

Peace Groups To Mark Anniversary of Atomic Bombings

By J.J. Smith
NC News Service

Peace organizations nationwide will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, with demonstrations and events as varied as a "peace ribbon" ringing the Pentagon and human "shadows" painted on streets.

Other events planned include religious services, tours of U.S. cities by survivors of the bombings, and a telephone link between annual commemoration ceremonies at Hiroshima and U.S. rallies.

The bombings of the two Japanese cities, on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, were estimated to have killed 200,000 people.

The National Federation of Priests' Councils called for Aug. 6 to be "a day of national reconciliation and prayer" that would recall that the "United States began a new form of warfare, nuclear war."

The "peace ribbon" that organizers hope to ring the Pentagon and stretch to the White House and the Capitol Aug. 4 was conceived by 61-year-old Justine Merritt of Denver. The ribbon, made of individually sewn 36-by-18-inch panels to be lined up end to end, has been called the most ambitious needlework project since "Betsy Ross and Old Glory."

A number of Catholic parishes and religious congregations around the country have been sewing panels reflecting various peace themes for the ribbon. Among those endorsing the peace ribbon was the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, which urged its members to contribute manpower to the project.

The "Shadow Project," on the other hand, will involve painters leaving whitewash outlines of shadows on streets in communities across the country, as well as in nine Canadian provinces and 24 foreign countries, during the early morning hours of Aug. 6, according to organizers.

Alan Gussow, an artist from Congers, N.Y., said he was inspired to found the project when he saw a photograph of a human shadow burned into some steps 250 yards from where the first atomic bomb hit at Hiroshima.

"God only knows who it was. The person had vaporized, leaving their shadow and a profound impact on me," Gussow said.

According to Gussow, the purpose of the Shadow Project is to feed people's imaginations and get them involved.

"People are forced to step on the shadows, and they'll try and figure out what they are, this way it gets them talking," he said.

Among the religious observances will be a Mass celebrated in Baltimore the evening of Aug. 3 by Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard. The Mass is related to an Aug. 4 day of remembrance of the bombings being observed in the Baltimore Archdiocese.

Father Vincent McTighe, executive director of the National Federation of Priests' Councils, said his group called for the day of reconciliation and prayer because the United States is the only country ever to use nuclear weapons against another country and "the occasion called for a remembrance."

"We're not an advocacy group," Father McTighe said, "and we're not naive enough to wish them (nuclear weapons) away, but

this is an area of concern that people should look at. We're not going to get anywhere unless we start somewhere."

Pax Christi USA, the American branch of an international Catholic peace organization, urged members to circulate a proposed apology for the bombing to be signed by American Catholics and either sent to the Japanese Embassy or run as a paid advertisement in daily or diocesan newspapers.

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The proposed text for the apology said signers do not take responsibility for the bombings, which occurred "before some of us were born." But it states that "we do accept responsibility to act now" because to remain silent could "pave the way for even more frightening atrocities in the future."

Diocese, Local Groups Taking Part In Remembering Bomb Anniversary

As the 40th anniversary of the first dropping of atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima approaches, recent reports claim that more than 1,200 nuclear weapons are stored at the Seneca Army Depot in Seneca Falls.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, in a recent statement, remarked that "we need to contemplate the enormous destructive power that resides in our midst and commit ourselves to building a peace that will ensure that this power is never unleashed." His statement further urges parishes to participate in and publicize commemorative activities being organized throughout the Diocese of Rochester and around the country.

In conjunction with churches around the nation, Bishop Clark has asked parishes to toll their church bells for five minutes on Tuesday, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The Bishop has also requested pastors to emphasize

peace in their liturgical celebrations during the weekend of August 3-4.

From Tuesday until the evening of Friday, August 9, fasting and prayer for peace and reconciliation are being encouraged throughout the diocese. Those who fast or wish to express solidarity with the fast and prayer are urged to wear a purple ribbon throughout the week as a sign of their commitment.

All parishes are also encouraged to send delegations to a Mass for Peace celebrated by Bishop Clark at St. Francis De Sales Church in Geneva on Friday, August 9, at 7:30 p.m. The liturgy's theme recalls the words of Pope John Paul II during a 1981 visit to Hiroshima: "To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace."

