

What the Pastoral Actually Does Say

By NC News Service

A brief review of some of the main points in the pastoral:

- All nations have a right to defend themselves against unjust aggression, but an offensive war of any kind cannot be justified morally.
- All nations should commit themselves to "no first use" of nuclear weapons.
- No weapons may be used to destroy civilian targets or population centers intentionally. The moral principle of proportionality prohibits even military targeting if the unintended civilian casualty toll would be too great.
- Because there are serious questions on whether a so-called "limited nuclear exchange" can be kept under control, there is "no moral justification for submitting

the human community to this risk."

- Policies of nuclear deterrence are morally acceptable only on a strictly conditioned basis. The conditions include serious efforts at progressive disarmament and a policy of deterrence based only on sufficiency, not superiority.
- The bishops supported immediate, negotiated bilateral agreements to halt any further testing, production and deployment of nuclear arms, followed by deep cuts in existing arsenals of both superpowers.
- Catholics are bound by the moral principles enunciated in the letter. While they are not bound to accept the bishops' prudential judgments on specific issues such as "no first use," they are to give "serious attention and consideration" to the bishops' views in forming their own consciences.

Realism demands recognition of Soviet repression and the threat of Soviet power, but it also demands recognition that there are "irreducible" mutual interests which can serve as a common basis for negotiations.

- Because true peace must be based on justice and the protection of human rights, U.S. political and economic policies must be aimed at meeting the needs of the world's poor and promoting just international systems that promote development. The United States should be more supportive of the United Nations and promote the development of a world order in which conflicts between nations can be resolved without recourse to war.
- The church's theological traditions of a just war and non-violence are distinct but complementary. Each contributes to the

full moral vision needed in the pursuit of peace. While peace is understood in a variety of ways in Scripture, the Bible still provides a unique source of revelation on war and peace issues.

- Prayer and penance are essential elements of peace, and U.S. Catholics are urged to pray and do penance for peace, especially on Fridays throughout the year.
- Catholics in various professions and states of life have different responsibilities in promoting peace. Those in the military are involved in preserving peace in a special way and must maintain high moral standards in their profession.
- Parishes and dioceses should carry out educational programs to promote a better understanding of war and peace issues by all Catholics.

Bishop Clark to Germany

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participants, several German theologians will present position papers "to which we can respond."

He said that "no decisions will be made, no courses of action taken" but the symposium will present the opportunity for the positions of national groups to be discussed at the international table.

"It is my own opinion, and of course the reality of the meeting will verify it or not, that when people from different places gather to discuss such issues, a personalization takes place even richer than the documents themselves, as important as they are."

The bishop will have plenty of homework to do before the conference. In addition to the NCCB's "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," other documents to be discussed include among other letters and documents a provisional version of a declaration by the Lutheran Church, U.S.A.; the German bishops' "Out of Justice, Peace"; the joint pastoral letter of the Catholic bishops in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), "The Safeguard, Advancement and Renewal of Peace," and a memorandum by the Protestant Church in Germany.

When the invitation to Germany arrived, Bishop Clark was already deeply into preparations for noting the anniversary of "The Challenge of Peace." He had already scheduled a press conference for today to discuss that.

After a year of study, discussions, forums, etc., on the document, he has "no misgivings" about it.

"Based on the experiences of the past year, I remain very proud of our letter. I am convinced it is of enough substance and quality to last well as a teaching formation document. Neither I nor anyone else thinks of it as perfect, but it is a solid effort. I am very, very happy with it.

"It is not easy -- it's lengthy and fairly complex in its argumentation. In the short run, it may put people off because no one wants to get into something of that length. But in the long run, it will have lasting power. It's never too late to pick it up and look through it slowly. This can be even more productive when done in parish groups or other gatherings. Some 40 parishes have already done that and found it quite productive. I was present at a couple of those meetings during Lent and found them very stimulating and rewarding." Bishop Clark added, "I'd like to see every parish commit itself to a discussion of the letter. I realize every parish can't do all things at once but I would like to send along a word of encouragement to parishes to organize on the letter. In fact, I'd love to see that.

