

South African Bishops Condemn Racial Discrimination

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — (NC)—The South African bishops have spoken out against this country's policy of apartheid—strict racial segregation—declaring that "the natural right of free association among men is unassailable and cannot be either diminished or taken away on racial grounds."

The bishops spoke July 26 in their first joint pastoral on human relations since 1962. The decision to speak was taken at a plenary conference of the episcopate in Pretoria attended by 31 bishops. Archbishop Owen McCann of Cape Town presided.

The bishops said they thought their meeting "an appropriate occasion to introduce the people of Southern Africa to one of the most timely and topical of the Ecumenical Council decrees, the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, and to draw attention to certain chapters of particular significance to South Africa and its special problems."

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Common Good Offended

The letter stated: "Man by his very nature must have the company of his fellow men. Only through constant commerce with them, through brotherly dialogue, and through the give and take of social routine are his talents sharpened and his personality developed

to fit him for his destiny in time and eternity.

"This social exchange knows of no impediment of color, creed or class. On the contrary, where inequalities of education, economic condition and the rest close intercommunion, it becomes all the more necessary and all the more fruitful."

"The natural right of free association among men is unassailable and cannot be either diminished or taken away on racial grounds on the pretext that such association will damage the common good.

"Indeed the very opposite is true. It is the prohibition of easy intercommunion

among all the people of the state which offends against common good.

"There is growing awareness of the exalted dignity proper to the human person, says the Second Vatican Council. By his very humanity he stands above all things and his rights and duties are universal and indivisible. This natural dignity is in no way dependent upon whether he be rich or poor, white or black, cultured or ignorant.

"Solely because he is a human person he is entitled to everything necessary for leading a life that is truly human, such as food, clothing and shelter, the right to choose his state of life freely and to found a family, the right to education, employment, good reputation, respect, appropriate information, protection of privacy and to a rightful freedom in matters religious too.

"These principles have been frequently propounded in the teaching of the Church in various places and forms.

"The bishops of southern Africa have also referred to them previously in joint pastoral letters.

Reverence Stressed

"However, coming now from the supreme assembly of the Catholic Church, we find it necessary to reiterate that it is a grave violation of the dignity of the human person to prevent anyone on grounds of race or nationality from choosing his own mode of living, to restrict his choice of employment, his right of free movement, his place of residence, his free establishment of a family.

"If any laws make the exercise of these rights unnecessarily difficult or almost impossible, all legal means should be used to have them changed.

"It may be necessary at times to make changes in the interests of public order and for the good of the entire people and not merely of a section. The Vatican Council wisely states that when the exercise of rights is temporarily curtailed on behalf of the common good, it should be restored as quickly as possible.

"The Council lays stress on the reverence for man. Everyone must consider his neighbor without exception as another self.

"With this in view, the Council condemns everything which offends against the dignity of the human person, such as sub-human living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, de-

portation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, and disgraceful working conditions where men are treated as mere tools for profit rather than as free and responsible persons.

"All these and indeed, their like are infamies and they poison human society, but do

Anglicans Back Stand On Apartheid

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—(NC)—Thirty-three Anglican clergymen have signed a letter supporting the joint pastoral of the Catholic bishops on racial justice. It appeared in the Cape Times, a morning daily here.

The letter said that the clergymen, members of the Anglican Church province of South Africa, "rejoice greatly in the pastoral letter recently issued by the Roman Catholic Bishops of South Africa in which the Vatican Council's vigorous condemnation of racial discrimination is reiterated.

"We would therefore, urge all South African Christians to a deeper and more courageous patriotism by affirming that (in the words of Vatican Council II) discrimination is to be eradicated as contrary to God's intent."

more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from injury. In stressing the essential equality of men, the Council says it is true that all men are not alike from the point of view of varying physical power and the diversity of intellectual and moral resources.

"But with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.

