

# Pope Promises 'To Defend Cause of Poor'

By Jaime Fonseca  
(NC News Service)

Bogota, Colombia — As important as Pope Paul VI's address to farmers at nearby San Jose was the reaction to it measured by the thunderous applause.

**THE FIRST BURST** of applause came when the Pope told the farmers: "You, beloved sons, are Christ for us."

Other applause came when he said: "We will continue to defend your cause. . . ."

"We will thus continue to denounce the unjust economic inequality between rich and poor."

Pope Paul won enthusiastic applause also when he told the farmers (Aug. 23) that he will assist those efforts aimed at curbing the use of riches in "excessive and perilous armaments." And he was applauded again when he asked his audience "not to place your trust in violence and revolution."

**THE LOUDEST APPLAUSE**, however, came when the Pope mentioned Accion Cultural Popular — the famed radio school movement started by Msgr. Jose Joaquin Salcedo — which spon-

sored the farmers' rally.

Such reaction showed that the Pope was in tune with the great issues that confront his audience and that there was a solidarity between the people and the strong words of the Pope.

Pope Paul told the farmers that he knew their living conditions. "They are, for many of you," he said, "miserable conditions, often below the normal needs of human living."

The Pope said he knew also

that in Latin America "economic and social development has been unequal," and that it has "passed over the multitude of the indigenous peoples, who have almost always been abandoned to an ignoble level of life and have

sometimes been harshly treated and exploited."

**HE TOLD THE FARMERS** that the Church has undertaken their defense through the celebrated social encyclicals of the Popes, and added: "We ourselves have acted as patron of your cause in our encyclical *The Development of Peoples*."

The Pope urged the governments of Latin America and other continents, as well as the managerial and well-to-do classes, to help bring about "the reforms necessary for a more just and efficient social arrangement, with progressive advantage for the classes today less favored." He also called for a "fairer imposition of the fiscal burden on the more well-to-do classes, especially upon those who own vast estates and are unable to make them more fertile and productive . . . as also on those classes of persons who with little or no real toil realize huge incomes or notable retributions."

**ABOUT 300,000** farmers were arranged in neat lines on the vast expanse at San Jose — which looked like a huge hacienda, but instead of silos had imposing antenna towers that will soon start sending out literacy programs from powerful new transmitters blessed by the Pope at a solemn rite that same day.

One of the most imposing and memorable of the congress events, however, was the 40-minute ride of Pope Paul in a jeep-like "campero" farm machinery, specially fitted to carry him, through the long rows of cheering farm people. The ride lasted longer than planned, but the Pope was obviously moved by the warm enthusiasm shown by these men and women of the fields.

**POPE PAUL** made the trip from Bogota to San Jose by helicopter after sightseeing with President Carlos Lleras Restrepo. That tour followed a scheduled protocol visit to the president's palace. The full cabinet, plus high military and civilian figures attended the reception.

The Pope told President Lleras that the "courteous reception reflected 'the relations happily existing between Colombia and the Holy See.'"

The Pope asked: "How can we fail to recall the influence that the Church, through her parishes, universities, schools and welfare works, has exercised and still exercises in the life and the moral uplifting of Colombia?"

The Church, he said, gives "to the urgent social problems clear orientation and vigorous postulates for their equitable solution."

**AT THE END** of the reception See Pope, page 8A



**EL DORADO AIRPORT** — Pope Paul VI is welcomed to Bogota, Colombia, by Colombian President Carlos Lleras and Foreign Minister Alfonso Lopez Michelsen. (NC Photos)

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### Editor's Desk

The transatlantic telephone call informing us of the sudden death of the Rt. Rev. Dennis A. Lynch, a priest of the diocese for 37 years was a shock to all who knew him. We have heard that death is no respecter of age. The call from Ireland was short on details but conveyed the terrible finality.

In appearance Monsignor was a well preserved man, 62 years of age with few complaints of poor health. Often the ups and downs on the health scale were a part of his Irish humor and really one never knew when to take him seriously on the matter.

The narrow escape which he had from the fire at Immaculate Heart of Mary rectory in High Point during the past summer must have affected his entire well being. Upon a request to the Bishop shortly after the near tragedy, he requested an indefinite leave of absence from his pastorate and took up residence in Ireland, which he had left as a young man of 25 years.

There is a saying, "You're a gentleman and a scholar." This was he. Of an impressive appearance with a sparkle of keen intelligence and humor in his eye he carried his clerical role with a bright spirit. Of his personal character he seemed more suited for an academic teaching role rather than one who meets the constant demand of a pastoral life. Monsignor Lynch seemed most content when spending a quiet evening with his classics, his daily scriptural readings in Greek and the points made in theological periodicals.

Often a visitor would be obliged to run an obstacle course across his study, there were piles of books everywhere.

