

Bishops Cautioned on Economic Pastoral

Washington (NC) -- The U.S. bishops will hurt their credibility and moral leadership if they use bad theology or get too specific in their pastoral letter on the American economy, speakers at a hearing in Washington said Aug. 8.

The hearing was another in a series sponsored by the Lay Commission on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, a lay group formed last May to write a lay letter parallel to the planned bishops' letter.

The hearing dealt specifically with Catholic social teaching. Previous hearings dealt with technical issues of public policy concerning poverty, economic planning and international trade. A second hearing on Catholic social teaching was scheduled for Sept. 17.

While most of the witnesses at the day-long hearing were theorists of Catholic social teaching, the group also included Thomas Pauken, director of ACTION, the federal coordinating agency for government-private sector cooperation in meeting human needs. Pauken has been a long-time critic of the Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program.

Several of the speakers criticized efforts by the bishops to enter into debates over specific policy issues, and most questioned directions that the bishops have taken in recent years on social questions, notably in their 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace.

"I do not want bishops sounding as fleeting and temporary as the evening news," said Ralph McInerney, philosophy professor and director of the Jacques Maritain Center at the University of Notre Dame.

McInerney two years ago founded *Catholicism in Crisis*, an intellectual monthly publication devoted to forming a "new center" in Catholic thought.

In his testimony he suggested that much Christian social activism today has effectively conceded to atheist criticisms of religion by ignoring "the ultimate and true point of religious

belief" and adopting "just the this-worldly emphasis the critics want."

"The suspicion does cross one's mind that a powerful motivation for the involvement of theologians and churchmen in the details of political and economic affairs is that they have lost the faith of their fathers," he said.

Both McInerney and Father Ernest L. Fortin, theology professor at Boston College, spoke against any assertions that Christian beliefs require certain specific social or economic systems, policies or decisions.

"The God of the New Testament is not a very political animal or a very good economist," Father Fortin said.

Quentin L. Quade, executive vice president of Marquette University in Milwaukee, also questioned recent trends of hierarchical involvement in public policy issues. "During the 1970s and up to now, some elements of American church leadership began to over-extend their religious warrant, the authority theirs precisely as church representatives," he said.

Brian Benestad, theology professor at the University of Scranton, Pa., and co-editor of "Quest for Justice," a compendium of recent statements by the U.S. bishops on the social and political order, joined with several other witnesses in accusing the bishops of a lack of moral leadership.

"A lot of people are concerned that they're going to criticize the economy," he said. "But the more important thing is, what are they going to do to the church?"

He said the bishops have made a large number of "policy statements" over the past two decades, but "they never talk about virtue, they never show the connection between virtue and a good society."

When Pope Pius XI spoke of social justice he "expected each person to contribute to society by their virtue," Benestad said, but "we have lost the connection between the transformation of human society and virtue."

As a result, he said, there has been a tendency in Catholic thinking about social justice to place emphasis "on the demand for just treatment" without reference to the correlative requirement to be a just person.

Several of the speakers praised the virtues of what Catholic neo-conservative theoretician Michael Novak calls "democratic capitalism." Novak, vice chairman of the lay commission,

chaired the hearing held in the boardroom of the American Enterprise Institute, where he is a specialist in religion, philosophy and public policy.

Pauken, meanwhile, argued against massive federal programs to solve social and economic needs, urging an "alternative social strategy" that encourages local leadership, public-private partnerships and volunteer work.

Pauken made no reference in his testimony to a recent 16-page criticism of CHD which he had allegedly circulated which said that CHD funds go to "leftist political activists." Three Texas bishops and Father Marvin Mottet, CHD executive director, have criticized the document.

Districtwide Seminar Planned by Knights

Dr. James Palmeri, faithful navigator of the Fourth Degree Assembly, Knights of Columbus, has announced that a districtwide seminar for officers of the Fifth New York District will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25 at the K. of C. Hall, East Miller Street, Newark.

The seminar will be conducted by Raymond P. Pfeifer, district master.

About 50 Fourth Degree officers are expected to attend, representing Mt. Morris/Dansville, Rochester, Bath/Corning, Auburn, Seneca Falls, Elmira, Hornell, Ithaca, Waterloo, Newark, Geneva and Canandaigua. Other district officers who will speak are Ralph Handley, secretary; Robert Hafner, marshal; Dr. John Surash, warden, and William Schmitz, controller.

