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New Pastoral Letter Is in the Works

Committee Preparing Document On Church and American Economy

WASHINGTON (NC) -- A committee of U.S. bishops preparing a pastoral letter on capitalism announced a one year delay in the issuance of a first draft.

The committee, headed by Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, plans now to issue its first draft in time for the November 1984 annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, according to an NCCB announcement May 23.

The committee originally had planned to issue its first draft this fall so it could be discussed at this November's bishops' meeting. A final vote on the pastoral had been tentatively set for November 1984.

According to the NCCB announcement, the capitalism pastoral is being delayed to allow sufficient time for implementation of the bishops' new war and peace pastoral approved earlier in May.

Archbishop Weakland also announced that the committee is changing its description of the pastoral from an examination of "Christianity and

Capitalism" to an examination of "Catholic Social Teaching and the American Economy."

The new title, he said, "much more accurately defines the scope and content" of the proposed pastoral.

According to the NCCB announcement, the decision to delay the capitalism pastoral now goes to the NCCB Administrative Committee, which plans the agenda for annual meetings of the bishops.

By examining the moral principles surrounding capitalism the new pastoral is expected to generate a debate similar to that which accompanied the bishops' war and peace document. Archbishop Weakland said in an interview early in May that he expected attacks on the new pastoral similar to those on the war and peace pastoral, but also predicted that "the controversy would not be as intense."

Just like the committee which drafted the war and peace pastoral, Archbishop Weakland's committee has begun holding hearings on the issue of capitalism with

experts on the topic, including government officials.

He said in the interview that he expected about 70 percent of the new pastoral to focus directly on capitalism in the United States and about 30 percent to focus on U.S. interdependence with other countries and Third World issues.

The idea for a pastoral letter on capitalism originated in 1980 when the bishops issued a pastoral letter examining the system of Marxism. Several bishops, while supporting the Marxism document, said capitalism should get similar scrutiny.

Archbishop Weakland was appointed to head the committee in January 1981 by Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul-Minneapolis, NCCB president.

Other members of the committee drafting the pastoral are Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan of Atlanta, a former NCCB treasurer, Bishop George H. Speltz of St. Cloud, Minn., Bishop William K. Weigand of Salt Lake City, and Auxiliary Bishop Peter A. Rosazza of Hartford, Conn.

Diocese Develops Plan to Improve Its Communications

The diocese has developed a program to streamline and formalize communications processes among the Pastoral Center, parishes and diocesan agencies. In addition, the plan provides for adoption of a formalized information policy for dealing with the secular news media.

The plan, well into its developmental stage, evolved from a day-long workshop involving diocesan divisional leadership March 21 at the Pastoral Center. Assisting in the workshop and the drafting of the plan is Hutchins/Young & Rubicam, which was hired in February. Hutchins Y/R has worked on public and media relations for the Thanks Giving Appeal since its inception in 1981.

The communications plan established three primary objectives to be accomplished in the next year -- establishment of a formalized public information program to reach all dioceses, improvement of internal communications by minimizing duplication and scheduling conflicts and maximizing use of such internal resources as printing, audiovisual production and computer capabilities.

According to Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, director of the Division of Education and co-chairperson of the

Communications Committee, the planning process is nearly completed.

"The preliminary plan has been reviewed by the Ministerial Review Committee," she said, "and we expect to present the final plan to the bishop before July 1."

Chairing the committee with Sister Roberta is Father Louis A. Vasile, diocesan information officer and secretary to the bishop.

Among the tasks to be completed are the development of an information policy and manual to provide guidance for diocesan personnel in dealing with the news media, the production of a communications seminar for all diocesan and parish personnel charged with working with the news media or other public relations activities, a survey of the communications policies and systems now in operation in neighboring dioceses, and the compilation of existing diocesan newsletters and other publications, as well as audiovisual and broadcast equipment.

"We need to determine what we have and what we need," Sister Roberta said, "in order to intelligently plan for the future."

Sister Roberta said that a high priority is streamlining the mailing system to cut down on the volume of mail from the Pastoral Center. "We see this as not only a means of conserving our limited financial resources,"

she said, "but also decreasing the amount of time and effort which parish personnel devote to information on diocesan activities."

In the area of media relations, Father Vasile pointed to the extensive coverage the secular media have provided the bishops' pastoral on the challenge of peace, including Bishop Clark's public hearing on the subject and his news conference at the Rochester-Monroe County Airport on his return from Chicago May 4. "That coverage," he said, "was the result of the joint effort of the International Justice and Peace Commission and the Communications Committee."

That committee consists of Sister Roberta and Father Vasile; Father Louis J. Hohman, recently named pastor of St. Louis Church in Pittsford; Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, director of the Department of Religious Education, and Francine Patella, coordinator of the Campaign for Human Development. One goal of the committee is to determine the feasibility "of an eventual linkup with the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America."

Also under consideration is the establishment of an Office of Communications in the Pastoral Center. "These decisions," Sister Roberta said, "on CTNA or the

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Bishops Protest Funding

(undated) — Bishops in the MX missile states — Wyoming and Nebraska — have opposed further funding of the missiles and expressed disappointment in the approval of funding by Congress May 24 and 25. Bishop Joseph Hart of Cheyenne, whose diocese covers the state of Wyoming, called the development of the MX an "immoral gesture." Archbishop Daniel Sheehan of Omaha, Neb., questioned the use of "a lot of resources for something for which there is so much controversy about its need." On May 24 the House voted 239-186 to approve the administration's plan to base the missiles in Nebraska and Wyoming and to release \$625 million for engineering and flight tests of the MX. The following day, the Senate approved the measure on a 59-39 vote. Bishop Lawrence McNamara of Grand Island, Neb., the diocese in which most or all of the Nebraska-based missiles would be placed, summarized his reaction in one word: "disappointment." Bishop Glennon Flavin of Lincoln, Neb., could not be reached for comment.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Ready for Auction

Ray Tette, director of Camp Stella Maris, shows off some of the hundreds of used articles that will be auctioned this Saturday, June 4, at the camp on Conesus Lake. Among the materials are various antiques including many chairs and the ice chest and china above. Also featured will be the 1971 Volkswagen convertible in the background, and a sunfish sailboat. According to Tette, the auction will begin at 10 a.m., but all items may be viewed beforehand at 8:30 a.m.

CATHERINE
DE VALERA
1856 — 1932

Many diocesans, especially those of Irish descent, remember Eamon De Valera, perhaps the Irish Republic's most controversial president and revolutionary. But not many of us know of his mother. . . a strong-willed woman who lived and is buried here in the city of Rochester. For more on Catherine De Valera Wheelright, see Page 12.