

Pope Shows Concern over Chile Strife

By John Thavis

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II expressed concern Nov. 8 over the "suffering and grief" caused by recent civil strife in Chile, and urged the country's bishops

to keep working for peace.

The pope spoke to a group of Chilean bishops making a mandatory visit to the Vatican, two days after President Augusto Pinochet imposed a state of siege in Chile for the

first time since 1978. The order restricted civil liberties and imposed curfews.

"I would like to express my concern over the increased tensions and difficulties of these recent days, which have caused uneasiness, suffering and grief in the country," the pope said.

As "pastors of the whole flock," the bishops should continue to work for recon-

ciliation between opposing sides, the pope said.

"This is the one way to create and encourage a climate of serenity and peace, which will consequently bring about an improvement in the general conditions of your country," he said.

In this way, the pope said, Chile can build "a future of prosperity with the collaboration of all and for the benefit of all."

The crackdown by Chile's military government occurred after months of political unrest, including demonstrations Oct. 29 in which eight people were killed. The period has also been marked by deteriorating relations between the government and the Catholic Church in the South American country.

The pope encouraged the bishops, who have often called for dialogue between the government and the opposition, to keep working for "the common good, social peace, justice and the respect of each person's life and rights."

"The pope follows and understands your difficulties," he said.

In his talk, the pope also praised recent legislation in Chile that extended religious education to all the schools in the country.

He called on bishops to "intensify religious instruction in the schools, including public schools, thanks to the new possibilities" opened up by the legislation.

Pope John Paul urged the bishops to promote the life of faith, particularly active participation in the Eucharist and penance.

"How will it be possible to develop the Christian life and the mission of man in the world without the grace of Christ that flows from these sacraments?" he asked.

He also reminded the bishops that preaching the truth

is "our first task."

"This truth is revealed. It is not born from simple human experience," the pope

said. It must be the result of study and contemplation, he said, which forms a foundation for the church.



MONSIGNOR BURNS

Msgr. Burns Feted On 90th Birthday

Msgr. Francis B. Burns, who taught at St. Bernard's Seminary from 1928 until its closing, was honored this week at various celebrations marking his 90th birthday on Nov. 19.

Following the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday at Holy Apostles, where he resides, a reception was held for the parish to offer congratulations.

On Monday, a luncheon in his honor at Holy Apostles rectory was attended by some 35 faculty and administrators of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Another party was held Monday night at St. Rita's in Webster, where he has often assisted for 20 years, with another scheduled at the Mary Carliola Center.

"He's a pleasure to live with," said Father Lawrence Gross, pastor of Holy Apostles Parish.

Msgr. Burns was born in Rochester and attended St. Patrick's Cathedral parish school, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1922, and was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII on Jan. 26, 1956. He retired as a full-time professor at St. Bernard's in 1968, continuing to teach part-time until the school closed in 1981.

He had six years of pastoral experience before going to teach at the seminary — three years at St. Mary's, Elmira, and three years at St. Mary's, Auburn. He called those six years "invaluable for my years of teaching."

While at St. Bernard's, Msgr. Burns taught fundamental moral theology, ethics, pastoral theology, and social work, as well as Catholic social action and history of liturgy. In addition, he recalls two or three stints at running the library.

According to Msgr. Burns, St. Bernard's was a

pioneer in teaching social work at the time.

"Back in the 1920s, there was an upsurge for training social workers," he said. "The main purpose of teaching it at St. Bernard's was so when social workers went to the parish priest, he knew what it was all about."

In 1931, he received his Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the seminary. According to Msgr. Burns, it was the last degree of its kind to be given locally. All others were given only after studying in Rome.

"I'm very satisfied with my years served at the seminary," Msgr. Burns said. "I never missed not having a parish mostly because I had a great variety of duties."

In addition to teaching at the seminary, and assisting at St. Stanislaus or St. Rita's when needed, Msgr. Burns was named a synodal judge of the Tribunal court in 1942, and served as rector of the Star of the Sea Chapel on Edgemere Drive from 1957-1964.

In 1932, he was named a consultant to Holy Angels Home, and served many years since on their board of directors. He has also served on the boards of the Rochester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the Al Sigl Day Care Center for Handicapped Children.

"I welcomed all these duties because they were bases for my teaching," he said.

How active is Msgr. Burns today?

"He says Mass every day, and takes his turn preaching every third Sunday," said Father Gross.

He still goes to Holy Angels convent on Winton Road to say Mass for the sisters there once a week and assists at other parishes when the need exists, and, amazingly, still drives.

"My renewal in January will be my 50th in the auto club," he laughed. "I don't suppose they'll give it to me for free, though."

Henrietta Groups Run Food Drive

Henrietta — The Henrietta Area Council of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Town of Henrietta and members of the Triangle Fraternity of Rochester Institute of Technology, is leading a drive to collect contributions to the Henrietta Food Cupboard.

The drive will continue through the Christmas season.

Organizers are asking for all types of canned goods and other non-perishable foods. Items of particular need include canned soups and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, salt, sugar, baby foods and other prepared foods.

Donations may be dropped off in marked containers at the town hall, the RIT campus and Budget Business Machines, 1475 East Henrietta Road.

In addition, donations may be brought to the council's membership meeting, 6 p.m., Dec. 5 at the Rochester Hilton.

Guest speakers for that event will be Pete and Patti Dobrovitz who will discuss their new book, "Rochestrivia."

Further information on the drive is obtained by calling David Burke, 546-2700, ext. 4951; or Deborah M. Stendardi, 262-3086.

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