of 1982, she participated in the fourth biennial National Hispanic Conference on Health and Human Services and the national Hispanic Youth Leadership in Denver, Colo.

She has worked as a day care teacher at the Lewis Street Center, as a "house sitter" weekends at Melita

House, as a Hispanic youth outreach person and with the Ibero-American Human Services Institute.

A member of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Rochester, she is the daughter of Ismael and Emilian Ramos.

Father Miller has been the director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry since it was opened in July 1, 1980. He has served in a variety of diocesan posts, including director of human development and coordinator of the Southwest Region, before joining the Southern Tier Office of Human Development in 1976.

A native of Corning, he has served as co-pastor of St. Augustine's parish in Rochester with Father Paul McCabe and also was

Continued on Page 4



MARY ROSE MCCARTHY

'Happy Birthday, Dear John Paul II'

VATICAN CITY (NC) -- Pope John Paul II turned 63 May 18 and 40,000 people threw a surprise birthday party for him.

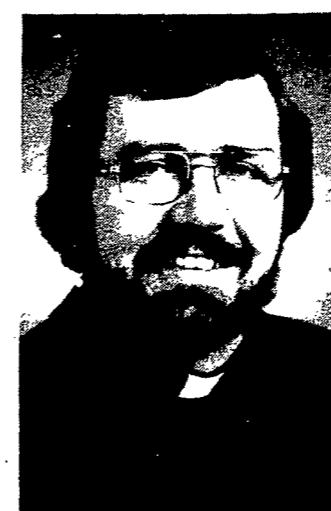
The surprise came at the end of his regular weekly audience in St. Peter's Square when an Italian singing group broke into a chorus of "Happy Birthday." Instantly, the spectators, composed of many nationalities, recognized the universally popular tune and either joined in singing the Italian lyrics or hummed along.

Father Bausch Named To ST Social Ministry

Father Michael Bausch was named last week by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to be the new director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, replacing Father Neil Miller who has been assigned to the mission team for the Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico.

Father Bausch, ordained in 1979, becomes head of an office, the major programs of which include a food bank supplying about 100 food cupboards, a counseling program, a teenage pregnancy program, a major emergency assistance program, parish council training, advocacy programs on federal budget issues and the U.S. Bishops' recent pastoral on war and peace, and a program of supportive apartment living for the mentally impaired and others.

A native of Batavia, Father Bausch, 34, studied at St. Mary's Grammar School,



FATHER BAUSCH

and Notre Dame High School there. He took a bachelor's degree in business administration from St. Bernard College in Cullman, Ala., in 1970; and did his theological studies at St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Seminary, earning a master's degree in divinity

in 1978.

Prior to entering the seminary, Father Bausch was district executive for the Corning area Boy Scouts of America, and shortly after starting theology studies, served as associate education director for the diocesan Office of Human Development.

He served his deacon internship at St. Ann's Parish in Hornell, and since ordination has been assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls and to the chaplaincy team at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The office falls under the diocesan Division of Social Ministry. Office policy is set by a board of representatives from the five Southern Tier counties.

The three-year-old facility relies heavily on volunteers. Its annual budget is approximately \$400,000, about a quarter of which comes from the diocese. The staff numbers about 20.