

# CWV 'Accepts' Nuke Letter, but Tears It Apart

Philadelphia (NC) -- Call it a "conditional surrender" of the Catholic War Veterans to the teachings of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on

war and peace. Meeting in Philadelphia Aug. 2-7, more than 300 delegates to the CWV national convention unani-

mously voted "acceptance" of the pastoral. But they did so with strong reservations, and in separate actions they backed positions opposed by

the pastoral. The Catholic veterans opposed an immediate nuclear freeze and backed development of the neutron bomb, issues on which the U.S. bishops took the opposite stance. The veterans also supported the cruise missile program and the peacetime draft registration, issues on which the pastoral took no direct stance.

William J. Gill, CWV executive administrator, said after the voting session Aug. 5 that the delegates were really opposed to the bishops' pastoral and their resolution was "ambiguous."

But the group "didn't want to openly come out and defy the bishops," he said. "We didn't want to stir up conflict within our church."

The actual "resolved" portion of the resolution declared the CWV's "intentions toward the comprehension and acceptance of this pastoral letter."

But the "whereas" portion of the resolution listed a series of qualifications and reservations.

One "whereas" clause warned that "the foreign and defense policies of the United States of America could be adversely affected" by the bishops' strictly conditioned acceptance of nuclear deterrence and their call for a halt in the development and testing of nuclear weapons.

Another clause warned of the complexities of the letter and said these can affect the acceptance of the letter by the people until they can be "properly taught to distinguish between formal and

church teaching and the bishops' prudential judgments."

In another clause the veterans took exception to interpretations of the letter by Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit as to whether a Catholic soldier can disobey an order to participate in launching a nuclear weapon in wartime.

Gill said the CWV is concerned about who is going to teach the bishops' pastoral to Catholics.

"Are they going to turn it over to some nuns and schoolteachers?" he asked. He said he was concerned that people who taught the pastoral would not have the right credentials, such as a

theology degree, to teach it properly.

According to Gill, the delegates to the convention were basically opposed to the peace pastoral and supported President Reagan on defense policy. He said he personally believed the U.S. bishops had been influenced by Pax Christi, an international Catholic peace group. Its U.S. branch has gained prominence in recent years and now counts more than 50 U.S. bishops among its members.

Gill said Pax Christi "is very, very left," though not communist. "I sure question the patriotism of their movement, particularly where they advocate the conscientious objections of our youth," he said.

## Specialty Is Being Special

Once a week, about 20 students at St. Augustine's School voluntarily forfeit their lunch hour.

A number of students at Corpus Christi School working in Creative Writing, express their "Dreams and

Hopes for the Future."

At Our Lady of Good Council, pupils take part in a demonstration of electrical energy.

And pupils at St. Monica's take part in a Language Arts Black Poetry Unit Contest.

Of all these children, Sister Virginia Steinwachs, SSJ, diocesan assistant superintendent for urban education, said, "It is our students that make our diocesan schools and their programs special."

The children at St. Augustine's, for example, are members of the parish Gospel Choir, directed by vocal music teacher Miss Janie Puceta. The choir performs at various places in the city, including Eastview Mall, Highland Hospital, at the church, and for other schools in the diocese.

"Using a combination of solo and full choir pieces, they sing music composed to praise the Lord and express their love for Him. Their music is performed simply and sincerely, with the support of the school community," Miss Puceta said.

"Whether one is listening to the Gospel Choir at St. Augustine's, observing a class working with creative writing and their dreams for the future in Sister Janet Oakes' Corpus Christi class, meeting the finalists in a Language Arts Black Poetry Unit Contest under the direction of Mrs. Sandra Lund at St. Monica's, or participating in Daniel Garvi's electrical demonstration at Good Counsel, the shared feeling of 'special persons' fills the environment," Sister Virginia said.

"This 'specialness' makes our students and their schools unique and important to the formation of the future.

### Office Staff For Religious Education

The 1983-84 staff for the Office of Religious Education:

Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, director; James Mulcahy, consultant for personnel; Maribeth Mancini, consultant for adult Religious Education; Father David Mura, director of Teen Retreats and Family Camp; Patricia Lawlor, consultant for Finger Lakes Office of Religious Education.

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The office provides support services for diocesan Religious Education programs and personnel. Among services are adult education resources, audiovisual resources, Continuing Education for Religion Teachers, personnel consultation, RCIA information and planning, special education resources, youth retreats, program consultation and mailing lists.

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Word for Sunday

### A Mother's Warnings

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 13/22-30. (R1) Is. 66/18-21. (R2) Heb. 12/5-7, 11-13.

In an encyclical honoring the Mother of God, Pope Pius XII wrote: "We, by our apostolic power, decree and institute the Feast of Mary as Queen to be celebrated throughout the entire world every year (August 22) and likewise we command that on that same day there be renewed the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary" (Ad Caeli Reginam, 1954).

That is why we chose to consecrate our parish of St. Mary's, Waterloo, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the eve of this great feast. We are privileged to have the U.S. National Pilgrim Virgin Statue come here to St. Mary's on August 21 and 22. At a 7:30 p.m. Mass the parish shall be consecrated to Mary.

We might ask why does our Lady desire consecration to herself? Because she is a lady and a mother. A true lady and a real mother generally stands in the background — unless the chips are down. That's where Mary stood in the gospels. For 30 years she cared for Jesus, taught Him, inspired Him — but always in a hidden manner. She was always in the background. Only when the chips were down, when her Child needed her, did she step into the foreground. That happened twice: when relatives tried to seize Jesus as mad and and at the foot of the cross.

Today our Lady is once again stepping into the foreground in her apparitions: at Fatima in 1917, in Nicaragua 1980, and in Austria in 1956 and 1982. Why now? Because the chips are down. We are in desperate need more than we know. When a child is in danger, its mother runs to it. Our Lady is warning that we are on the brink of a World War III, not because we have nuclear weapons, but because we have not responded to her appeals at Fatima. Disarmament is not the path to peace, but moral rearmament — a turning to the son of God through His mother.

world from terrible suffering. But she wants to do it through her sons and daughters. That is why she wants us to consecrate ourselves to her. She acts, but she wants to be in character, a lady, a mother, and so to act through us. She wants us to give ourselves to her so that her will might be done in us and thus save the world on the verge of a terrible catastrophe.

As a sign of our consecration, she has asked three things.

First, the daily rosary, preferably as family groups.

Secondly, the five first Saturdays (as we described in last week's article).

And lastly, wearing the brown scapular as a sign of our consecration.

Why the scapular? Because for 700 years an order of religious men and women (the Carmelites) consecrated their lives to Mary and wore a brown scapular over a cream-colored cassock as a sign of their consecration.

Their way of life was so pleasing to Mary that she wished to bless the Order by drawing as many people to it as possible. Enrollment in the scapular affliates one with this Order and ingrafts one into it. As a result everyone so enrolled shares in the prayers and grace of the Order and in turn are consecrated to put on its spirit and its devotion to the Mother of God.

In the last apparition at Fatima, while the spectacular miracle of the sun was in progress, our Lady appeared in three successive tableaux. First, with St. Joseph and the infant, depicting the Holy Family, the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary. Then she showed herself as a Lady of Sorrows, portraying the Sorrowful Mysteries. And finally, as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, holding in her blessed hands the brown scapular, depicting the Glorious Mysteries.

So, wear the scapular. Kiss it each morning. In times of temptation, touch it and say, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me." Learn about the Sabbatine Privilege: "Whoever dies clothed in this scapular shall not suffer eternal fire." Why delay consecration?

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