

John Powell SJ Decries Insensitivity to Life

By Stephen Karlinchak
Pittsburgh (NC) — Contemporary society has become desensitized and indifferent to an anti-life mentality, said Jesuit Father John Powell, author of 12 books, including "Abortion: The Silent Holocaust."

Father Powell told 500 participants at the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Convention Sept. 30-Oct. 2 that a lack of sensitivity and indifference are greater threats to the pro-life movement than are legal setbacks.

"The saddest thing to me, the thing that I find the hardest, the most depressing in the struggle for the respect for life really isn't the big setbacks in the courts but the indifference of so many people who supposedly believe in love and in all the same things you and I do, but they don't do anything," he said.

Father Powell, a professor of theology at Loyola Uni-

versity of Chicago, said that the process toward desensitization was outlined in a 1970 editorial written by five physicians for a medical publication.

The editorial, he said, explained the "new ethic" — that the quality of life supercedes the sanctity of life.

"The doctors who wrote this editorial said that in order to get this new ethic accepted, they would have to desensitize the public," Father Powell said.

"They mentioned that you shouldn't refer to abortion as killing," he said. "You have to separate abortion from the idea of killing, even though everyone knows it is."

The real "casualty," Father Powell said, "is humanity. We have lost or are losing our sense of humanity."

It is as if someone has "gone into the storehouse of life and changed all the

pricetags," he said. "The things that were once dear, like human life, are now cheap. Things that were once cheap and valueless are now very important."

The pro-life movement, he said, must help people realize "that only religion can help us remain human. Religion is the only humanizing thing that can keep our world sane."

The Jesuit also told convention participants that in their pro-life activities they must be loving, even toward pro-choice advocates.

"We must really make our lives an act of love," he said. "I think a lot of people burn out, give up and get discouraged because they aren't lovers. It makes all the difference in the world if you are loving or if you are in a win-lose contest. In a win-lose contest, everyone is a loser."

Vatican Publishes Letters Of Pope and Cardinal Cooke

By Father Kenneth J. Doyle
Vatican City (NC) — The Vatican Oct. 21 published an unedited exchange of letters between the late Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York and Pope John Paul II, in which the cardinal implicitly offered his resignation as archbishop of New York because of his illness.

Cardinal Cooke died of leukemia on Oct. 6. Pope John Paul side-stepped the resignation offer, thanked the cardinal for his pastoral labors and promised his prayers during the cardinal's illness.

The cardinal's offer was contained in an Aug. 25 letter. He said that due to the limitations caused by his illness he wanted to turn over the pastoral care of the archdiocese and of the Military Ordinate, which he also headed, to "my collaborators with my encouragement."

"However, I shall be guided by the wishes of your holiness with regard to the future," the cardinal added.

Cardinal Cooke told the pope that it had been a "joy to serve under the leadership you have given us" and that he was offering his prayers and sufferings for the pope and for the people of New York and the Military Ordinariate.

"You have touched the hearts of all our brothers and sisters in God's one human family," Cardinal Cooke wrote. "In a special way you have communicated to me the love of Jesus Christ."

Fun With Apples

The 15th annual 4H Apple Goodie Bake Off will be from noon to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11 at Long Ridge Mall. Twenty-five finalists, winners of their preliminary county contests, will compete for the New York State Championship.

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On the following day, Aug. 26, the Archdiocese of New York held a press conference to announce that the 62-year-old cardinal was suffering from acute leukemia, and could die within "a matter of months."

The pope's response, dated Sept. 1, told Cardinal Cooke of the "spiritual closeness" which he felt to the cardinal during his illness and thanked him "for your fidelity to the word of God, for all your pastoral labors, performed in love and suffering, as well as for your personal friendship."

"I am sure that your brothers and sisters and fellow-citizens in America will never forget all your

efforts on behalf of life, the right to life, everyone's right to life."

The pope added that he was asking Jesus "to sustain you in whatever you will be called upon to endure."

Cardinal Cooke wrote to the pope once more, on Sept. 12, thanking the pontiff for his letter and saying that he would "pray in a special way for a cause which is close to the heart of your holiness, the sanctity of human life and the need to defend all human beings, especially innocent unborn children, at every moment from conception to death."

Cardinal Cooke was chairman of the U.S. bishops Pro-Life Activities Committee.

Our Pilgrimage Churches Holy Year 1983-84

Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester established the parish of St. John the Evangelist at 539 Humboldt Street on July 1, 1914. (Humboldt Street runs between Culver Road and Winton Road North.) The new parish territory was sliced off from the territory of Corpus Christi Church. The bishop designated Father John B. Sullivan as founding pastor. Father (later Msgr.) Sullivan was to head the parish until 1959.



St. John the Evangelist, Rochester

St. John's, like most parishes set up in the diocese before the 1930s, was first housed in a two-story building of which the church occupied the first floor and a parochial school the second. This duplex building, designed by Joseph Oberlies, was dedicated by Bishop Hickey on Dec. 20, 1914. The school was not opened until September, 1915. By then the parish counted 120 families.

Twelve years later, the pastor found it necessary to build a new, separate church building. Frank Frey was architect of this English Gothic structure made of red tapestry brick with "Norristone" trim. Only two-thirds of the plan was executed. Probably for financial reasons, construction was restricted to the nave, while the apse and (probably) the transepts were left for a later addition that never came about. Thus the sanctuary occupied a shallow section at the front of the nave. Nevertheless, the pastor saw to it that the building was provided with handsome windows depicting the Christian virtues. They were designed by Herman J. Butler of Aeolian Park, New York City, and executed by the Pike Stained Glass Studio of Rochester. Bishop Hickey dedicated the new church on June 13, 1926.

Subsequent to the liturgical renewal of Vatican II, St. John's was more thoroughly reconstructed interiorly than most churches in the Rochester diocese. Architect Robert Macon brought the altar forward on a new sanctuary platform backed by two great carpeted "leaves" of wood that reach ceiling-high. The original shallow sanctuary behind these "Tables of the Law" was

turned into an independent chapel for the Holy Eucharist (reposing in a wall-tabernacle designed and executed by Carl Zollo) and for weekday Mass. The new oak furniture in the main sanctuary (altar, lectern, candelabra and celebrant's chair) are the work of William A. Keyser Jr. of RIT. Although the total design is severely modern, this renovation of 1977 does not clash with the rest of the more traditional building, and the church retains a devotional character.

Larger pilgrimages may wish to park at the southwest end of the parking lot, and form a devout procession, headed by a cross-bearer, around to the front entrance. For the disabled, there is a lift available at the southeast (rear) door. Please call the rectory to make arrangements for the coming of your pilgrim group: 716 482-6211.

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