

Summary of Pastoral Approved by Bishops

Washington (NC) -- A summary of the new pastoral letter on war and peace has been approved by the U.S. bishops in a mail ballot, the general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops said June 7.

(The summary is included in the full text of the bishops' document which is inserted in this week's edition).

Msgr. Daniel F. Hoye, the NCCB official, said the necessary two-thirds vote for the summary had been received at NCCB headquarters in Washington on June 3.

The summary itself was not immediately released pending some minor editorial changes that some bishops had suggested in their mail ballots.

The summary needed 191 affirmative votes from the nation's 286 active bishops.

A bishops' spokesman said June 10 that as of that date the vote for the summary was 224-2, with some ballots still arriving by mail. Now that the summary is approved, it will be incorporated at the beginning of the rest of the pastoral.

The much shorter version was included originally in the third draft of the document but when the bishops gathered in Chicago May 2-3 to vote on the pastoral they decided to delay issuance of the summary until after the committee which drafted the pastoral had a chance to rewrite the summary to reflect changes in the 42,000-word pastoral approved at the Chicago meeting.

The drafting committee, headed by Cardinal Joseph

L. Bernardin of Chicago, approved the new summary at a meeting May 20. Several days later it was mailed to the bishops for their approval.

The summary was originally termed a "precis" for the pastoral letter. But NCCB officials later decided to stop calling it a precis since the word summary more adequately described the document's purpose.

As expected, the summary addressed no new issues and contained no surprise statements. It was meant only to synthesize the already widely publicized contents of the main body of the pastoral.

Origins, the documentary service of NC News Service, which has already published the main text of the pastoral, said it would publish the summary in its next issue, dated June 23.

The summary, in addition to stating briefly the bishops' judgments on nuclear war and nuclear deterrence, synthesized the other major points of the pastoral letter. Among these were:

-- The letter's judgments should be studied with the understanding that its judgments on specific issues do not carry the same weight of authority or certitude as its declarations of ethical principles and church teaching.

-- The church's moral teaching on warfare acknowledges both the right and duty of a nation to defend its citizens while establishing clear moral limits on that right or its exercise.

-- The arms race itself is "one of the greatest curses on the human race; it is to be

condemned as a danger, an act of aggression against the poor, and a folly which does not provide the security it promises."

-- Negotiations should be governed by the "demand that the arms race should cease" and by other concrete goals including the abolition of nuclear arms.

-- Military service is a moral act "contributing to the maintenance of peace," but that at the same time governments should make legal provision for those who object in conscience to bearing arms.

-- The bishops' judgments on nuclear war, the arms race and nuclear deterrence lead them to specific recommendations, including a call for "immediate, bilateral, verifiable agreements to halt the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear systems," and for other agreements to control or reduce nuclear and other weapons.

-- On the dimension of not only preventing war but building a positive framework for world peace, the bishops urge "political and economic policies designed to protect human dignity and to promote the human rights of every person" and "the establishment of some form of global authority adequate to the needs of the international common good."

The summary of the war and peace pastoral, like the pastoral itself, was written by the five-bishop committee headed by Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago. Its other members were Bishops Daniel P. Reilly of Norwich, Conn., George A. Fulcher of Lafayette, Ind., and John J. O'Connor of Scranton, Pa.; and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit.

National followup on the pastoral, titled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," has been entrusted to a three-bishop committee headed by Bishop Fulcher.



Super Hero Returns

A plan by Gus Gorman to outwit Superman doesn't fly — but he does — when Christopher Reeve again plays the Man of Steel and Richard Pryor plays his new nemesis in "Superman III," a Warner Bros. release opening June 17 nationwide. The cast also includes Jackie Cooper, Annette O'Toole, Annie Ross, Robert Vaughn and Margo Kidder as Lois Lane. (NC Photo)

Books en Route

By Richard Philbrick
Washington (NC) — Here is a list of new books of particular interest to Catholic readers:

"Life In Abundance," by Franciscan Father Francis Baur, Paulist Press, \$7.95, 276 pp., offers a contemporary spirituality based on the claim that the Gospel life is available to everyone, as is the abundance of life.

"A Prison of Expectations," by Steven Mintz, New York University Press, \$25.00, 234 pp., describes in fascinating detail what family life was like in an era when it supposedly was beyond criticism.

"The Religious Potential of the Child," by Sofia Cavalletti, Paulist Press, \$10.95, 187 pp., is an account by an internationally known religious educator of an experience with children from three to six years old.

"Whole Child-Whole Parent," by Polly Berrien Berends, Harper & Row, \$16.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

360 pp., is a revised edition of a book widely acclaimed as an excellent spiritual and practical guide to parenthood.

"A Piece of My Mind," by Father Andrew M. Greeley, Doubleday, \$13.95, 240 pp., contains essays on a variety of topics written with insight, humor and, occasionally, anger by a widely known commentator.

"Son of Man and Son of God," by John C. Dwyer, Paulist Press, \$7.95, 220 pp., presents a thoughtful, inspiring answer to the age-old question, Who is Jesus Christ?

"Genetic Medicine and Engineering: Ethical and Social Dimensions," edited by Dominican Father Albert S. Moraczewski, Catholic Health Association of the United States, \$17.50, 200 pp., explores the medical and moral questions faced by Catholic health facilities as they try to decide whether to offer genetic diagnosis, counseling and treatment.

The Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center collaborated in publishing this book.

"Jacques Maritain and the French Catholic Intellectuals," by Bernard Doering, University of Notre Dame Press, \$22.95, 268 pp., follows the development of the famed philosopher's ideas in response to the crucial social and political events of the period.

"Woods, Shore, Desert," by Thomas Merton, Museum of New Mexico Press, \$14.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper, 58 pp., is a notebook with numerous pictures he took telling of the noted monk's departure from the Trappist Abbey at Gethsemani in 1968 and his journey then through the American West.

"What Difference Does Jesus Make?" by Frank Sheed, Our Sunday Visitor, \$6.95, 242 pp., was a best seller when it was first published in 1971, and today it is considered a classic treatment of the role of Christ in modern times

House Defeats Bill With Abortion Ban

Washington (NC) -- A \$12 billion appropriations bill for the Treasury Department and the Postal Service which included an amendment banning use of federal insurance funds for federal workers' abortions was defeated by the House June 8.

The bill, defeated 259 to 149, is one of 33 major money bills needed to run the government in fiscal 1984. It goes back to the House Appropriations Committee for further work.

Defeat of the bill put in jeopardy the amount of the postal subsidy for non-profit mailers, including the Catholic press. The bill had provided full subsidy but the House Appropriations Committee could now change that.

Richard Doerflinger, legislative assistant for the bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, said, "it's unfortunate the way it worked out" causing the defeat of the anti-abortion rider. He expressed concern that the Appropriations Committee would remove the rider in order to get the bill passed.

He explained that the rider had been attached to the bill after Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) asked the Rules Committee for a waiver of the new restrictive rules concerning riders on appropriations bills. The Rules Committee voted 7-5 to waive the rules.

The House voted to accept the decision of the Rules Committee. It voted 226 to 182 to accept the rider which

prohibited use of health insurance funds to pay for abortions for federal workers except when the life of the woman is in danger. It then went on to defeat the bill 259 to 149.

Doerflinger said the high "no" vote seemed to be a combination of opponents to the anti-abortion language and conservatives who complained that the bill was more than \$400 million over President Reagan's budget. He added that pro-lifers hope to get a "permanent and comprehensive ban" on federal funding of abortions except to save the life of the woman which would not be linked to appropriations measures and therefore would not have to be voted on annually.

He cited the "limited success" of a bill approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee May 24 which restricted abortion coverage in a proposed new federal health insurance program for the unemployed. Pro-life and pro-choice groups called that bill important because it puts a permanent restriction on a program of federal health funding for abortion.

Deadline

Items intended for publication must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices by noon Thursday before the Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal is located at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Short Takes

"The Man with Two Brains" (Warners)

A brilliant and slightly mad brain surgeon (Steve Martin) falls in love with one of his patients (Kathleen Turner), and when her hotly professed affection for him cools to zero once the wedding vows are pronounced, he finds solace in a platonic affair with a girl who is a real brain — quite literally so, kept alive by a brilliant and altogether mad scientist (David Warner). Martin thus has two problems: the woman he is married to has a beautiful body and loathes him, and the woman who loves him has no body at all. Guess what happens? This third Steve Martin movie, directed again by Carl Reiner and written by Reiner, Martin and George Gipe, is a vast improvement over "The Jerk" and perhaps more consistently funny than "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid." There's a lot of good fun with such things as Warner's Frankenstein-style castle in a sleek condominium and a very tough Austrian drunk driver's test, but the silliness palls after a while. Regrettable also is the needless inclusion of some rather explicit sexual play and some nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Trading Places" (Paramount)

Two quite rich, quite old, quite nasty brothers (Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche), on a mere whim, elevate an impoverished black con-man (Eddie Murphy) to the directorship of their trading company after manipulating events so that their former director, a stuffy young WASP (Dan Aykroyd), plunges to the lowest of the lower depths. This reworking of a venerable device, directed by John Landis and written by Timothy Harris and Herschel

Weingrod, is fairly funny for about two-thirds of the way through, bolstered by good performances by Aykroyd and, in particular, Murphy, but the ending is too predictable to have much comic punch. Director Landis' predilection for nudity, moreover, somewhat more controlled than in past movies, is still significantly in evidence. The U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"War Games" (MGM-UA)

David (Matthew Broderick), a brilliant high school underachiever and self-taught computer wizard, breaks into the computer percolating American nuclear strategy options. The FBI duly scoops David up, and nobody believes his story that the computer, with or without a playmate, has been programmed to keep on playing to the logical conclusion of nuclear Armageddon. The early portions of the film are especially entertaining, but "War Games" loses much of its momentum when John Wood's semimad scientist, tracked down by David, comes on to give the standard lecture on human folly getting its just desserts. The final boy-versus-computer think-out, however, is much less exciting than it could have been, being little more than a sound and light show. As to the grave issues involved, the movie, in vintage Hollywood fashion, sticks resolutely to the surface, exploiting the material for thrills. As an innocuous bit of summer entertainment, however, it fills the bill. A few vulgar expletives. The U.S. Catholic Conference has classified it A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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