Groundwork of Faith

"For in truth it must still be regretted that fundamental personal rights are not yet being universally honored. The Council, rightly, does not unduly stress racial or color discrimination over other forms. It is neither more nor less serious than the rest. But in racially pluralistic countries like South Africa racial prejudice takes on crucial prominence.

"It is for this reason that this plenary session finds it necessary to reiterate the vigorous condemnation made by the Vatican Council. Discrimination is to be eradicated as contrary to God's intent.

"For the Christian there is 'one Creator, one human race, one Redeemer.' This is the groundwork of the Christian faith. Without it redemption can have no meaning.

"In the face of this unity, the

Christian circumstance requires in present circumstances a re-examination of the whole question of racial relationships with

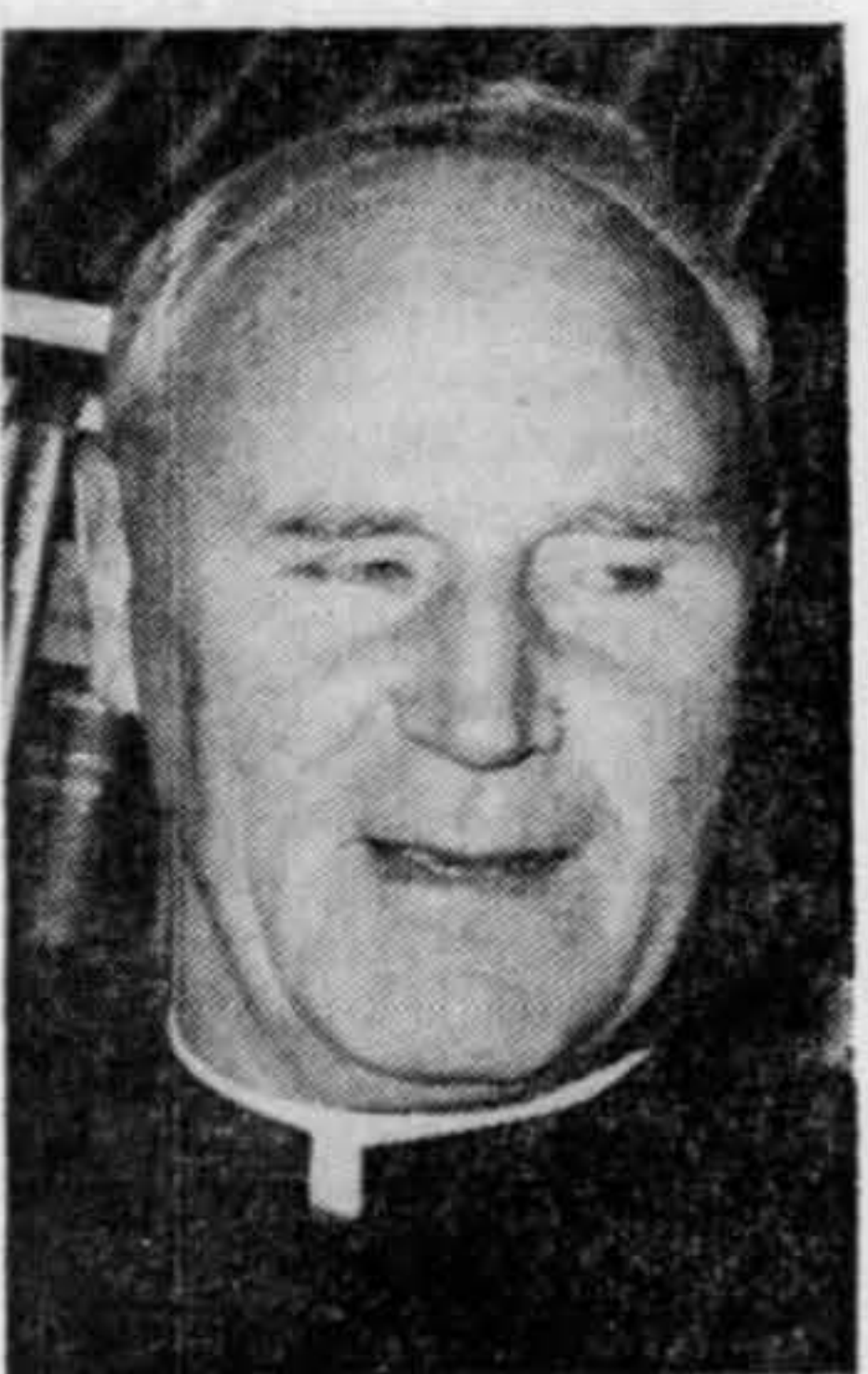
a view to a just solution of the problem through the cooperation of all Christian communities and persons."

