

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



As promised in my last column here follow some responses made to our invitation to observe Dec. 15 as a day of prayer and fasting for peace. My comments follow the quotes from letters received.

• "We read a book called 'Sadako and the Thousand Cranes.' Then we got in groups and each one made a paper crane. After that we went to our classrooms and talked about peace. Then we wrote verses out of the Bible that fit in within today's special day. I'm sending you this crane and I hope you will enjoy it and hang it on your tree." — Saint Salome's School

The book is the story of a girl dying from leukemia which she contracted as a result of the atomic attack on Hiroshima. She makes paper cranes as a sign of her desire for peace. Someone gave it to me to read on the day of prayer. The crane is a lovely memory of my friend who sent it and of that day of grace.

• "We feel that the prayers of the ill and suffering are particularly dear to the Lord and so we will enlist their

participation." — Saint James Mercy Hospital, Hornell. At 7 a.m., 3 and 8 p.m. on Dec. 15 this prayer was offered by all at the hospital:

God of perfect peace, violence and cruelty can have no part with you.

May those who are at peace with one another hold fast to the good will which unites them;

May those who are enemies forget their hatred and be healed.

Hear our prayer and give us peace in our time that we may love you and praise you without end.

• "We had a mission and it was suggested that we pray all day long as we go about our tasks. When I remember to do that I find the days go much more peacefully and productively. This is how I will spend my Dec. 15. Also, my daughter has only one class and is away only a short time, but during that time I will try to make a special visit to the Blessed Sacrament to pray for peace."

In addition to these I received from Holy Cross School in

Charlotte a fascinating outline called "Our Plan for Peace." Space limitations make it impossible to go into details here, but I can tell you that there are events and lessons scheduled for each month of the school year. And — there are study, prayer and discussion sessions for the faculty around the same theme.

Lastly, I mention three correspondents who cite the call issued in the pastoral letter and in this column to ask the intercession of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. They, like so many of you, find our response to the call to peace to be most deeply rooted in a generous and consistent life of prayer.

I always enjoy the week between Christmas and New Year. Part of that is the opportunity it affords to visit with friends. Another aspect is the chance to think about what has happened in the year past, and I would like to happen in the year ahead. Next week, some personal reflections on 1984.

Thanks to all who wrote about your response to the challenge of peace.

Thanks to all who sent Christmas greetings. To all of you I offer best wishes for a New Year filled with — Peace.

Naples Churches Sponsor Special Link with USSR

Naples — The Naples Council of Churches is sponsoring a project it hopes will contribute to the cause of peace: "Pathways to Peace - Naples, N.Y. to Neri, U.S.S.R."

Among the promoters of the program is Michael Rohdy of St. Januarius Parish, according to Adolphe d'Audiffret, spokesperson.

D'Audiffret said that "it is expected that local groups and organizations will provide pictures and a description of their activities."

"This material will be assembled and sent to Neri, a town comparable in size to Naples, and 100 miles North of Moscow."

"It is hoped that through this introduction of ourselves to the residents of Neri, a rela-

tionship can be established which will lead to the understanding that 'brothers all are we,' as the song says."

D'Audiffret said that more than 800 communities in the U.S. have been paired with similar communities in the U.S.S.R. and have sent their letters and pictures.

The City of Canandaigua, he said, has recently sent material to its "sister city" in the Soviet Union.

The organizer of the Canandaigua project, Rev. Ted Brothers, will speak at the Naples Firehall, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18.

D'Audiffret expressed his hope that all civic, fraternal, and social organizations will send representatives to the meeting.

Pastoral on Peace Voted Top Story

Washington (NC) — For the second consecutive year, the U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace was chosen as the top story of the year in NC News' annual poll of editors.

Pope John Paul II was the leading newsmaker, as he has been every year since his election in 1978.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the bishops' committee which prepared the war and peace pastoral, was the second-highest newsmaker, as in 1982.

The new Code of Canon Law which took effect Nov. 27 was ranked the second-highest story, followed closely by tensions between the Vatican and the U.S. church.

Forty-two editors whose papers subscribe to NC News responded to the questionnaire, which asked them to choose the top 10 stories from a list of 30 and the top five newsmakers from a list of 11 persons.

