

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Father Hehir to Keynote Diocesan Peace Parley

Father J. Bryan Hehir of the United States Catholic Conference will be the keynote speaker at "Facing the Challenge of Peace: Themes of Hope," a diocesan conference Friday and Saturday, Sept. 28 and 29 at Our Lady of Mercy High School. The conference will be on the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

Father Hehir's talk will highlight the Friday evening

portion of the conference. The Saturday program will feature an address by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, workshops designed to help parishes integrate the pastoral into parish life, a production of a musical entitled "Alice in Blunderland," and two concurrent programs for youths.

Conference coordinators Maribeth Mancini and Jim Lund, said that the conference's purpose is twofold:

Ms. Mancini, diocesan

consultant for adult religious education, said, "We hope, first of all that this gathering will help ignite a new surge of enthusiasm for the peace pastoral. If we are really going to take this teaching seriously, it is going to require a long-term commitment. The conference is one way to capitalize on the enthusiasm generated during the past year, and to carry the momentum into this year."

Lund, diocesan coordinator for social

ministry education and training, added, "The conference will first serve to help people gain more insight into 'The Challenge of Peace,' and secondly will consider very concrete ways in which parish committees and staffs can weave its message into the fabric of parish life."

Father Hehir heads the USCC's Department of Social Development and World Peace. He served as chief advisor to the bishops' ad hoc committee which

wrote "The Challenge of Peace."

In a letter inviting dioceses to the conference, Bishop Clark said of him, "He is an outstanding speaker who will offer the kind of insight into the peace pastoral that only someone who was involved in the process from beginning to end can."

Father Hehir is also senior research scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University. He holds a doctorate in applied

theology from Harvard Divinity School, and has published more than 40 articles in recent years in a variety of books and periodicals.

"His talk will be a real highlight of the conference," Lund said. "Father Hehir has been in great demand around the country during the last two years and that has been both because of his excellent reputation as a speaker and his intimate, in-

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Bishop Appoints Leader For Annual Appeal Drive

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the appointment of Mrs. Kathleen Lynd as general chairperson of the fourth Annual Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal.

"We are delighted to have a person of Kathy's background, dedication and ability as chairperson of this year's appeal," Bishop Clark said. "She has demonstrated marvelous commitment to the life of the Church and I'm sure her devotion will add a great dimension to our efforts."

Mrs. Lynd is a graduate of St. Agnes High School, and received her bachelors degree in Speech and Drama from

Nazareth College, and masters degrees from the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor in Speech, and from Nazareth College in Education.

Her husband, Edward J. Lynd, is senior vice president/comptroller of Columbia Banking-Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The Lynds have six children -- Kevin, 22; Kathleen, 20; Edward J., 19; Maureen, 17; Matthew, 15; and Brian, 13 -- and have been members of St. Ambrose Parish for 23 years.

Among her diocesan involvements, Mrs. Lynd is a past president of the board of

trustees of Aquinas Institute, of which she is still a member. She also served on the SSJ Task Force on Education, has been a member of the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents, and has worked on organizing committees for the annual Bishop Clark Oratoricals.

Mrs. Lynd has also been very active at St. Ambrose, working with stewardship programs and with the Thanks Giving Appeal on the parish level.

She succeeds John Glavin, Theodore Altier and John Greisberger as general chairperson for the annual appeal.



Father James Marvin, appeal coordinator, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and Mrs. Kathleen Lynd, general chairperson of the 1984 Annual Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal.

Bishops Defend Moral Probe of Economics

Washington (NC) — Moral reflection on economic issues requires raising questions about U.S. practices and policies without regard to party or administration, Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York said in the annual Labor Day statement issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Archbishop O'Connor said the pastoral letter on the economy being prepared by the U.S. bishops, like the bishops' previous letter on war and peace, will help open public debate to more explicit moral analysis.

"In doing so, the church is not 'intruding' in political affairs or adding an alien issue to the public debate. Rather it is seeking to make clear the human and moral consequences of the technical choices we make as a nation," Archbishop O'Connor said.

Labor Day is observed Sept. 3.

Archbishop O'Connor, chairman of the USCC's Committee on Social Development and World Peace, said there is room for dispute about the size and style of the state's role in society and the economy.

"But the principle that the state has a positive, active role to play, especially in defense of the poor, is beyond question in Catholic teaching," he said.

He appealed to Catholics and others to participate in the dialogue about economic justice that will be stimulated by the bishops' pastoral letter.

"I do not believe that Catholics can conscientiously sit out the debate over America's economic future. Both the principles of American democracy and the social teaching of the church compel us to make our voices heard," he said.

The 1984 Labor Day statement was the first by Archbishop O'Connor. The 1983 statement was presented by Bishop Mark J. Hurley of Santa Rosa, Calif., whom Archbishop O'Connor succeeded as committee chairman.

The statements are a tradition begun by labor advocate Msgr. George G. Higgins, who issued more than 30 commentaries for Labor Day before retiring from the USCC in 1980.

Archbishop O'Connor's statement traced the tradition of Catholic teaching on economic justice from the Industrial Revolution to Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "Laborem Exercens, (On Human Work)."

He said the U.S. bishops have also issued documents over the years which have called for reforms such as minimum wage legislation, government regulation of public service monopolies, equal pay for women, public housing and the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively.

This history of Catholic statements on economic issues



As more women enter the work force, sights like this female construction worker become more common. Male and female laborers will be honored when the

United States celebrates Labor Day Sept. 3. (NC photo)

shows "the consistency with which the church has expressed its concern for economic justice in different times and in different social and economic settings," Archbishop O'Connor said.

He said the upcoming pastoral on the economy thus is "a continuation of a long and important tradition in the church."

Archbishop O'Connor said moral reflection on economic matters is "beneficial and necessary for the church, for it is carrying out the Gospel mandate to re-evaluate every aspect of our lives in the light of Jesus' life and teaching."

Moral reflection by the church also is beneficial for

society "because it is an affirmation of our democratic political heritage and institutions," Archbishop O'Connor said. "It is a sign of our dedication to democracy when we strive to make a genuine and unique contribution to public discourse on these vital issues."

The church is not only a community of believers but a major social institution in a pluralistic society, the archbishop said. "As a 'public church' we believe that we have not only the right but the responsibility to contribute to public debate on major issues of our day."

The legitimacy of this public role of the church, he said, is rooted in scriptural and theological tradition.