

The Camp, the Bomb, the Covenant

Following is the text of a homily preached by Father William Moorby, associate pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, the weekend of Aug. 6 and 7.



FR. MOORBY

But, this activity in Romulus is only one reason I speak about peace today.

The American bishops, including Bishop Clark, in their recent pastoral letter, have challenged us as a people to look at the question of nuclear disarmament.

Today marks the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, so it seems fitting to say that I

You're looking at a damned man. At least that's what people have said about me... that is, if I talked about peace.

"You'll be damned if you do and damned if you don't."

Well, I'd rather be damned for doing something than for failing to act.

The eyes of the community these past few weeks have been focused on the Women's Peace Encampment at the (Seneca Army) Depot; and the feeling of the people and the actions that have occurred would alone be reason enough to speak about peace and nuclear disarmament.

probably would be damned by God if I neglected to address this topic.

Last Monday, the day of civil disobedience at the depot, the community was very tense, afraid that violence might occur. Fortunately it did not. As the day came to a close, a thunderstorm rolled into our community and, as I was walking into the American Legion to congratulate the R&R softball team who had just beaten my team, I noticed that a giant rainbow stretched across the sky. The rainbow was directly over the Presbyterian Church which had housed the women who were arrested in Waterloo, and directly over the American Legion, which represents in many ways the men and women who have served in our armed forces to bring about peace.

How ironic it seemed, yet how symbolic, that the rainbow, the sign of the covenant between God and man, should appear on this day.

For it was after the destruction of the world by the great flood in the time of Noah, that the rainbow was seen as the sign of the covenant, the sign of God's promise that He would not again reduce the world to chaos, even for the sins of humanity. God has made that promise to us but have we made a like promise to God? Or, will the sins of humanity itself reduce the world to chaos? For the only promise that nuclear war holds for us is that it will reduce the world to chaos.

Nuclear weapons are not the Children of God; we are God's children. Nuclear weapons are the progeny of humankind, the product of our technology. The first atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima 38 years ago

today was named "Little Boy" and what a destructive "little boy" he was!

He killed 92,000 people, many of whose corpses could not even be found for they were erased from existence! May we never erase from existence the memory of such a destructive act that reduced a corner of our world to chaos. The souls of the innocent cry out; let them be heard before we reduce the whole world to chaos.

You may not like many of the things that are going on at the Women's Peace Encampment — nor do I!

But please take the time to take a look at the world we are creating and ask yourself the question, "Is my world being formed in the image and glory of God, or is my world being formed by a technology that is bent on self-destruction and chaos?"

I could state what the pope says about nuclear disarmament, or quote from the bishops' pastoral letter, but in the final analysis, it is never what others say to us that brings about change, that stirs us into action. It is what we say to ourselves.

This issue is an emotional one, it is a challenging one. May each of us truly search our hearts to hear what the spirit of God says to us. As we celebrate the liturgy today, listen closely to the words that are prayed, that speak so much of peace. I pray that each of us allow the word of God to transform us, to free us from the fear, the prejudice, the ignorance that binds us. And I pray that God's word enable us to be true instruments and ambassadors of the Peace of Christ.

Vatican Approves Program For Seminary Evaluation

By Jerry Filteau

Washington (NC) — The final working plan for a Vatican-commissioned study of seminaries in the United States covers everything from the academic and spiritual formation of seminarians to such nuts-and-bolts questions as what kind of photocopying machines seminary libraries have and how often are they used.

The 103-page study instrument, the result of nearly two years of consultations and development, was recently approved by the Vatican and was made public Aug. 17 after it had been mailed to the country's bishops, seminary rectors, and superiors of men's religious orders.

It establishes comprehensive norms for evaluating a seminary's effectiveness and sets up two main phases for the individual study of each of the nation's Catholic theological seminaries.

The first phase will be consist of an advance written report in response to an

extensive questionnaire. In the report the seminary will provide detailed information on such things as its administrative structures and personnel, finances, research facilities, faculty make-up and qualifications, student body data, academic, spiritual and pastoral programs, and future planning.

The second phase, the heart of the study, will be handled in three-day visits to each seminary by a five-member team of experts. The teams, each composed of two bishops, one religious superior and two priests from seminary faculties, will meet with the local bishop and seminary trustees, administrators, faculty, students and other designated groups in order to analyze in depth the quality and effectiveness of the seminary's spiritual, liturgical, pastoral and academic preparation of its students.

