

Pope Escalates Efforts for Peace

Continued from page 1A

— a ceasefire at least for the blessed days of Christmas. And we know of many government officials eagerly looking for ways to resolve the difficult dispute. But we know especially that millions of hearts are trembling and suffering, awaiting the return of peace.

"Certainly we applaud those who are conscientiously dedicated to halting the menacing conflict. We would hope that at least — at least! — the proposal for a truce could be accepted and put into effect so that Christmas might be for all a day sanctified in peace!

"We recommend it to the wisdom and compassion of the responsible leaders. We further express the desire that reflection and negotiation follow such a truce,

Dominic Savio Club Poster Contest Opens

The St. Dominic Savio Classroom Club has announced the launching of its fifth National Poster Contest, January 1, 1966. The annual event is open to 110,000 Savio Club members throughout the United States.

All posters submitted to National Headquarters must be 9 x 12 inches in size. They will be judged especially for their originality and neatness in depicting one of Saint Dominic Savio's virtues. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 1966.

Two of the best posters from each of the fifty states will be selected: One from the junior division, grades five and six; the other one from the senior division, seventh through ninth grades. These will then compete in the finals for national awards. Winners will be announced in February by National Headquarters, New Rochelle, New York.

and then, at last, an equilibrium, concord and peace!"

IN WASHINGTON the next day, a White House spokesman said President Johnson shared the Pope's hope for ending the Vietnamese war. The spokesman repeated Mr. Johnson's willingness to "talk unconditionally any time the other side is ready." But he did not refer to the Pope's specific appeal for a Christmas truce.

But on the Wednesday before Christmas, United Nations Secretary General U Thant called for acceptance of the Pope's appeal. He said flatly (Dec. 22) that the Vietnamese war must be stopped, and added:

"In its place let there be — in the words of the recent appeal by Pope Paul VI — an immediate truce, to be followed by reflection, negotiation, and finally peace."

The same day, it was announced in Saigon that the U.S. and South Vietnamese commanders had ordered a 30-hour ceasefire over Christmas.

Pope Paul in his annual Christmas broadcast on Dec. 23 did not mention Vietnam by name. But he said in his address "to all men on earth":

"Brothers, do heed the message of peace which Christmas brings to men who even now are the object of God's love. Check the way things are going. It is possible that you are on the wrong track. Stop and think!"

After the Christmas truce was announced in Vietnam, the Pope sent messages to President Johnson and the government heads of both North and South Vietnam thanking them for "this pacific gesture." He voiced a prayer that the ceasefire would be "a step toward the establishment of a just and brotherly peace for the whole of Vietnam."

His identical cable to Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam and Gen.

Nguyen van Thieu of South Vietnam was sent Dec. 24.

On Christmas day, the Pope spoke of the "noble truce" to the throng which attended his outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square. "We are all the happier," he said, "in the knowledge that this ceasefire was granted following the appeal we made some days ago in the name of Christmas in our Sunday words in this very square. We praise him who by welcoming our exhortation shows to his honor and to the comfort of so many anxious and afflicted hearts that he harbors lofty sentiments of religious pity and a sincere desire for justice and peace."

AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S special flight here Dec. 30 was initially described as a mission to thank the Pope in behalf of Mr. Johnson "for the continuous effort he is making in furthering peace in Southeast Asia." Goldberg revealed nothing of his discussion with the Pope. But he said at a news conference afterward that "everything the Pope has to say on this problem is of great interest to the President and the country."

Landscaper Builds Shrines in Hillside

Gibson Flats, Mont. — (NC) — A landscaper with time to spare and a desire "to do something with a grotto" has built a series of seven shrines into the hillside near his home here.

Joe Morang, a former rodeo contestant and golden gloves heavyweight boxer, used six years and 170 tons of rock in his project.

Using statues donated or lent by a mission, a convent, a high school and friends, Morang built them into an overall display that is 150 feet long and 14 feet high.

The display includes a nativity scene, a reproduction of the grotto at Lourdes, a shrine for the Sacred Heart, a rustic setting for a statue of St. Anthony, and an amphitheater with niches for statues of St. Joseph, St. Anthony, and the Pieta.

In warm weather, water from the Lourdes grotto flows down the hillside into a small pool. Water also flows past the figure of St. Francis, which is surrounded by small replicas of the birds and animals the saint loved. Many of

the animal figures were made by the Morangs' son, Bill.

The amphitheater is adorned by massive stone planters, weighing up to 800 pounds. Heart-shaped planters surround the figure of the Sacred Heart. And over the nativity scene is a huge star, made of Montana travertine and concrete and weighing some 500 pounds.

During Christmas the Morangs erected special lights on the display, along with two loudspeakers to provide holiday music.

Catholic University Scholarships Offered

Catholic High School students of the Diocese of Raleigh are invited to compete for an undergraduate scholarship to the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

One tuition scholarship for a complete college course which has a total value of \$5,200 to \$6,500 is made available every year to each Archdiocesan Province of the United States.

Every diocesan superintendent and every Catholic high school principal is being sent complete details concerning the scholarship program.

In announcing the scholarships for 1966, Bishop William J. McDonald, Rector of the University, stated that the program is intended to express gratitude for the generous support given to National Pontifical University by the clergy and laity of the United States.

WINSTON SALEM KNIGHTS PLAN YOUTH TRACK MEET

Santa Maria Council No. 2829, Winston-Salem, N.C., plans to hold a Catholic Youth meet to be scheduled in April 1966. The track and field event which is open to all Catholic boys in Winston-Salem from grades 3 through 8, will consist of the following:

- * 200 Yard Relay _____ 3rd to 8th grades
- * 100 Yard Relay _____ 7th and 8th grades
- * Baseball-Throw for distance _____ 3rd to 6th grades
- * Rope Climbing _____ 3rd to 8th grades
- * 50 Yard Dash _____ 3rd to 6th grades
- * Standing broadjump _____ 3rd to 6th grades
- * Football _____ punt for distance

The Council, through its Youth Activities Chairman, Francis Brannan, has sent letters to Catholic grammar schools and churches in the city announcing this event.

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