



Reuters/RNS

Taking friendly mission to India

NEW DELHI - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton March 28 visits with children at the orphanage run by Mother Teresa in New Delhi. Clinton arrived in New Delhi early Monday on a three-day visit intended to strengthen ties between the United States and India. The visit was part of a 12-day goodwill tour of South Asia.

Encyclical

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Have Life," focuses on the Christian conviction of the unique value of human life that emerges from the Scriptures.

"In Jesus' own life, from beginning to end, we find a singular 'dialectic' between the experience of the uncertainty of human life and the affirmation of its value," it says.

To the question of why life is good, the pope says that from its first pages the Bible gives an "amazing answer" - that the human person "is a manifestation of God in the world..."

After tracing various Bible passages on God's personal involvement in the creation and development of each person, the pope asks: "How can anyone think that even a single moment of this marvelous process of the unfolding of life could be separated from the wise and loving work of the Creator and left prey to human caprice?"

Pope John Paul II introduces Chapter 3, "You Shall Not Kill," with the words of Jesus from Matthew, "If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

It is in Chapter 3 that he reaffirms in detail the church's teachings on abortion, euthanasia, embryo and fetus experimentation, and other key issues of human life. But he stresses that the "strongly negative" form of the commandment against killing is "a positive attitude of absolute respect for life."

"God's commandment is never detached from his love... The Gospel of life is both a great gift of God and an exacting task for humanity," he says.

He concludes Chapter 3 with an analysis of "the necessary conformity of civil law with the moral law" and the "need to recover ... a vision of the relationship" between the two.

In Chapter 4, "You Did It to Me," the

pope calls for a new witnessing of the Gospel of life by all Christ's followers.

"We are people of life because God in his unconditional love, has given us the Gospel of life and by this same Gospel we have been transformed and saved... We have become a people for life and we are called to act accordingly."

The chapter calls for a revival of witness to the sacredness of life and the dignity of each person in Catholic education, family life, political advocacy, community action and volunteer work, professional and work life, marriage, health care and care for the elderly.

In a note to women who have had abortions, the pope says the church recognizes "the many factors which may have influenced your decision."

"Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope ... The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord," he says.

He asks such women to make "a commitment to life" in caring for others and to "become promoters of a new way of looking at human life."

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Letter

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on their careers.

In a clear message to Catholic and other political leaders, the pope rejects the argument that politicians should separate their private consciences from public conduct, saying there exists an objective natural law that must not be eroded by majority vote.

He appeals to legislators not only to remove unjust laws but to improve family policies, particularly to help mothers. At the same time, he castigates pharmaceutical companies that have invested "enormous sums of money" in products that kill the fetus.

The pope's words are bound to sting population planners, who are warned here against relying on contraception,

sterilization and abortion to deal with demographic problems. In a reproachful analogy, he recalls the Bible story of the pharaoh who ordered every male child born of a Hebrew woman to be killed.

"Today not a few of the powerful of the earth act in the same way" out of fear that "the most prolific and poorest peoples represent a threat for the well-being and peace of their own countries," he said.

The broad scope of *Evangelium Vitae* is seen in its closing call for a "great campaign in support of life." The pope envisions his encyclical as the campaign's kickoff, sparking new efforts at every level of society.

He emphasizes that this will not be easy. The faithful, he declares, should not fear "hostility or unpopularity" and must reject any ambiguity on basic life issues.

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2:00 p.m.	Holy Rosary Church	420 Lexington Ave., Rochester	716-458-4422
2:00 p.m.	St. Margaret Mary Church	400 Rogers Parkway, Rochester	716-342-2100
6:15 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
7:30 p.m.	Holy Family Church	899 Jay St., Rochester	716-328-3110
7:30 p.m.	St. Boniface Church	15 Whalin St., Rochester	716-271-1468
7:30 p.m.	St. Rita School	1008 Maple Dr., Webster	716-671-1100
7:30 p.m.	St. Theodore Church	170 Spencerport Rd., Rochester	716-429-6811

MONDAY

7:30 p.m.	St. Mary Lyceum Hall	15 Clark St., Auburn	315-252-9545
7:30 p.m.	St. Michael	401 S. Main St., Newark	315-331-2297
8:00 p.m.	St. Charles Borromeo Church	3003 Dewey Ave., Rochester	716-663-3230

TUESDAY

7:30 p.m.	Holy Apostles Church	6 Austin St., Rochester	716-254-7170
7:30 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
7:45 p.m.	St. Helens School	150 Lettington Drive, Rochester	716-235-1210

WEDNESDAY

7:30 p.m.	Guardian Angels Church	2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester	716-334-1412
7:30 p.m.	Holy Family Home School Assoc.	899 Jay St., Rochester	716-328-4800
7:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church/St. Andrew School	923 Portland, Rochester	716-226-6458
8:00 p.m.	Aquinas Institute	1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester	716-254-2020

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m.	St. Anne Church	1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester	716-271-3260
7:30 p.m.	St. Michael Church	869 Clinton Ave. N., Rochester	716-325-4040
7:30 p.m.	St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
8:00 p.m.	Holy Cross Church	4488 Lake St., Rochester	716-225-8363

FRIDAY

8:00 p.m.	St. Mark Church	54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester	716-225-3710
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SATURDAY

1:00 p.m.	St. Michael Church	320 S. Main St., Newark	315-331-2297
7:30 p.m.	Good Shepherd Church	3288 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester	716-334-3518
8:00 p.m.	St. Thomas the Apostle Church	41 Colebrook Dr., Rochester	716-226-2943

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