"The purpose of the seminar," Pfeifer said, "is to indoctrinate new and incumbent district officers on protocol, Color Corps regulations, the new 4 by 4 program and assembly participation in church and community activities."

A light lunch will be provided by the Newark Assembly.

Auditions Scheduled

The Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra, directed by Sister Virginia Hogan, S.S.J., is now accepting new members for the 1984-85 concert season.

Placement auditions have been scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 5-6. Interested singers and instrumentalists are invited to call 381-8683 or 223-9006 for further information.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

An Antidote For Viewers

My faith in movies as entertainment has been restored. After reading background on "The Gremlins" and "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and seeing "Ghostbusters" and "Romancing the Stone" which demonstrate the kind of undisciplined mishmash which can occur when superstars are given free rein, I had sworn off films for the duration.

Then on the advice of our daughter, my husband and I went to see a French movie at the Little called "Les Comperes."

I am the only member of the family who doesn't speak at least a little French but the movie which has English subtitles kept me laughing from start to finish, the slapstick of the highest order, carefully controlled, ingeniously orchestrated.

And at the end when the audience broke into applause, I joined in, completely enchanted by the PG-rated production.

In brief, the film tells what happens when a young boy runs away from home with a girl to Nice and his mother cannot get his father to do more than make a cursory investigation into his disappearance.

Mama, a delectable sort, enlists the help of two former boyfriends planting the idea in each man's mind that he is the real father of the boy.

That is as racy as the film gets and with the exception of a couple of vulgar expressions, there is nothing to take you aback.

Gerard Depardieu, who played the title role in the stunning "Return of Martin Guerre," shows a

dazzling flair for comedy. Pierre Richard as the other "father" is equally adept at handling this sure-footed script, his rubber face and winning smile the kind you remember.

Two subplots add to the fun and the director, Francois Veber, who directed the award-winning "La Cage aux Folles," weaves them into the storyline to produce a fast-paced, charming story to delight young and old and certainly those in-between.

Now for the glum news. After seeing it, we called the box office to discover that the movie will be gone before this paper appears.

The spokesperson on the other end agreed with my evaluation of "Les Comperes" but said it isn't likely to be extended or rescheduled because the crowds were small.

As I see it, several groups are at fault.

One, the local newspaper critics appear to prefer blockbuster flamboyance (maybe various reporters from the general assignment staff should be assigned to "small" films).

Second, the Little Theater management might reserve some extra advertising revenue to tout such expertly-done family films. I think they might be very pleasantly surprised at the crowds if they get the word out.

And, third, movie fans who can't stand the stuff Hollywood is turning out might make more of an effort to check regularly at the Little to see what their films are about. According to a newsletter I picked up at the refreshment stand, every staff member is required to see all the films and will give glad to brief movie viewers over the telephone.



Provincial

Sister Mary De Bacco, MPF, has been elected provincial superior of the St. Lucy Filippini Province of the Religious Teacher Filippini. The institute staffs the mission center of St. Mary's of the Lake in Watkins Glen. Sister Mary is a native of Newark, N.J., has been a member of the institute for 31 years and holds degrees from Seton Hall, Marywood College and Fordham University. She will reside at the provincial motherhouse in Morristown, N.J.

Dinner Of Champions Sept. 25

Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis (RAMS) will host its second annual Dinner of Champions at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at the Rochester Plaza.

Keynote speakers will be Bob Richards, former polevaulter and two-time olympic gold medalist, and Rafer Johnson, former olympic decathlon champion.

Julius Duval of Rochester, world record holder in six wheelchair events, will also be honored at the dinner.

Donations for the event are \$50 per person with proceeds going to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Those interested should call RAMS at 271-0801, ext. 289, to reserve tickets.

GRECIAN FESTIVAL
The second annual Grecian Festival has been scheduled by the Greek Orthodox Church from Thursday, Aug. 30 through Sunday, Sept. 2 at the downtown Rochester Festival Tent.

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Statistics	Tue.	7-9:50 p.m.	Dr. Maley
Organizational Theory	Tue.	4-6:50 p.m.	Dr. Copur
Economic Prin. for Mgt.	Mon.	4-6:50 p.m.	Dr. Norton
Quantitative Methods	Wed.	4-6:50 p.m.	Dr. Sen
Environ. Analysis	Mon.	7-9:50 p.m.	Dr. Moore
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International Bus. Str.	Tue.	7-9:50 p.m.	Dr. Ilter
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