The following is a schedule of area commemorative events in addition to those mentioned above:

Finger Lakes

These events are sponsored by the Finger Lakes Peace Alliance, a group with which the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry is affiliated.

Saturday, August 10

● Interfaith service at Sampson State Park with local clergy and folk group — 10:11:15 a.m.

● Peace walk encircling the Seneca Army Depot; two groups will hike 10 miles each — 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

● Rally and picnic at Sampson State Park with two survivors of Hiroshima, former Brooklyn Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, draft resister Andy Majer and others speaking, folk singer Tom Paxton performing — 4-6:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to park at Sampson State Park for these events. Shuttle service to the depot will be provided. For more information, call Arnie Matlin at (716)243-4002 or 243-4007.

Southern Tier

Sunday, August 4

● Departure for the Peace Ribbon wrapping of the Pentagon — noon.

● Radio dramatization of "Sadako and the Thousand Clowns" on WCBA — noon.

Monday, August 5

● Eucharistic liturgy of repentance and remembrance at St. Peter and Paul Church, Elmira — 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6

● Radio talk show on nuclear disarmament, WVIN — 9:35 a.m.

● Memorial program at Grove Park in Elmira, 7:30 p.m.

● Memorial prayer service, First Baptist Church, Owego, 7:30 p.m.

● Television programs on WSKG, "Hiroshima Remembered" — 8 p.m. — and "Preventing Nuclear War" — 11 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7

● Prayer service and "Civil Defense: Dangerous Illusion?" program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira — 7:30 p.m.

For more information on Southern Tier activities, call the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry at (607)734-9784.

World, Nation in Brief

Nation

Washington (NC) — A revised draft of a proposed pastoral letter on campus ministry will be ready for U.S. bishops to discuss this fall but the vote on the letter has been pushed back to November 1986, according to its drafters. Father Joseph Kenna, the bishops' conference's representative for campus ministry, said July 23 that although the vote on the pastoral had been expected at this fall's meeting, it has tentatively been rescheduled for the November 1986 meeting because of the heavy revisions required in the document.

Baltimore (NC) — Twenty years after Pope Paul VI asked African bishops to undertake a missionary role, Nigerian priests are considering an apostolate to America's black population. "I see challenges in the U.S.," said Msgr. Godwin P. Akpan, a member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul and rector of the National Missionary Seminary of St. Paul in Abuja, Nigeria. Father Akpan was in Baltimore meeting with the Josephite Fathers, a Baltimore-based order of priests whose ministry is to black Catholics. He was visiting Josephite centers to get an understanding of the kind of work his priests would do if they came to the United States.

Oklahoma City (NC) — The farm crisis is real, said James Plaxico, a professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University. In an interview with The Sooner Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Plaxico quoted a recent survey which found that one in every five farmers and ranchers questioned was in significant to severe financial distress.

Sheen Foundation Grant

The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation last week announced receipt of a \$42,000 grant from the state's Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Designated for administrative purposes, the money will enable the foundation to expand service to low- and moderate-income families in the thirteen-county area around Monroe County, according to Allyn Smith, foundation executive director.

The not-for-profit foundation, which celebrated its 17th anniversary this past June, is initiating a \$250,000 fund campaign, directed to foundations and corporations primarily. Proceeds from the campaign, headed by Karen Noble Hanson, will be combined with the state grant to meet critical housing needs.

A cooperative venture between the Episcopal and Roman Catholic dioceses, Bishop Sheen provides counseling and financial assistance to individual families buying homes as well as emergency home-repair loans.

WORLD

Rome (NC) — Numerous state restrictions, including control of pastoral travel by priests and bishops, are hindering the Catholic church in Vietnam, according to a Vatican agency. "The local church today is forced to live and work in conditions that are at times rather difficult," said Fides, the news agency for the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The congregation is responsible for mission territories. However, even with the difficulties, there are signs that the church in Vietnam is alive and developing, Fides said in a commentary. It cited the nomination of new bishops and a "sense of cultural and religious adaptation."