Those to be interviewed by the visitation team, the study instrument says, should include "a large segment" of priests and laymen with whom the seminarians work in field placements and "a sampling" of recently ordained graduates from the seminary and their pastors or religious superiors.

The visitation team's written report, evaluating both strengths and weaknesses of the seminary and making recommendations, will be sent to the seminary rector and competent bishop or religious superior for comment, will be reviewed by an advisory group of bishops, and will involve further consultations if needed before a final report is drawn up.

The final report will be sent to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, with copies to the seminary rector and the responsible bishop or religious superior.

If the Vatican congregation recommends any changes to the seminary, the responsible bishop or religious superior will ordinarily be expected to report within six months to a year on action taken to address those recommendations.

The new study instrument will be used to evaluate the 58 theological seminaries in the United States. Variations on that instrument are yet to be completed for the evaluation of some 200 other institutions preparing candidates for the priesthood. These include

houses of formation, theological unions and collegiate (pre-theology) seminaries.

While theological seminaries generally unite academic, spiritual and pastoral formation under a single administration, houses of formation and theological unions involve two or more distinct institutions, usually one that administers the academic program and another that is in charge of spiritual and pastoral formation.

The Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, at the request of Pope John Paul II, instituted the U.S. seminary study in September 1981 in cooperation with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Holy See appointed Bishop John Marshall of Burlington, Vt., former head of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Priestly Formation, to head the study.

Father Donald Wuerl, rector of St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh and Bishop Marshall's assistant for the seminary study, said that the evaluation instrument took

House OKs Benefits For Jobless

Washington (NC) -- Under threat of a presidential veto the House approved legislation establishing a new \$4 billion program of health care benefits for the nation's unemployed over the next two years.

The measure was approved 252-174, leaving it more than 30 votes short of the two-thirds support it would need to override a presidential veto.

The U.S. Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the U.S. bishops, supported the health care plan but with the proviso that the program not include coverage for abortions.

The abortion issue had been expected to prompt a major debate during House consideration of the measure. But an amendment by Rep. Thomas J. Bliley Jr. (R-Va.) to limit abortion coverage in the program to life-of-the-mother cases was withdrawn after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assured Bliley that existing prohibitions on federal funding of abortions would apply to the new program.

nearly two years to complete because of the extensive consultations and the pilot testing that went into its development.

Initial drafts were drawn up in consultation with the priestly formation committees of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the national organization of religious order heads, Father Wuerl said.

Before a fourth draft was taken to Rome in July for Vatican approval, he said, the third draft was sent to all the country's bishops, major superiors of men and seminary rectors for comment. In addition two volunteer seminaries, St. John's in Brighton, Mass., and St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., underwent team visitations and evaluations last spring under the draft instrument to give a practical test of its effectiveness.

The first seminary visitations will take place in the coming school year, the priest said, with eight visits scheduled in October and 11 in February.

He said Bishop Marshall hopes to complete the evaluation of theological seminaries within two years.

In the meantime, work will continue on completing the evaluation instruments for the other priestly formation institutions to be studied, with an "optimistic" goal of completing the whole study within five years, he said.

The basic evaluation plan is modeled upon an already existing plan which has gained wide acceptance in the American Catholic seminary community. Under that plan more than 50 U.S. seminaries have been studied and evaluated in recent years by visitation teams under the auspices of the priestly formation committees of the U.S. bishops and major superiors.

There are two major dif-

ferences between the new study and the earlier evaluations: The earlier studies were undertaken only when a seminary requested one, while all seminaries at college level and above are required to

participate in the new study; and the reports in the new study will be sent to the Vatican, where the reports in the other evaluations remained within the United States.

Summer Program

Elmira — Forty pupils had a positive learning experience when they participated in the Sisters of St. Joseph Summer Program to correct learning problems noticed during the regular school year.

for each pupil during the 8 a.m. to noon program.

The pupils met in the Learning Assistance Room at St. Patrick Regional Junior High. Coordinating the program was Sister Robertina Finnegan, Special Education teacher for the Chemung General Education System. Participating were Sisters Constance Bickford, Theresa Laurene, Margaret Mancuso and Frances Manieri.

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