

# 'We Cannot Remain Silent In the Face of Such Danger'

Last in a Series  
By Jim Lackey

Washington (NC) -- In the final pages of their pastoral letter on war and peace the U.S. bishops make one last effort to answer two questions that vexed them throughout the development of the massive document. Both defied simple answers.

One is, "Why do we address these matters fraught with such complexity, controversy and passion?" The other simply asks, "What are we saying?"

The bishops say they addressed such difficult issues in the pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," because as Church leaders they cannot avoid the responsibility of raising the moral dimensions of the nuclear arms race. What was created by God now can virtually be destroyed by man, the bishops remark.

"We cannot remain silent in the face of such danger... We are simply trying to live up to the call of Jesus to be peacemakers in our own time and situation."

In simplest terms what the bishops are saying, according to this section of the pastoral, is that the good ends of defending one's country or protecting freedom cannot justify the use of immoral means of warfare, such as indiscriminate use of weapons.

"Fundamentally, we are saying that the decisions about nuclear weapons are among the most pressing moral questions of our age. While these decisions have obvious military and political aspects, they involve fundamental moral choices."

The bishops add, "We fear that our world and nation are headed in the wrong direction. More weapons with greater destructive potential are produced every day. More and more nations are seeking to become nuclear powers. In our quest for more and more security we are actually becoming less and less secure."

The bishops also say that peacemaking is not optional. "It is a requirement of our faith."

"We are called to be peacemakers not by some movement of the moment but by our Lord Jesus. The content and context of our peacemaking is set not by some political agenda or ideological program but by the teaching of his Church."

The bishops use the concluding sentences of their pastoral also to reiterate their view that the only way to true peace is through the establishment of global structures that have the authority to head off warfare before it begins.



## The Challenge of Peace

Such a global body, the bishops say, must have the equipment to keep constant surveillance of the world, must have the authority to investigate possible preparations for war, must have the power to enforce its commands on every nation, and must pose no threat to any nation's sovereignty.

The pastoral urges the U.S. government to propose that the United Nations create an international task force for peace that would meet daily with one agenda: "the creation of a world that will one day be safe from war."

"Freed from the bondage of war that holds it captive in its threat, the world will at last be able to address its problems and to make genuine human progress so that every day there may be more freedom, more food and more opportunity for every human being who walks the face of the earth."

But as the bishops conclude their pastoral they also emphasize the need for courage, faith and perseverance.

"If ridding the world of the weapons of war could be done easily, the whole human race would do it gladly tomorrow. Shall we shrink from the task because it is hard?" they ask.

The bishops also comment that "it is our belief in the risen Christ which sustains us in confronting the awesome challenge of the nuclear arms race... We believe his grace will never fail us."

And they urge readers of the pastoral, "Let us have the courage to believe in the bright future and in a God who wills it for us -- not a perfect world, but a better one."

"The perfect world, we Christians believe, is beyond the horizon in an endless eternity where God will be all in all. But a better world is here for human hands and hearts and minds to make."



### Sign of Love

"In God We Trust -- And Teach" was the theme of Catholic Schools Week and that sentiment is reflected in this picture from St. John the Evangelist School in Spencerport. First grade teacher Sister Patricia McDermott and Karen Zimmerman open a special valentine made for Karen by her parents who were invited to make special for their children, bring it to school and provide a special surprise for their youngsters.

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# 'W USC

Washington, D.C. -- A national organization of U.S. Catholics and a number of other groups have organized the 1983 version of Washington's annual "March on Washington for Freedom and Justice" which is being held on August 20-21, 1983. The anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is being organized by the National Council on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. The march is being held in the Lincoln Memorial area.

The 20th March on Washington for Jobs, Peace and Freedom is being sponsored by the National Council on Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. The march is being held in the Lincoln Memorial area.

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## AT Y

### St. Ph

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri Church is sponsoring a "Get Acquainted" party on Tuesday, August 22, 6 p.m., at the church. The party will be held in the Willow Brook Room.

### Fr. Paul Cuddy

On the Ri

### You'r To a

What's the 75th birthday party in mid-September? "We would like to party to your 75th birthday!" think on members Frank La... celebrated his 45th birthday... "I reached 50... celebrate very happy and died... 50 years in only God here or i... We were the diocese... thers Wa... Manley, Don Lux... Wm. O'... Tydings... Five are... Ray He... Gaynor, Msgr. myself. thought... elaborate alive to... The 75th make a ni... So the... The ne... "Well, it... But if we... a party, GOOD... of C. Ray... committe... good or... were a bi... my lack... operation... They said... us a list... invite?" blen. I