

War and Peace Pastoral Said Ecumenical Success

By Jerry Filteau
Washington (NC) — The U.S. bishops' six-month-old war and peace pastoral has evoked "unprecedented" ecumenical interest and backing, several bishops said Nov. 15.

Bishop George Fulcher of Lafayette, Ind., chairman of the bishops' follow-up committee on the pastoral, reported to the bishops gathered for their fall meeting that:

- Between a million and 1.5 million copies of the pastoral are estimated to have been printed;

- It has been or is being translated into several foreign languages, including Spanish;

- It is estimated that about one tenth of the

Catholics in the country have seen the pastoral letter itself;

- At least 123 Catholic colleges or universities have incorporated the pastoral into courses on ethics, morality and political science, have held seminars on the letter, or in some cases have established new courses devoted specifically to studying the pastoral.

In addition, he said, "the ecumenical response has been unprecedented in our experience."

He also noted that Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, head of the committee that had drafted the pastoral, recently received the \$50,000 Einstein Award for peace because of the pastoral, and that other bishops had been honored

locally by various groups in recognition of the pastoral.

Several bishops rose from the floor to reiterate the ecumenical impact of the war and peace letter.

Bishop Ernest Unterkoefer of Charleston, S.C., said that never before had an action by the U.S. bishops received such an "almost universal interest, almost universal positive response" from other Christians, Jews and non-Christians around the country. He urged the bishops to pursue that interest, suggesting that a "national ecumenical colloquium on peace" and regional ecumenical meetings on the topic be offered.

Bishop Thomas Connolly of Baker, Ore., warned the bishops of a "danger that we could become a little complacent at this point" about the need to continue implementing the teachings of the pastoral. Citing the largest U.S. defense budget in history and congressional votes on new nuclear and chemical weapons systems, he said he saw "nothing on the national scene" that would justify complacency.

Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco notified the bishops that they would be receiving invitations to San Francisco for "a major event" planned by the World Beyond War organization on Dec. 10 to honor the bishops for their pastoral.

In his report, Bishop Fulcher said that the pastoral's follow-up committee views itself and its staff at the U.S. Catholic Conference as basically a resource and clearinghouse for information that assists dioceses and other

QUEST FOR PEACE

Catholic institutions to carry on the many grassroots programs that have emerged in response to the pastoral letter.

"Basically, the follow-up is on the local level," he said, and the job of the committee is "to encourage grassroots implementation."

He said the committee staff has begun a newsletter, titled *Our Response*, which carries information on what is being done to implement the pastoral. It has also compiled a list of resource materials on the pastoral that is now 12 pages long, he said.

The committee, he said, has chosen not to endorse specific programs, but only to make information on them available.

He also reported that the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Education is sponsoring a symposium on the pastoral Jan. 15-18 for Catholic educators, and he said that a similar symposium

is being planned in February for diocesan social action leaders.

He suggested that one example of concrete action the bishops could take would be to encourage people to watch the ABC-TV program, "The Day After," dramatizing what a nuclear war might be like, and to respond to the program in terms of the teaching in the pastoral.

Archbishop Philip Hannon of New Orleans, who last May was the leading opponent of the war and peace

pastoral, sought to make a motion that the committee distribute copies of the French and West German bishops' war and peace statements along with the U.S. pastoral.

His motion was ruled out of order, but Bishop Fulcher said the committee had copies of the French and West German statements and would take his request under advisement.

Other bishops urged further follow-up on the pastoral through close monitoring of government defense proposals and policies and through greater emphasis on the pastoral's call for penance and prayer for peace.

Dr. Bartlett Returns To Colgate-Rochester

The Colgate-Rochester Divinity Schools announced the appointment last week of Dr. Gene E. Bartlett as pastor-in-residence at the seminary.

Dr. Bartlett served as president of the school from 1960-70, and is renowned as pastor, preacher, author, educator and church leader.

In his new position at the Divinity Schools, Dr. Bartlett will provide pastoral leadership in a number of areas. Besides being available to students for conversation and

counsel on issues relating to vocational ministry, he will be engaged in devising ways of addressing problem areas of the pastoral vocation — such as clergy marriages, devotional life, and practices of ministry.

Dr. Bartlett will teach courses both in the regular curriculum and in the Lay School of Theology, and will serve as a reflection group leader and resource person in the seminary's Field Education Program.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Church Invites Us To Wake Up!

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 24/37-44. (R2) Is. 2/1-5. (2) Rom. 13/11-14.

The Church calendar, as you know, is not like the civil calendar. The Church year begins, not Jan. 1, but the First Sunday of Advent — next Sunday. The new Church year begins Cycle A — a year in which the gospel according to Matthew predominates.