In discussing other plans for promotion of the document in the coming year, the bishop reminded that most important "always is to pray for peace and also to join in the program of fasting and abstinence on Fridays for peace in the world. But, above all, I urge communion with the Lord in prayer. The social and systemic issues are, of course, important but we must root our efforts in daily prayer. We must learn how to put aside our pet ways of looking at the world and see through the Lord's eyes."

In sizing up the coming year, the bishop alluded to the many programs, forums, workshops and training sessions formulated by the diocesan Challenge of Peace Steering Committee. Among the more important programs are a diocesan peace celebration being planned for just before Pentecost; "Facing the Challenge of Peace," a diocesan conference featuring Father J. Bryan Hehir, focusing on how the document can be integrated into parish life, Sept. 28-29, and a talk Oct. 12 at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, a member of the committee which drafted the letter.

'Jobs with Peace' Theme for Walk Scheduled May 5-6

The Finger Lakes Peace Alliance will sponsor a "Walk for Jobs with Peace" on Saturday and Sunday, May 5-6.

On Saturday, the walk will begin at 10 a.m. at the main gate of the Seneca Army Depot on Route 96 in Romulus. It will proceed approximately 12 miles to a point just east of Waterloo, and disband at about 4 p.m. Child care will be provided at no charge.

On Sunday, walkers will regroup at 1:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls and proceed approximately four miles to Cayuga Lake State Park for a rally and potluck picnic from 3:30-6 p.m. Parents are urged to bring their children for the Sunday walk.

According to Dr. Arnold H. Matlin, spokesman for the Finger Lakes Peace Alliance, these walks are part of a national observance for

"Peace with Justice and Jobs with Peace," from May 4-13.

"The Roman Catholic Bishop's Pastoral Letter said, 'The arms race is one of the greatest curses on the human race; it is to be condemned as a danger, an act of aggression against the poor, and a folly that does not provide the security it promises,'" Dr. Matlin said.

"It is in this spirit that we will be walking in Seneca County on May 5 and 6. We urge that everyone who believes in 'Peace with Justice and Jobs with Peace' join us as we carry this message to the people and to the government."

Dr. Matlin said that the walk on Saturday will be north on Rt. 96, then east on Rts. 5 & 20 to just east of Waterloo. "This is a long walk," Dr. Matlin admitted, "but we will have support vehicles to assist those who cannot walk the entire distance."

What's in the Works for the Coming Year

EDUCATION

I. Leadership Training

Conflict Resolution I -- Techniques of conflict resolution using the pastoral letter as a vehicle for the discussion. For Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry area parish staff and public, late Spring or Fall, Kenneth Scarciotta, 271-1320.

Conflict Resolution II -- A pastoral approach to reconciliation of mind and heart to the single purpose of peace. Follows Conflict I. For public, especially clergy, religious, parish staffs; Fall, Kenneth Scarciotta, 271-1320.

Facilitators Training for Parish Discussion Leaders on Pastoral Letter -- Contents of the pastoral and skills to lead a group discussion. For parish discussion leaders, Sept. 28, 29, Oct. 20, Monroe County; Oct. 5, 6, Nov. 3, Southern Tier. Maribeth Mancini, 328-3210, or Southern Tier of Social Ministry.

Parents for Peace -- A one-evening session for trainers and parents providing skills to apply the principles in the pastoral letter to their everyday experiences. For parents, teachers, ministerial staff. Date on request. Dan and Sheila Kinsky, 223-9395; Family Life Office, 436-5450; or STOSM.

Parish Leadership Convening -- FLOSM convening of parishes whose geographical limits are adjacent to the Seneca Army Depot for dialogue on common concerns. For parish staffs in Finger Lakes region, Fall and Spring. Call FLOSM.

Youth Leaders Training -- Skills training to work with youths exploring the issues of peace and justice. For adults. Date: On request. Patrick Fox, 328-3210.

II On the Pastoral Letter

Community Forum on Pastoral in Spanish -- Overview of pastoral from a scriptural, sociological and theological viewpoint. For the general Hispanic community. Fall, Kenneth Scarciotta, 271-1320, or Brother Luis Ruperte, 232-4864.