Ancient, Modern Worlds Blend in Kenya Desert

The primitive and the modern, the aviator and the nomad, blend in perfect contrast in the young Eldoret, Kenya, Diocese.

Aviation is bringing Christianity to remote, previously inaccessible areas in this East African diocese. "Two thirds of it is absolute desert, sitting squarely on the equator where the sun goes through you," according to Bishop Joseph B. Houlihan.

The desert dwelling nomads who roam its thousands of square miles are the flocks committed to the tender care of this affable, Irish-born Bishop. The pilots of UMATT (United Missionary Air Training and Transport) are their links to the City of God and the City of Man, to Rome and Washington.



Bishop Joseph Houlihan

than 50,000 from an original estimate of 13,000.

Drought Causes Famine

"The planes are linking up all the dioceses of East Africa now," according to Bishop Houlihan. "The Bishops are convinced of the needs of aviation."

A firm in St. Louis is providing the planes, the Bishop said, and the Marianist Brothers are training pilots in Dayton.

An unprecedented famine last year brought about by insufficient rain decimated his already desolate population, he said.

U.S. government planes brought in food. "We were asked to help distribute the food. We opened a number of famine camps, including one to accommodate 15,000 persons."

The rains failed again earlier this year, the Bishop added, and this resulted in many more deaths from famine.

UMATT's five planes have even taken to flying in water from Nairobi, 300 miles to the southeast.

'Mobile Catechists' Needed

The desert was, until four years ago, a technically closed area, and with good reason. Its freakish and violent wind, rain and sandstorms are a constant threat and the Bishop has known people who have disappeared there.

Such an environment poses a challenge which begs for solution. Since 1954, when he was sent as the area's first prefect apostolic, the Catholic population has grown more

Yet despite such overwhelming obstacles he is planting the seeds of Faith in his two-year-old diocese.

Five schools have been built in the past three years. There are now three hospitals in the 50,000-square-mile diocese.

The diocese also shares a seminary with a neighboring diocese.

Bishop Houlihan is a member of St. Patrick's Missionary Society. Its American headquarters are in Camden, N.J.

He is in the Los Angeles archdiocese under the auspices of the Mission Cooperative Plan, to preach in St. Matthias Church, Huntington Park, St. Raphael Church and St. Victor Church, Los Angeles.

U. S. STAMP ACCEPTABLE TO POLAND

WASHINGTON — (NC) — The State Department announced that Poland has agreed to accept mail bearing a U. S. stamp honoring the millennium of Christianity in Poland.

Polish government authorities had threatened to refuse mail bearing the stamp because they disliked the fact that the eagle on the stamp wears a crown.

The eagle has been the symbol of Poland for 1000 years and has been retained by the Communists, but the Communist eagle does not wear a crown.

NAVY LOSES LARGEST FAMILY, THE BEARDSLEYS

MONTEREY, Calif. — (NC) —The Navy lost its biggest family recently when Chief Warrant Officer Frank Beardsley retired after 20 years service. His 20 children range from two to 20 years in age.

Beardsley, 51, had 10 children when his first wife died. His present wife was the widow of a Navy pilot with eight children. They have had two more children.

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