Castelgandolfo, Italy (NC) — Pope John Paul II urged a group of young campers to realize their need for God after celebrating a Mass for them July 23 at Castelgandolfo, the papal summer residence. "Man without God cannot understand himself, nor can he become all he is to be," the pope said. The campers came from throughout Italy to a nearby shrine for an eight-day retreat focusing on the role of the Blessed Virgin as the harmonizer of human and divine love.

Vatican City (NC) — The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano has condemned two bombings, including one at a Jewish synagogue and an adjacent home for the elderly, that injured 27 people, in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 22. The newspaper said July 23 that every form of terrorist attack should be denounced, but especially when "hatred is directed against a house of prayer and a house where elderly people live."

Mercy Leaders' Installation

The recently elected superior general and four-member council of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester will officially assume their leadership duties on Tuesday, August 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the Eucharist that evening and preside at the installation ceremony for Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general, and Sisters Janet Korn, Ann Miller, Kathleen Milliken and Nancy Whitley as councilors.

Vacation Bible Camp

All boys and girls in grades 1-7 are invited to St. Andrew's Vacation Bible Camp from Monday-Friday, August 5-9. Scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the camp costs \$2 per child. For more information, call the Religious Education Office at (716)467-9201.

Hornell's Sister Jude Becomes Celebrity in National Magazine

By Dolores Lamb

Hornell — The copies of the July issue of Catholic Digest sold out from the the pamphlet rack at St. Ann's Church within a week.

The reason? The magazine's lead article was entitled: "Pray When You Hear a Siren" and is about Sister Jude, St. Ann's Sister Jude. Naturally, when that news leaked out, the magazines sold quickly.

The article, written by Camille M. Floyd, a former student of Sister Jude, opens with the author's recollection of following an ambulance bearing her husband who had been stricken with a heart attack.

In the article, Floyd recalled how Sister Jude had drilled into the minds of her fourth graders a habit which had lasted through the years. Whenever they heard a siren, they should offer a prayer for the person involved and those most concerned, Sister had taught.

While desperately praying for her husband, the author hoped fervently that someone had been taught, as she had, to remember those in urgent need. Someone who had a Sister Jude in his or her past.

Later, when her husband was out of danger, the author had time to recall other incidents during the year she was a fourth-grade pupil in St. Vincent de Paul School in Corning. Some memories are vivid, she writes, although she now is many miles and many years from that fourth grade.

She remembered how Sister Jude provided treats for the class, which was housed in the basement of the church hall because of lack of space in the school building.

Sister kept a box on her desk into which anyone who had a few extra cents contributed. When there was enough money and when the day was particularly hot, the entire class went outside and hailed an ice cream truck.

Sister Jude, when questioned about it, said, "That's the only time I got reported to the diocese. In those days, you weren't supposed to leave your classroom, even if you took the whole class with you. And buying ice cream wasn't considered an academic activity."

Apparently, she did not get into trouble with the authorities when she played baseball with the youngsters, with her habit pinned up and veil flying.

A stickler for punctuality, she was one day about to chastise a fourth grader who appeared late in the basement classroom. The boy blurted out: "I couldn't help it, Sister, my dog just got run over." Sister Jude, to the surprise of the class, burst out crying, and she and the boy wept together.

In her article, Floyd recalled Halloween in the fourth grade when Sister Jude got permission to use the entire church hall for the class party, to the obvious chagrin of those in the regular school building. "I was a lot more active in those days," Sister Jude says. "Of course, I was a lot younger, and a person changes with the years."

Now, as pastoral assistant at St. Ann's, Sister Jude is a member of the Hornell Ecumenical Ministry and was responsible for setting up the city's food bank for those in need. She accepts not only food but clothing, furniture and other essentials for the needy. She collects left-over bread and doughnuts regularly for shut-ins or children of large families.

Not only does she make numerous Communion calls herself, she sets up the schedules for the parish eucharistic ministers as well. She takes care of the church altars and can be seen at dawn visiting parishioners' gardens to ensure fresh bouquets for altar and shrines.

And if that's not active ...