Saint Augustine in the eighth book of his Confessions describes the turning point in his life, his final religious conversion. Grace and sin, like mighty titans, were tugging at his heart. He wanted to turn to God, but the lure of the flesh pulled him away. He knew what he should do, but he couldn't do it. He withdrew to a friend's country home outside Milan, listened to the life of St. Anthony and other heroes of Christ. Then he cried out to his friend Alypius, "What's wrong with us? The unlearned are storming heaven and we with all our knowledge are tumbling about in flesh and blood!" Augustine then ran into the garden of the house, flung himself to the ground and prayed and pleaded weepingly, "O Lord, how long?"

Augustine then, as he tells it, seemed to hear a voice, chanting, as it were, and repeating over and over, "Tolle, lege! Tolle, lege!" "Take it, read it! Take it, read it!" He stopped crying, got up from the ground and hurried to the place where his friend Alypius was sitting. He snatched up a copy of Paul's letter to the Romans which he had left lying there on a bench.

And the first passage his eyes fell on was that of the second reading of the First Sunday of Advent: "Let us live honorably as in daylight; not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy."

Rather put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."

Augustine tells us he read no further. All his doubts fled. The titanic inner struggle subsided. Peace flooded his heart. Augustine ran into the house to tell his saintly mother, Monica, and she rejoiced and blessed God.

Advent is a time for waking up. A time for letting go of whatever forms of sin and selfishness we are still clinging to. We have to put the deeds of darkness behind and walk in the light of Christ, like Augustine.

Forty-two percent of Americans have a sleep problem.

But, on the other hand, some people sleep too much. They stay in bed when they should be up and around. They are "sleep drunks." When they do get up, they are still half-asleep, they act inebriated.

St. Paul seems to be speaking to "sleep drunks." Advent is an alarm clock for "sleep drunks." "Wake up!" says Paul. "Stay awake!" says Jesus.

One way to do this in these four weeks of Advent is to do what Augustine did; namely, to take up the Scriptures and read it. The same Augustine said, "When we pray, we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us."

The entire Old Testament was one long preparation for the coming of the Messiah. And of the Old Testament prophets, the greatest is Isaiah — the prophet of Advent, of the coming of the Messiah. Why not study Isaiah this advent? "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain (Isaiah) that he may instruct us in his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For from Zion (the Old Testament) shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (the New Testament)." Isaiah, then, for our Advent reading; and the Gospel according to Matthew for the year, Cycle A.

Abortionist Charged In Canada

Winnipeg, Manitoba (NC) — Provincial Judge Kris Stefanson ordered Dr. Henry Morgentaler and seven staff members of his Winnipeg clinic to stand trial on charges of conspiracy to procure an abortion.

Morgentaler and clinic staff members were formally arraigned on the charges Nov. 7 and the trial was scheduled for February.

The charges were made after a three-week investigation by Winnipeg police that included a raid on the clinic.

Defense lawyer Greg Brodsky challenged the constitutionality of Canada's abortion laws and said that if the laws on which the charges are based are invalid, there can be no conviction. The Court of Queen's Bench will hold a hearing on the constitutionality of the law before the trial.

Meanwhile in Toronto, Morgentaler, Dr. Robert Scott and Dr. Leslie Smoling face abortion-related charges following two police raids on Morgentaler's Toronto clinic. Those charges will be heard Nov. 21.

According to the Criminal Code, legal abortions may only be performed in an accredited or approved hospital after an abortion committee has ruled that the continuation of the pregnancy will endanger the life or health of the mother.

On several occasions, Morgentaler unsuccessfully requested that the province give hospital status to his clinic.

NFP Class Set

Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester, Inc. will sponsor a fertility awareness class from 4:50 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 14, in the Kearney Building at St. Mary's Hospital. The class is free, but pre-registration is required by calling 464-8705.



WISE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CLASSIFIEDS

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You can run an ad for as little as \$7.50 per week (approx. 15 words.) For one insertion, each word is 50¢. For two insertions, each word is 40¢. For three insertions each word is 35¢. For four insertions each word is 30¢. Contract rates are available by calling 454-7050, Classified Dept.

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Call 454-7050 between 8:30 and 4:30, Monday thru Friday, or use the classified ad form included in this issue.

3. How Do I Write An Ad?

Write as simply as possible. Whether it's merchandise for sale, apartment rentals, or business services you have to offer, our classified operator will help you write an effective and inexpensive ad.

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The Courier Classifieds reach more than 300,000 readers each week. What you have to buy, rent, or sell is news. Let us spread your news to the largest weekly classified readership in Western New York.

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When you call in an ad, the price will be quoted. If you prefer, you can be billed monthly, or you may send in a check right away. When you use the Classified Order form, include a check with the form, or establish a monthly account. If you have any questions call 454-7050, The Courier Classified Dept.

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