At NC News, ballots were tabulated and points were assigned to each vote — a first-place vote for a story received 10 points, a sec-

ond-place vote received 9 points, and so on. A first-place newsmaker received five points, second place received four points, on down the list.

Thirty-five voters chose the bishops' war and peace pastoral as the top story; of a possible 420 points, it received 403. The new Code of Canon Law received 248 points, and the U.S.-Vatican tensions story — which included the pope telling U.S. bishops to reject groups backing women priests and to avoid political roles — received 227 points.

The fourth through tenth stories, in order, were: Pope John Paul visits Central America and Haiti, Poland,

Charismatic Mass

Henrietta — Father Roy Kiggins will celebrate a charismatic Mass, 12:35 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 3288 E. Henrietta Road. Following the Mass, refreshments will be served by the parish prayer group. The public is invited to attend.

Adoration

The monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at noon, Thursday, Jan. 5 at Blessed Sacrament Church. Rosary is recited at 12:15 p.m., and benediction is celebrated at 5 p.m., preceding the regular 5:20 p.m. Mass. "Let us make the new year a truly holy year," said Wilma Higgs, organizer of the event.

France and Austria; justification is no longer a dividing issue, according to the Catholic-Lutheran dialogue team; abortion, including the new Supreme Court ruling and the Senate defeat of the Hatch amendment; Archbishop Quinn heads papal commission on renewal of U.S. Religious, while nuns and priests voice their concerns over the commission; the bishops' synod on reconciliation sees need for confession, social justice concerns; Supreme Court upholds Minnesota tuition tax deductions, while the Senate defeats tuition tax credits; and the Vatican

issues the family rights charter.

Poland's Lech Walesa, winner of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, was the third-highest newsmaker, followed closely by Agnes Mary Mansour, who resigned as a Mercy sister amid controversy over her post as director of Michigan's social services office. The late Cardinal Terence Cooke, who, as military vicar found himself in the middle of controversy after the bishops issued the war and peace pastoral and whose courage in the face of death gained him national attention, was voted fifth-place newsmaker.

Monk Translates Guadalupe Story From the Aztec

Lafayette, Ore. (NC) — The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been translated from the original Aztec language, Nahuatl, into English by Trappist Father Martinus Cawley.

The Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lafayette has published "Guadalupe: From the Aztec Language," in booklet form.

There have been several translations in Spanish but Father Cawley said the new version goes back to the mid-16th century original story of the Indian, Juan Diego, telling of Mary's several appearances to him near Mexico City.

Booklets are available from Our Lady of Guadalupe Trappist Abbey, P.O. Box 97, Lafayette, Ore., 97127. Booklets are \$1 each plus \$.75 for shipping.

Give Priority to Confessional, Pontiff Instructs U.S. Priests

By John Thavis

Vatican City (NC) — Priests "must give priority" to the ministry of the confessional, Pope John Paul II told a group of U.S. priests Dec. 16.

The pope stressed the priests' unique role as "Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation" during a meeting with 35 participants in the Institute for Continuing Theological Education, a study program for U.S. priests sponsored by the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome.

"In allowing penitents the opportunity personally to confess their sins to the Lord, you mediate one of the most profoundly religious moments of forgiveness and joy," the pope said.

In this "deeply intimate" encounter, Christ "has chosen us, his priests, to be the

only ones to forgive sins in his name," he said.

"This ministry, therefore, is uniquely ours and it is one to which we must give priority," he added.

Pope John Paul asked the priests to offer Christ's understanding to "the needy, the suffering and those in trouble" when they return to their dioceses.

"As priests, we are charged with being Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation," the pope said. "But in order to fulfill this role effectively, we must first embrace that message ourselves and permit it to take root in our very being."

"We cannot preach the message of reconciliation to others unless we are convinced of its saving truth for our own lives," he said.



Creativity Rewarded

Brother Etienne Cooper, CSC, of Cardinal Mooney High School has just put the finishing touches on his Nativity group and a ceramic mask of Blessed Brother Andre, CSC. The works will be exhibited at the St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal, Canada; the Nativity group will be used in the Basilica of the Oratory for Christmas and then be included in the exhibition of Nativity groups from around the world in the Oratory Museum. Brother Etienne, a retired teacher of Art and French in the schools conducted by the Brothers of the Holy cross, is currently tutoring in French at Cardinal Mooney.

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