

# Religious Plead for Just Peace

Rome (NC) — Here is the statement of the joint Commission of Justice and Peace of the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General, issued April 27 in Rome.

As members of the joint Commission of Justice and Peace of the International Unions of Superiors General, the elected leaders of more than 1.25 million men and women Religious living in over 100 countries, we are impelled to speak by our belief in Jesus Christ and by our commitment to him; we are encouraged to speak by the social teaching of the Catholic Church; we are inspired to speak by the leadership of Pope John Paul II.

We represent international groupings of people from Northern and Southern hemispheres, from Eastern and Western blocs, from aligned and non-aligned nations; we

have members living under every type of political system.

The increasing glorification of the military and the spiralling of violence in our world are leading to an attitude which regards martial and aggressive means as accepted ways of human interaction. The ever increasing threat of the arsenals of nuclear and conventional weapons is making the attainment of the essential values of trust, dialogue, love and solidarity, more difficult, if not impossible. Rather, a climate of mistrust and tension between individuals, families, societies and nations is being fostered.

These realities of our day have produced a callous disrespect for human life; a growing perversion of the intellect concentrating it on the development of weapons, and means of torture and violence; a disregard for the ecological balance of the world; a

reluctance to undertake long-term commitments, especially among the young.

Many of our sisters and brothers live and work among the poor and daily see the adverse effects of the increased production of arms. Scarce human and natural resources are employed for the production of weapons. There is increasing unemployment and inflation. Less is being spent in the developing countries on adequate food, water, health, education and housing. In many countries there is growing tension, violence and isolationism which hinder true human growth. Human suffering is increasing everywhere.

From this experience we appeal to all people to recognize their common relationship in God, and to find again the spiritual roots of peace in true harmony with God, with their neighbors and with themselves. We appeal to all people, but especially to our own sisters and brothers, to realize that war and violence begin in the human heart, and that our efforts for justice and peace must be accompanied by fasting, and prayer to cast out this devil from our midst, as the Lord has told us.

We are convinced that peace will be created only when there is a just distribution of the earth's resources. We appeal, therefore, to all people, but especially to our own members, to use and share

the world's goods responsibly, and to create an awareness of the interdependence of all, of the sacredness of life and of the need for tolerance and respect. We appeal to all

people of good will to urge the leaders of nations to engage in serious negotiations to end the proliferation of arms, to reduce the world's stock of weapons and to redirect the world's

resources to peaceful purposes. Only the concerted efforts and prayers of all people of goodwill achieve a lessening of mistrust and tension in our world.

## Retreat Planned For Unemployed

The diocesan Blue Collar Ministry has scheduled another two-day retreat for the unemployed, from 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 15, to 3 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave.


The theme will be "A Time to Reflect, a Time to Pray, a Time to Relax." The program is coordinated by Deacon Vic and Rosemary Yanaitis and the Catholic

Family Center Employment Concerns Committee.

Further information is available from Deacon Yanaitis at (716) 247-1193.

### Effective Living

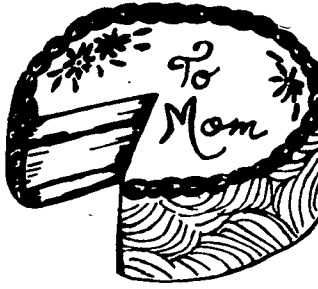
An Effective Living Seminar will be held May 25-27 at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave. The program consists of a series of lectures interspersed with reflection and discussion.

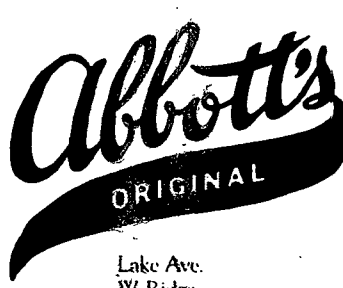


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