

Bishop Michael Kenny

Jesus' Words Surpass Bishops' Peace Pastoral

By John Dash

Despite the moral "electricity" generated by the U.S. bishops' war and peace pastoral, and despite the need to address questions of war and peace in familiar terms, a signer of that document feels its argumentation doesn't measure up to the challenge issued by Jesus.

Bishop Michael Kenny of Juneau, Alaska, is among a number of bishops concerned that "just war" theological arguments "don't stand up because they miss the fundamental death and resurrection theme" of Jesus' teaching: to love one's enemies, to lay down one's life for one's friend, to turn the other cheek.

"Just war theory is just a neat compromise" between the demands of the gospel and the exigencies of maintaining a society, he said.

The bishop, at one time the youngest in the country, was ordained with Bishop Matthew H. Clark by Pope John Paul II in Rome.

Last week he was a speaker at Corpus Christi Church's Festival of Hope, a three-day event organized by John Engels which also brought to Rochester the evangelical pastor and activist, Jim Wallis.

Interviewed with Wallis, Bishop Kenny explained his position on Christian pacifism, stating that "when we (the Christian communities) were the victims," of institutional violence, Jesus' call for pacifism and standing apart from the state were more readily accepted.

However, once the Christian community became identifiable with the state, the "just war" theory arose.

"The great challenge for

the Church) is to stand apart," Bishop Kenny said.

Nevertheless, Bishop Kenny said he feels the pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," is good piece of work but could become a "dead letter" if the nation's bishops themselves do not take it seriously.

He explained that the bishops' resolution to establish a group monitoring the arms race was a step in the right direction.

That resolution was approved in Washington during the prelates' Fall meeting. Bishop John O'Connor, former head of the military ordinariate and a member of the committee which drafted the pastoral letter, was named to head the monitoring group.

The bishop also spoke on reports of tensions between the Vatican and the American hierarchy. "Tension in the American Church has its echoes in Rome," he said. Those tensions arise between "healthy conservatism and healthy liberalism, but reaches unhealthy levels when it's between those who blindly hold onto the past and those who want everything right up to date," he said.

He said he feels tensions are generated in Rome, particularly, by the conservative element.

He said, "Hunthausen is a wise man," referring to the public airing of the investigation of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle.

And he applauded Arch-

bishop Hunthausen's stunning breach of ecclesiastical tradition in keeping word of the investigation secret. "Secrecy has always been a weapon to oppress people," Bishop Kenny said.

The outcome of that investigation, however, could be somewhat different. "Secrecy could continue. There could be no movement and suspicions could continue. Then the whole Church loses, both in authority and credibility," Bishop Kenny said.

Nonetheless, "I just think there's a lot of hope. That there are new winds blowing in all sectors of the Church just can't be denied."

Picking up on that theme, Jim Wallis, editor of the national Sojourners magazine and pastor of the Washington community which has the same name, said that such a hope arises from "the divine irony — the horrors of the world today are the occasion for the conversion of the Churches. It has been the historical crises that have occasioned revival."

Citing the bishops' pastoral, he said, "The real initiative in developing the letter came from the bottom and was converted into a concrete Christian response to the danger of the arms race."

Wallis said he feels "Churches and the American government are on a collision course, particularly because of the government's callous abandoning of poor people." He said the U.S. is participating in an "organized global theft from poor

people."

However, for Christians, "We can see the shining face of Jesus as we covenant with the poor," he said. "Jesus'

words are supremely political wisdom," particularly when he speaks of seeing the face of the neighbor in the "enemy," Wallis said.



