

The Pastoral at a Glance

Washington (NC) -- Here are major highlights of the first draft of the proposed pastoral letter by the U.S. bishops on Catholic social teaching and the American economy. The 58,000-word draft document, written by a five-bishop committee headed by Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, was released Nov. 11. It is divided into two major parts: the Christian ethical principles of economic life and their application to selected U.S. policy issues.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES:

-- "All persons have rights in the economic sphere and...society has a moral obligation to take the necessary steps to ensure that no one among us is hungry, homeless, unemployed, or otherwise denied what is necessary to live with dignity."

-- Private property is a basic right, and some inequality of wealth or income may sometimes be justified, but "no one is justified in keeping for his exclusive use what he does not need when others lack necessities."

-- Wealth becomes evil when it "so dominates a person's life" that it becomes an idol or blinds a person to a neighbor's needs.

-- All people have a duty to work, and all have a right to gainful employment, just wages and collective bargaining.

-- Both the prophets and Jesus show special care for the poor and powerless. The treatment of these is the ultimate measure of the justice of a society.

-- While Catholic teaching on the principle of subsidiarity sets limits on the role

of government, government "has a positive moral function" of protecting basic rights, ensuring economic justice for all, and enabling citizens to coordinate their actions toward these ends.

POLICY APPLICATIONS:

-- Employment. Job creation for full employment is a necessary national policy priority. Both public and private sectors must be involved. Work is the central social question and is fundamental to human dignity. Among specific objectives should be expanded job creation, job training and job placement services and the formation of local, state and national coalitions for job creation.

-- Poverty. High poverty amid U.S. wealth is a scandal. The so-called "feminization of poverty," continued racial and ethnic discrimination, and gross inequities in U.S. income and distribution of wealth must be overcome. Among many policy elements needed to fight poverty are job creation, affirmative action for women and minorities, tax system reform, self-help programs for the poor, and better child care services. A "major reform" of the "woefully inadequate" U.S. welfare system is needed, with particular attention to comprehensiveness and treating the poor with dignity.

-- Food and agriculture.

Word Processing

The non-profit Genesee Valley Word Processing Specialists (GVWPS) will hold its monthly dinner meeting 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 15 at Island Valley Party House. Dolores Hofmann of Bryant and Stratton Business Institute will speak on "Effective Communications." Reservations and further information are available from Sue Curtis or Tanis Mott, 338-8564.

The second draft of the pastoral, due next spring, will include a section on this. The drafting committee decided only recently that it had to make it a separate topic in order to deal with it adequately.

-- Collaborating to shape the economy. A "new American experiment" in economic democracy is needed, with all sectors of American society participating in the responsibility of building a just economic society. New participatory forms of local, regional and national economic planning and cooperation are needed. Greater worker partnership with and participation in businesses is necessary.

-- The United States and the world economy. Global interdependence is growing, and the U.S. position as an economic superpower imposes special obligations on it. In development aid and trade relations a "preferential option for the poor" ought to be a major

normative factor for U.S. policy. "Our nation has a moral obligation to help reduce poverty in the Third World." The United States should increase its development aid and base it on human need rather than U.S. strategic interests, and it should help reduce the Third World's debt burden.

Business in Diocese

Paul Anthony Steve, a 1976 graduate of St. John Fisher College, was one of 208 attorneys from New York State inducted before the United States Supreme Court on Monday, Oct. 15. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Steve of Clyde.

Steve graduated from Albany Law School in 1979, and a year later was admitted to the State Supreme Court and the State Bar Association.

Deacon Candidates

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in, we looked at other ways to do screening. Our other process was not complete," Lahay said. Applicants have always received some testing, but "this year two psychological surveys, the Myers-Briggs Personality Profile and the Selection Research Inc. "Deacon Perceiver," were added.

"After the first year of the program we got into testing, but people pretty well knew they were in before they took the tests," said Francis Hillenbrand, a board member and one of the original group of deacons.

"If the test didn't show up that well, we generally said, 'Well, he's a nice guy and we'll see how it goes.' We have turned people down before. This isn't the first time," Hillenbrand said.

While the four applicants

interviewed by The Message, newspaper of the Evansville Diocese, said they could accept the decision in their own cases, they questioned the reason that no one was accepted.

"I've got no problems as far as I'm personally concerned but I don't think they are right," one applicant said. "They say they are using a test that is 85 percent effective. Well, there's a group (Selection Research, Inc.) selling that product and

Founders Ball Will Conclude Hospital's 75th

Elmira -- Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Sister Elizabeth Ann Le Valley SSJ, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, have been named honorary co-chairpersons of St. Joseph's Hospital's Founders Ball.

The event will take place 7 p.m., Nov. 24 at the Campus Center of Elmira College.

The ball will formally bring to a close the year-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the hospital.

A special buffet and dancing to the music of "Classy Brass" are featured parts of the ball, planned by St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. John Rurak, chairperson.



MRS. RURAK

Mrs. Rurak is vice president of the auxiliary and is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Local Effort

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and finance committees will be invited to review and comment on the letter. A summary of the document and suggested ways of discussing it will be made available. Also, the three diocesan consultative bodies and diocesan financial advisers will be asked for suggestions.

Third is the formation of a consultative panel headed by Dr. Marvin Mich of St. Bernard's Institute to study and critique the pastoral letter from a theological, academic and professional perspective.

Finally, the plan calls for a broad-based public hearing on the evening of Jan. 22.

"It is my hope," Bishop Clark said, "that this process will first of all help me to come to a deeper understanding of the economic reality experienced by our people. Second, however, I hope that the extensive Catholic teaching on economics as it is found in Holy Scripture and in Catholic social teaching will be spread widely and effectively during this process."

Prior to Thursday's press conference, any questions about the pastoral letter should be directed to Father Charles Mulligan or James Lund at (716) 328-3210, or Ms. Heidkamp at (716) 328-6400.

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RPO Upcoming Events

THE OHIO BALLET

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Friday, Nov. 23 at 8:30 pm

Saturday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm

David Fisher
Heinz Pol

Music and Your Imagination

Bob Berky, mime
Isaiah Jackson, conductor
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Eastman Theatre
Sunday, Nov. 25 2:30 pm
Tickets: \$5 and \$3

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For children K-6 and their families

Tickets & Information 454-7091

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Your inquiry will be held in confidence.

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