Does God Speak Words of Peace -- or Not? -- A five-part program addressing the pastoral letter in terms of scripture, social mission, conflict, peace, and response and responsibility. For Religious Education teachers and the public. Fall 1984. Kenneth Scarciotta 271-1320.

Independent Study on the Pastoral Letter -- Continuing Education offering of independent study; monthly meeting with St. Bernard's Institute faculty and three classroom

sessions/3-month duration. For general public. Fall/Spring 1984-85. Kenneth Scarciotta, 271-1320.

On Related Issues

Disarmament and Peace Education -- A three-session series, provides basic facts on armament, the implications and moral questions of having nuclear security. For adults. Date on request. FLOSM, STOSM.

Faith and Politics '84 and '85 -- Introduction to theology and action possibilities in the political process. Session I -- How to get involved in the political process, Saturday, Sept. 15. Session II -- the federal budget: an analysis based on social moral theology principles. For Southern Tier Region adults, Saturday, Jan. 26. Call STOSM.

Feast of the Innocents -- Reflection/discussion regarding consistent ethic of life: abortion and nuclear holocaust. For Southern Tier Region adults, especially Human Life and peace groups. Date on request after Dec. 28. Call STOSM.

Moral Decision-Making and the Challenge of Peace -- A five-part series using Pennock's process for moral decision-making as related to the pastoral. For Level 3 CERT, adult faith enrichment. Date to be announced. Maribeth Mancini, 328-32310.

Peacemaking: Central America -- Using the Challenge of Peace, will consider the situation in Central America. For Southern Tier Region adults. Date, after November. Call STOSM.

RESOURCES

Ecumenical/Interfaith Packet -- A resource to promote peacemaking and peacekeeping across denominational and faith boundaries. Packet includes bishops' pastoral; to proclaim peace -- religious community speaks out on the arms race, and other resources. For interdenominational leadership. Available on request, small fee. Marge Nurnberg, 328-3210.

Incorporating Social Justice in Liturgical Celebrations -- Materials to enable preachers and liturgical planners to incorporate the message of social justice into the liturgy while continuing to be faithful to the readings for Sunday and other celebrations. For liturgical ministers and planners. Materials available in 1985. Pamela Schaeffer, 328-3210.

Junior High School Curriculum -- A parallel curriculum on the pastoral to be used with the Sadler Religion Series. For

junior high religion education teachers. September 1984. Sister Virginia Steinwachs, 328-3210.

Liturgical Suggestions for Advent Christmas Epiphany -- "Living Liturgy" (Office of Liturgy's monthly publication) dedicated to the topic of The Challenge of Peace and how it can be introduced into the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany cycle of passages and celebrations. For liturgical ministers and planners. October 1984. Pamela Schaeffer, 328-3210.

Resource List for Junior and Senior High -- Available educational materials to be used in working with the pastoral. For teachers. Fall 1984. Sister Virginia Steinwachs, 328-3210.

Teaching Modules for Parish Youths and Catholic High Schools -- A plan of action in using the peace pastoral with young people. For high school religion education and school teachers. September 1984. Father Dave Mura, 328-3210.

MOBILIZATION FOR ACTION

Catholic Action for Peace -- Development of a parish network to effect legislation on behalf of peace issues. Participants will be regularly informed of current legislation thus enabling them to contact their representatives. A workshop on the need for political action, effective lobbying techniques and how to start a parish network is available. For adults, through parish committees. Christine Wagner, SSJ, 328-6400.

Political Training -- A program of education in effective political action. It will explore the workings of legislation, opportunities for involvement in this process, and guidelines for analyzing legislation. For voters, through parish/committee presentation. Timothy McGowan, 328-6400.

PPJ Network Use -- Education and action opportunities related to parent and family use with respect to the pastoral letter. Available as materials and information are received. Dan and Sheila Kinsky, 223-9395.

Voter Registration -- Cooperative effort with state and nationwide groups to register eligible voters. Opportunities will be available at parish weekend Masses, festivals, workshops, college campuses and other gatherings. For all eligible voters. Timothy McGowan, 328-6400.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

STOSM -- Kathy Dubel (607)734-9784; FLOSM, Giovina Caroscio (315)789-2686; Monroe County and Livingston County, Christine Wagner, SSJ, (716)328-6400.