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National Issues Demand Action, Bishops Assert

St. Louis — The U.S. bishops issued a statement on the national race crisis saying "we must do so at once."

The bishops said special attention must be paid to education, job opportunity, lack of decent housing, and welfare assistance. They said certain tasks remain the "unfinished business of the Catholic religious community."

"First among these is total eradication of any elements of discrimination in our parishes, schools, hospitals, homes for aged and similar institutions. Second, there is the Christian duty to use our resources responsibly and generously in view of urgent needs of poor," the bishops asserted.

The statement stressed that other tasks may be performed better by a united front of the religious community and pledged "our continued cooperation with the National Council of Churches, the Synagogue Council America and other religious groups. Effective action is demanded of us all in the midst of this crisis in American life."

The bishops directed departments, offices and bureaus of the U.S. Catholic Conference, in cooperation with other interested Catholic organizations, "to set up an urban task force to coordinate all Catholic activities and to relate to those of others working for the common goal of one society based on trust, justice and love."

The bishops stressed that it is essential that similar programs

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Editor's Desk

"Blessings upon you my son," said the well known Johnny Carson as he opened his show one night last week dressed in a white turtle neck shirt and black coat with a mandarin collar. We are told that he really seemed to sport clerical attire. Today's daily newspaper has a front page story on the rising popularity of pendant jewelry which is now in vogue for neckwear for men.

It does seem the Spring season inaugurates "a topsy turvy time."

A national Catholic weekly which seems to cite the unusual as being the common rule now being accepted, sometime ago had photographs of priest professors of Fordham University who were championing non-clerical clothes in order to have, so they said, a closer dialogue with their students. But, as Carson appeared in the new "Nehru" suit, very much like the traditional clerical black, it is odd that priests are exchanging clerical clothes and the laymen are putting them on.

We recall a news item from the recent Vatican Council that a South American prelate asked his collegiate Bishops to discard their ecclesiastical insignia in the nature of jewelry and now

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THE PEOPLE OF GOD dedicate the month of May to Mary, the mother of Christ, spouse of the Holy Spirit, daughter of God the Father. Known as the Queen of Peace, she is like a radiance in the mind of modern man. Vatican II honored her because "being obedient, she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race." © 1968 NC News Service. (NC Photos)

Pope Says

Church Can Be Renewed, Not Arbitrarily Changed

Vatican City — "Renewal, yes, arbitrary change, no!"

With these ringing words, Pope Paul VI began outlining his views of the "uneasiness which troubles some sectors of the Catholic world itself" in the post-conciliar period. He was speaking to more than 30,000 visitors and pilgrims in St. Peter's basilica at a general audience (April 25).

The Pope chose the occasion to discuss the state of the Church as it stands today after the Second Vatican Council. As he had on other occasions, the Pope stressed the immutability of the truths of faith and the basic laws of the Church. However, his words were perhaps more pointed and his stand more insistent than ever.

"After the council, the Church enjoyed and is enjoying a great and magnificent reawakening which we, first of all, are happy to recognize and encourage. But the Church has also suffered and is suffering still because there is a whirlwind of ideas, of facts which certainly are not in keeping with the good spirit (of the council) and which do not permit that vital renewal which the council had promised and which it is promising."

Destructive Element

The Pope explained that a double effect has come into existence following the council within certain Catholic circles: "For some, the idea of change has taken the place of the idea of aggiornamento (updating), foreseen by Pope John, and thus attributes, against evidence and against justice, to that most faithful shepherd of the Church norms which are no longer those of innovation, but which are at times even destructive to the teaching and discipline of the Church itself."

The Pope continued by analyzing the problem of renewal saying:

"There are many things which can be corrected or modified in Catholic life, many doctrines

which can be thought out more
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U.S. Bishops

Mediation Group Set up for Nation

St. Louis —(NC)— The U.S. bishops' spring meeting here (April 24) set up a five-member committee of bishops to administer means of mediating and arbitrating differences between dioceses, communities and organizations within the church in this country.

They also decided to petition Pope Paul VI for permission to restore in the U.S. the permanent diaconate for married and unmarried men of mature years; approved for interim use, pending final approval by the Congregation on Catholic Education guidelines for seminaries; approved a bishops committee on vocations; decided to set up a national secretariat for Church personnel to help cope with the current shortage of priests; approved guidelines for issuing statements from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and from the U.S. Catholic Conference.

They also approved a study to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars on priestly life and ministry in the U.S.; set up a new board of directors for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, separate from the Catholic University of America board of trustees; elected Archbishop John J. Carberry of St. Louis to the national board of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to succeed the late Cardinal Ritter; heard the Booz, Allen & Hamilton report on the proposed reorganization of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

An ad hoc committee headed by Bishop Thomas A. Donnellan of Ogdensburg, N.Y. reported on the study for the possibility of organizing means for arbitration or mediation of differences between dioceses, communities and organizations within the Church.

Initially this would be available only to institutions, organizations and dioceses, not individuals, and only if both parties to the dispute agreed to use, accept and abide by the board's decision without prejudice to right or recourse to the Holy See.

I.H.M. Controversary
At an evening press panel,

Bishop Donnellan was asked about the controversial case involving reforms instituted by the Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns in California.

"Our competence is limited strictly to this particular case," Bishop Donnellan said. "We would not announce any decision. We were merely a committee established by the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes and will report back to them." Bishop Donnellan was referring to the work of the committee established earlier by the Holy See for this matter.

Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefler of Charleston, S.C., reporting on his subcommittee work on the diaconate, said the introduction of the diaconate in a particular diocese is discretionary, not obligatory.

When asked what a deacon would be able to do, Bishop Shannon said he could perform all priestly functions except hear confessions, give absolution and be a celebrant at Mass. He said the diaconate is an extension of priestly orders and the deacon becomes a member of the clergy.

Bishop Francis J. Furey of San Diego, Calif., discussing the report of the Bishops' Committee on Priestly Formation, reported on a survey on seminary enrollments for 1968-69.

Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough of Louisville reported on studies conducted by the Committee on the Distribution of the Clergy and recommended:

1. That a national secretariat for Church personnel be established to help cope with the current shortage of priests.

2. That a preparatory research and development program for
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Camp Lejeune Chaplain Cited for Marine Heroism



HERO'S SALUTE — Lt. Richard M. Lyons, (right) Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy salutes with his commanding general, Brigadier General John E. Williams as a parade passes in review. The 37-year-old Catholic priest was presented the Silver Star Medal and Purple Heart for his actions at Hue City last January. He is currently serving as Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic Catholic Chaplain at Camp Lejeune.

Force Troops, Camp Lejeune — A 37-year-old Navy Chaplain who taught world history to high school students has become the first Chaplain to win the Silver Star Medal for combat action while serving with U.S. Marine Infantrymen in Vietnam.

The combat decoration, third highest given for individual heroism, was presented here April 23rd to Lieutenant Richard M. Lyons, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, by Brigadier General John E. Williams, Commanding General, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

Chaplain Lyons was cited for his heroism during the bitter battle for Hue City in South Vietnam last January. He was serving with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, when the battalion came under intense fire from entrenched North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces.

During this attack, Chaplain Lyons repeatedly braved heavy enemy fire to aid the wounded and to administer last rites.

His citation from President Lyndon B. Johnson read, "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Battalion Chaplain of the First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Viet-
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