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# Catholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 109 NO. 14 ■ THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1998 ■ 75c ■ 12 PAGES

## From the Justice of Each Comes Peace for All



Following are excerpts from the Vatican text of "From the Justice of Each Comes Peace for All," Pope John Paul II's message for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1. The text was released by the Vatican Dec. 16.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— 1. Justice goes hand in hand with peace and is permanently and actively linked to peace. Justice and peace seek the good of one and all, and for this reason they demand order and truth. When one is threatened, both falter; when justice is offended, peace is also placed in jeopardy.

Precisely because there exists a very close connection between the justice of the individual and the peace of everyone, in the present message for the World Day of Peace I wish to address above all the heads of states, keeping in mind that today's world, though marked in many regions by tension, violence and conflict, is nevertheless seeking a new composition and a more balanced stability, with a view to a true and lasting peace for the whole of humanity.

Justice and peace are not abstract concepts or remote ideals. They are values which, as a common patrimony, in the heart of every individual, individuals, families, communities and nations, are called to live in justice and to work for peace. No one can claim exemption from this responsibility.

At this moment my thoughts turn to those who, without respite, are caught in the midst of bitter conflicts. I also think of the marginalized, the poor, the victims of all kinds of exploitation. These are people who are experiencing in their own flesh the absence of peace and the terrible effects of injustice. Who can remain indifferent to their craving for a life rooted in justice and in genuine peace? It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they achieve their desire. There can be no complete justice unless everyone shares in it equally.

Justice is, at one and the same time, a moral virtue and a legal concept. Sometimes it is represented as a blindfolded figure; in effect, though, it is the prop-

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