

## The Bishops And the Economy

# Controversial Right from Beginning

Last of a five-part series  
By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (NC) -- As soon as the first draft of the Catholic bishops' pastoral letter on the U.S. economy came out, conservative columnists hopped all over it. William F. Buckley Jr. caustically labeled the drafters "the Humphrey-Hawkins bishops," referring to the original sponsors of a liberal full employment bill that has made little progress in Congress.

Is the draft document nothing more than the standard -- and, many conservative commentators would say, now discredited -- liberal Democratic political agenda of the past two decades?

Or is it, as Archbishop James Hickey of Washington said, a "strong, sophisticated statement...a faithful reflection of 100 years of Catholic social teaching" which "challenges all ideologies" of both right and left?

A five-bishop committee, headed by Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, released the draft Nov. 11. Two rounds of redrafting are anticipated before the bishops vote on it next November.

The answer to what the pastoral draft is -- moral teaching or an unwarranted episcopal intrusion into politics under a pseudo-religious veneer -- has to lie ultimately with the moral principles it enunciates and how effectively it argues the transitions that it makes from those principles to practical judgments.

Like the controversial war and peace pastoral the nation's bishops issued in 1983, the proposed economic pastoral discusses public policy issues but from a specifically moral dimension.

The draft document has four chapters on specific policy issues -- employment, poverty, economic participation, and foreign economic policies. A fifth issue chapter, on food and agriculture, will not appear until draft two comes out next spring.

But preceding those chapters are two on principles. They spell out the content of Scripture, of Christian tradition and of recent papal teachings which contribute to and form the Catholic viewpoint on socio-economic morality.

A first principle is that creation belongs ultimately to God and is his gift to all humanity. The right to private property, from this biblical perspective, is neither absolute nor unconditional. Rather, with it come duties to God of responsible stewardship and to fellow human beings of sharing when they are in need.

Other biblical themes -- covenant, community, justice, warnings against the idolatry of wealth, God's special care for the poor -- reinforce and add further dimensions to the Christian conviction that "communal solidarity and mutual responsibility must characterize an economy that truly respects persons."

The pastoral draft pays particular attention to the Gospel of St. Luke as "a synthesis of the biblical concern with wealth. Wealth is evil when it so dominates a person's life that it becomes an idol claiming allegiance and giving security apart from God, or when it blinds a person to the suffering and needy neighbor."

It calls the message of this Gospel "a prophetic warning to...members of the most prosperous and-wealthy nation in the world."

The draft also stresses the growing articulation in recent years of the church's "preferential option for the poor." That option is not just a part of the letter's approach, but an essential criterion for all of it.

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Vol. 96, No. 14 January 2, 1985

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)  
Published weekly except week after  
July 4 and Christmas, by the  
Rochester Catholic Press Association.  
Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢. 1  
year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada  
and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South  
Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607,  
(716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage  
paid at Rochester, N.Y. POST-  
MASTER: Send address changes to  
Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St.,  
Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

## Orientation Scheduled At Notre Dame

Elmira -- Notre Dame High School has scheduled an open house at 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7 in the school auditorium.

Prospective students and their parents will have the opportunity to tour the school, talk to faculty and students, and learn about the programs.

Registration sessions for new students starting in Fall 1985 are scheduled the following week -- from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13; and from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 14 -- in the school cafeteria.

### Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding Wednesday publication.

# Sister Florian Publishes Poems

A gathering of poems, written over the course of three decades, has been published by Sister Florian Reichert SSJ. The publication was celebrated with a reception and reading held at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse last month.

Sister Florian is a noted teacher, musician, composer and liturgist.

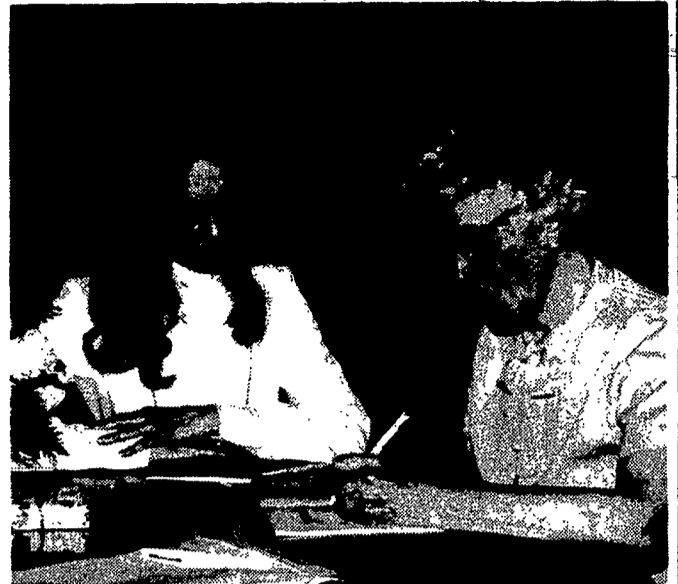
Francesca Guli, poet-in-residence at Nazareth College, who, according to Sister Florian, served "as the prime inspiration and the most gracious mentor," of the project, introduced the book, "Good Morning Blue" and read selections from it to a gathering of 150.