Personally we best remember him in his years as Chancellor. As a college student we received our first pay check from him. He took us on two trips to the Editor's Desk, page 8A

### Board Urged to Consider School Consolidations

Cary — The Diocesan School Board has been urged to consider consolidation of schools and elimination of parish lines in setting attendance areas.

The suggestion came from Dr. George Breathett, chairman of the department of social science and professor of history at Bennett College, Greensboro, who addressed the board at its organizational meeting in Cary.

Present for the meeting were Dr. G. J. Kriz, N. C. State University; Dr. Tullio Pignani, East Carolina University; Joseph Lally, Gibbons Hall, Asheville; Sister Mary Michael, Sacred Heart College; Dr. Frank Fuller, East Carolina University, and Father Donald Staib, diocesan superintendent of schools.

**DR. BREATHETT** all noted the need for a define philosophy of Catholic education.

Financing plans and budgets, lay participation, an occupational census and projections for the schools were among his other suggestions.

Father Staib presented basic statistics regarding the schools, enrollments and faculties. He also gave a summary report of the meeting of school principals held in Greensboro in May.

After a review of the budget of the Diocesan Department of Education, Dr. Kriz was nominated as temporary chairman of the board and Sister Michael as temporary secretary. Dr. Kriz and Father Staib will serve on the agenda committee for the second meeting to be held in October in Greensboro.

The board agreed that priority in future meetings should be given to items identified by Dr. Breathett and suggestions made by principals of diocesan schools.

### Pope Brands Soviet Attack A 'Disaster'

Vatican City — (NC) — As he was boarding the plane for Bogota, Colombia, and the international Eucharistic Congress, Pope Paul VI declared himself ready "at this very moment" to give up his Eucharistic pilgrimage to Latin America if by staying in Rome he could help dispel the shadows cast over Europe by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The gloom of the night still hung over Rome when Pope Paul, by the side of the jetliner that was to take him 6,000 miles to a continent seething with social discontent, branded the Soviet action "a disaster." He said that it is bound to have "disastrous consequences."

Peace itself "is savagely wounded," he declared, adding: "God grant that it be not mortally."

### Denies Backing 'Right of Dissent'

Washington — (NC) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, in a statement issued here, said that he wanted "to make it absolutely clear" there was no vindication of the claimed "right of dissent" at a meeting he held with certain faculty members of the Catholic University of America.

A number of theologians at the university had signed a theological statement of dissent from the encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*. Cardinal O'Boyle is chancellor of the Catholic University of America.

The cardinal said the meeting was held "to gather the facts and the opinions of all members of the faculty of the school of theology and the department of religious education."

**HE ADDED** that before the meeting ended, "a press release was agreed upon by everyone present. This procedure should have prevented biased reports of the meeting and forestalled misinterpretations. Nevertheless two of the dissenting theo-

logians, Rev. Charles Curran and Rev. Robert Hunt, immediately presented to the news media an account of the meeting that seriously misrepresented my position."

The cardinal said that "the false and misleading reports of the meeting suggested that my effort to be fair implied a vindication of the claimed 'right of dissent.' Both as a faithful Catholic and as bishop of this archdiocese I want to make it absolutely clear that there was no such vindication. Listening with patience does not imply agreement."

The Cardinal said that he did not "wish to judge anyone's heart, but I am forced to the conclusion that some of these dissenters are purposely causing confusion among the faithful. Perhaps they think they are bound in conscience to do what they are doing, but if so, I am afraid this case is an example of the truth that conscience is not always right."

**HE ALSO SAID** he had not intended to make any further public observations about the discussion at the Aug. 20 meeting. "But," he said, "since others have used this occasion to spread propaganda concerning their opinions, I think it is only fair to make a few remarks about the dissenting opinion."

Cardinal O'Boyle said that near the end of the dissenting theologians' statement are two key paragraphs, reading:

"It is common teaching in the Church that Catholics may dissent from authoritative, non-infallible teachings of the magisterium when sufficient reasons for so doing exist.

"Therefore, as Roman Catholic theologians, conscious of our duty and our limitations, we conclude that spouses may responsibly decide according to their conscience that artificial contraception in some circumstances is permissible and indeed necessary to preserve and foster

the values and sacredness of marriage."

**THE CARDINAL** in his statement said that "those who say that this is the 'common teaching' about dissent offer no evidence that the Catholic Church ever tolerated dissent of the sort they are carrying on and even instigating."

The second paragraph, he said, "asserts that the constant teaching of the Catholic Church, now once again solemnly reaffirmed by Paul VI, may in practice be subordinated to other factors in a Catholic married couple's situation."

"In my judgment," the cardinal stated, "those who give Catholics advice like this are misleading them because, by implication, what they are saying is either that human judgment stands above the law of God or that the Catholic Church is lying when it claims divine authority for its moral teaching."

**"BECAUSE OF** the importance of the issue, See *Right of Dissent*, page 2A