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HOLIDAY - Folk Festivities featuring decorations, crafts, food, music and dance from around the world, 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Free with general admission.
SLEEPING BEAUTY - Presented by Detroit's Prince Street Players, 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, Eisenhart Auditorium, RMSC. Admission \$4 (members \$3).
CLASSIC FILMS - "The Lost Weekend," 2 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13, Eisenhart Auditorium. Free with Museum admission.
SPOTLIGHT TOUR - Charles Rand Penney will lead a tour of the Memorial Art Gallery's exhibition "The Charles Rand Penney Collection: 20th Century Art," 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11. Admission is free to members; free to non-members with gallery admission.
CONCERT - Presented by Eastman School of Music featuring Kevin Spencer Honeycutt on flute, and Margaret Kampmeier, piano, performing works by Bach, Poulenc, Hindemith and Dutilleul, 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, Memorial Art Gallery Auditorium. Admission is free.
RPO - Presents Holiday & Bluegrass Fun, under the direction of Isaiah Jackson and featuring McLain Family Band, 8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14, Dansville Senior High Auditorium, Dansville.
MEET SANTA - And Mrs. Claus, at the Humane Society of Rochester and Monroe County's Animals' Holiday Party, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, 99 Victor Road, Fairport.
OUT AT NAZARETH - Candlelight Christmas Dinner, featuring champagne reception and entertainment, 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, Medaille Hall, Nazareth College. Tickets are \$13. For more information call Karen Larimer, Alumni Office, 586-2525, ext. 390. Con-

cepts business meeting. "A Tribute to America's Parklands" slide show presented by John Green, Eastman Kodak Co., 10:30 a.m., Monday, Dec. 12, lounge, Medaille Hall. Free.
KILBOURNE HALL - Faculty recital featuring Rebecca Penneys at piano playing music of Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Eaton and Stravinsky, 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8, free, Meliora Quartet presenting music of Mendelssohn, Haydn and Michael Rose, 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, free. Wind Orchestra, Donald Hunsberger, Conductor, 8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12, free.
HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" - Presented by Eastman Chorale and Philharmonia, Donald Neuen, conductor, 8 p.m., Friday, December 9, Eastman Theatre, free.
PROGRAM - An Evening of Tribute to the Bill of Rights, sponsored by Genesee Valley Chapter, New York Civil Liberties Union, featuring guest speaker Robert Giles, executive editor, Rochester Gannett Papers, 6 p.m., cocktail reception followed by banquet, Tuesday, Dec. 15, Rochester Hilton, 175 Jefferson Road. Tickets, \$25. For reservations and information call 454-4334.
THE WOMEN'S - Aglow Fellowship of Ithaca invites public to attend the Aglow Christmas Family Night, featuring Michael and Linda Compitillo of Groton and the Sawyer Family of Ithaca, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12 at the Women's Community Building. For reservations call Carol Olsefski, 273-8893. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, Dec. 8.
CHRISTMAS - At Pulaski Community Library, 1151 Hudson Ave., features folksinger Barbara Jablonski, in a sing-along program of holiday songs from around the world, 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 12. Workshop where children ages 7-12 will have a chance to create cards and gifts for holiday giving, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10. Pre-schoolers will meet Dilly the Clown, a visiting artist with the Monroe County Library System, 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 15.

Vincent McGee To Address AI

Vincent McGee, a New York City attorney, known by many in this diocese for his political activities against the Selective Service System during the Vietnam War, and a former vice chairman of Amnesty International's U.S. board of directors, will speak at a program "Writing for Justice," 9:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Knights of Columbus club-rooms, 670 Thurston Road.

The event is "a gathering of Inter-Religious Urgent Action Network participants," promotional literature stated.

The event will include an ecumenical prayer service, and is sponsored by the human rights task force of the diocesan International

Justice and Peace Commission. Diocesan literature stated: "The human rights task force has been working for the past four years to promote an awareness of Amnesty International in the Rochester Diocese, and to encourage church groups, schools and individuals to actively commit some time to montly letter-writing efforts on behalf of prisoners of conscience all over the world."

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Becket Hall 'First Lady' To Be Feted

Known as the "First Lady" of Becket Hall, Eleanor Bock will be feted for her 16 years of service to the institution at a reception in her honor from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, at Becket, 80 Fairport Road.

Ms. Bock began as a receptionist and secretary to the rector in 1967.

Donations for the reception are \$2 and tickets may be purchased through Anne Marie Madison at Trant's 442-7120 or Laura Campione at Becket Hall, 586-4471, or at home, 247-6790.

Deadline to buy tickets is Dec. 28.

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