

World Peace Day Theme

Vatican City (NC) — Following is the English text of the communique announcing Pope John Paul II's choice of the theme for the 1984 World Day of Peace, "From a New Heart, Peace is Born." The text was released July 26 by the Vatican. World Peace Day is celebrated Jan. 1 each year.

Two great events in the life of the Church, the Holy Year of the Redemption, 1983, and the forthcoming world

Synod of Bishops on reconciliation, have prompted the holy father to propose for the reflection of all people of good will, for the 16th World Day of Peace (Jan. 1, 1984), the theme of peace and conversion of heart: "From a New Heart, Peace is Born."

In spite of the grave threats to which peace is being subjected in many parts of the world at the present time, the undertakings promoted by governments, institutions and international organizations, as well as the mobilization of thousands of individuals, groups and churches in favor of peace, encourage one to have hope. This hope demands the generous action of all hearts, for the efforts of just a few are not enough. There is no valid reason for denying humanity's right to peace, which is the great gift of God. But from every individual is required the sacrifice and renunciation of those already existing barriers in the heart that prevent the attainment of peace between nations and within a single nation.

Conversion, that is to say the need for a new heart in every individual, is therefore the basic path toward the attainment of peace. In fact, for all people of good will, the quest for peace is a need of their hearts, which live and experience this interior transformation into ever greater personhood. The fruit of this new way of thinking and new attitude manifests itself in deeds of love, justice and peace, the only deeds capable of ensuring that the actions and decisions of governments and institutions, of leaders,

scientists, intellectuals and all those committed to what is truly good will have a really human connotation.

On the other hand, hardness of heart is lethargy in eliminating the obstacles to the achievement of peace.

Man is what his heart is, and everything that man does is born of his heart. Making peace, working for peace and building peace demand the spiritual resources of a heart

capable of sacrifices both great and small in order to transform the hardness of that heart, born of the lack of interior disposition, to an understanding of the most noble interests and rights of humanity. A new heart is also a new understanding, and a new willingness to make new decisions in favor of peace and of the good of humanity.

The service of peace, born of a new heart, will thus seek to express itself through concrete initiatives dedicated to ensuring respect for human rights, to the promotion of justice, and to the achievement of the common good as the radical demands of love, which is the real driving force of history and of a life which is truly worthy of man. Testimonies in favor of peace must increase in every place, within families, in schools and universities, in the world of work, in the places where decisions are made, in government and in international relations.

In the message which he sent to the United Nations organization on the occasion of the special session of the General Assembly on development (Aug. 25, 1980), Pope John Paul II wrote, "Only through the conversion of hearts can brothers and sisters 'build the common future of the human race,' and construct the great and lasting edifice of peace."

This is the profound meaning of the invitation which the holy father addresses to the world for the next World Day of Peace: an invitation to renew the heart so that peace may take root in it.

Aid Increased

New York (NC) — Catholic Relief Services July 20 increased its assistance to the famine-stricken people of northern Ethiopia, said press coordinator Beth Griffin. The emergency program, now valued at \$2.3 million,

provides food, medicine, seeds and blankets for about 70,000 people in the Tigray province of Ethiopia. Assistance has more than doubled from \$1 million in aid for May and June.

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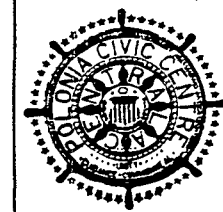
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Irish Bishops: Nuclear Deterrence Policy Insane

Dublin, Ireland (NC) — Permanent reliance on a strategy of nuclear deterrence is "insane," said the Irish Catholic bishops in a joint statement on war and peace.

The statement said a deterrent policy can be morally acceptable under certain circumstances but added that the current stock of warheads "far exceed any rational estimate of what deterrence requires."

The bishops also said if elements of a country's nuclear strategy were immoral the country would have a "strict moral obligation" to take unilateral steps if necessary to change the strategy.

The bishops' statement, titled "The Storm That Threatens," holds that the possession of nuclear weapons for deterrence can be tolerated as the lesser of two evils under certain conditions. These are:

— There must be no intention to ever use nuclear weapons against cities and population centers.

— The philosophy underlying the deterrent must be "sufficiency to deter" through the ability to inflict heavy damage. This does not require weapons superiority or equality.

— Substantive efforts must be made to bring about disarmament.

They added that unless all three conditions were met a deterrence strategy was immoral.

The bishops' statement was scheduled for publication

July 28.

Because deterrence is based on threat, it "is in direct contradiction to the building of trust necessary for peace," the bishops said.

The present nuclear arms situation "which is not a balance but a steady escalation" is "a scandal in a world where basic human rights, even food and health care, are being denied, not by totalitarian dictatorships alone, but by all those who think it more important to build up their power of overkill than to feed the hungry," the bishops said.

Even if comprehensive multilateral disarmament proved impossible for the time being, each nuclear power still has the responsibility to ensure its military effort does not go beyond what genuine deterrence requires, the bishops said.

The bishops called for nuclear policy to be built on a reverence for life.

"Whether in regard to the rights of the unborn, the elderly or the handicapped, the destruction of people through hunger and malnutrition, or the threat of annihilation through weapons of mass destruction, such reverence cannot be selective, since human life is all of a piece," they said.

The bishops pointed to a "mounting conviction" in the church that moral conditions for a just war are more difficult to satisfy in the case of nuclear weapons.

Canadian Bishops Praise 'Challenge of Peace'

Ottawa (NC) — The Canadian Catholic bishops have congratulated the U.S. bishops on their war and peace pastoral, calling the document "thoughtful, courageous and prophetic."

Archbishop Henri Legare, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops will encourage their people to read and study "this milestone in mankind's search for peace."

In a letter to Archbishop John R. Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis, president of the National Conference

of Catholic Bishops, Archbishop Legare said the role of the church in Canada differs from its U.S. counterpart because Canada is not a "super power."

He said the Canadian bishops need to reflect on "the moral foundations and Christian dimensions of the statecraft and diplomacy needed for any successful resolution of the disarmament question."

The CCCB Social Affairs Commission has protested the testing of U.S. cruise

missiles over Canada, saying the "Canadian people should not be further implicated in the continuing expansion of the nuclear arms race which threatens to escalate into global holocaust."

The CCCB and other Christian denominations have met with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and other government leaders to urge Canada to play a greater role in disarmament and the de-escalation of the nuclear arms race.

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