Commenting on Sister Florian's work, Ms. Guli remarked that the disciplines of music, composition, liturgy and teaching are reflected in the art and craftsmanship of the pieces. "No word is wasted," she said. "No note is off-key."

Several years ago, Sister Margaret Theresa Kelly, professor emerita of English at the college, encouraged Sister Florian with the words, "You have the mind and heart of a poet. Being a musician would not guarantee that, but it gives your poetry freedom and a certain spiritual flavor."

Sister Florian acknowledges a certain autobiographical element in the poems, but commented at the same time that there is "something of a clown in every serious poet."

The book was printed at Cricket Press under the stamp of Women's Collective Labor. It is available at the Sisters



Sister Florian, right, autographs a copy of her book for Ms. Guli.

of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14610; (716) 596-1000.

## Businessmen's Fellowship Sets Meeting

The monthly breakfast meeting of the Rochester Chapter, Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship, will take place at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at Arena's Party House on Ridge Road East.

D. Ross Thomson, an associate in the State Education Department, will be featured guest. Prior to his 20 years in the field of education, he was a high fashion male model in London and New York City. He also appeared as a singer in such musicals as "My Fair Lady" and "The Sound of Music."

## Hoop Tests Scheduled

Spencerport Council 7707, Knights of Columbus, is planning free-throw basketball contests for boys and girls, 11 through 14, Jan. 5, in Brockport, Hamlin and Spencerport, according to Philip Somers, youth activity director.

The contest is open to all boys and girls between 11 and 14, with Jan. 1, 1985, the determining date for age. Registration forms can be obtained from any K. of C. member or at area schools.

The Jan. 5 competition is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. at Nativity School, Brockport; from 2 to 4 p.m., at Hamlin Town Hall, and from 3 to 5 p.m. at St. John's in Spencerport. Council finals will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at St. John's in Spencerport.

Winners will compete in the council finals Jan. 12 in Spencerport. District finals will be in late January, semi-finals in early March and the state finals March 30.

## Marian Hours Scheduled

Knights of Columbus Council 178 plans a Marian Hour of Prayer in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help following the 11:10 a.m. Mass, Saturday, Jan. 5, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Brooks Avenue and Genesee Park Boulevard.

The hour of prayer also is scheduled at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Our Lady of Victory Church on Pleasant Street.

A traveling icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be exhibited during the ceremonies.



## Holiday Message

A giant banner, hung from the newly-constructed Education Complex at St. Joseph's Villa conveys appreciation for the community's support of the Villa's building campaign. More than \$1.4 million in private gifts and grants has been received. The complex will house the industrial arts, human ecology and physical education programs of the campus school. The building will be formally dedicated this Spring.

# Bishop Endorses Rochester 'Peace Child' Production

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has endorsed a Rochester production of "Peace Child," a musical fantasy by British playwright David Woolcombe.

Auditions for the production have been slated for 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12; and 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the Hochstein Memorial Music School, 50 N. Plymouth Ave.

The bishop's endorsement for the venture was contained in a letter to Ruth Lubanski, an area coordinator for the event, said Mrs. Arlene Jones, secretary of the bishop's office.

Speaking roles are available for three adults and eight young people, ages 10 to 17. Singers are also sought for a large chorus of children, also from 10 to 17.

The production will be staged April 19 and 20 in Rochester's Xerox Auditorium. Linda Gottwald will direct. Alvin Parris is musical director.

"Peace Child" was debuted in London's Royal Albert Hall three years ago. Since then, it has been presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., at the 1984 Democratic National

### Advisory

Correspondents are advised the Courier-Journal is restricted by law from publishing any notice of games of chance, the prizes won in such games or the winners of such prizes.

Convention in San Francisco, and in more than 100 productions in cities and towns throughout the United States.

A cooperative Soviet-American production with Peter Ustinov is planned for this summer.

According to director Gottwald, the play "offers hope and empowerment to young people. It is not a gloom and doom theater piece. Its upbeat music and positive message appeal to audiences of all ages."

The production has also earned the endorsement of Congressman Frank Horton, and Laval S. Wilson, superintendent of the Rochester City School District, a promotional release stated.

According to Vicki Lewin, who is working with Ms. Lubanski on coordinating the event, "technical assistance is needed for all aspects of the production."

Persons wishing to assist or to volunteer are asked to call either Ms. Lewin, 244-6759, or Ms. Lubanski, 247-4569.

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