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NEWS RELEASE



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BISHOP QUINN EXPLAINS ATTITUDE OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC BISHOPS

SAN DIEGO, Calif. --The Most Rev. John R. Quinn, auxiliary Bishop of San Diego said today (Monday, Nov. 25) that the pastoral letter of the Bishops of the United States "sets out to be a defense of life."

Speaking to 500 students, faculty, staff and general public in the More Hall of USD, Bishop Quinn, who is Provost of the University, said of the document, "Its vantage point is the vantage point of faith. It was written by men who are teachers of the faith."

He said that although one or two aspects of the letter had been widely publicized, notably contraception and the views on the draft, the Bishops had dealt with subjects ranging from home ownership and wages policies to the Geneva convention and the United Nations.

"Peace is more than the absence of war," said Bishop Quinn quoting the words of Pope Paul VI, "it has to mean justice and equity in nations. It means development.

"It is the nature of technological warfare that makes it necessary to evaluate war with a new attitude. The Bishops condemned wars of aggression," he said.

On contraception and the Pope's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, the Bishop said that man has the obligation to form his conscience in the light of objective standards. "The word 'sin' is a very difficult word to use any more. It has

(more)

become subjective. The pastoral letter of the Bishops teaches all that the Pope taught in his encyclical with regard to family planning.

"Catholics are obliged to form their conscience in the light of the teaching of the church," he said. "There is no attempt to adjudicate individual guilt, because there are varying degrees of guilt, as the civil law recognizes in the case of murder, for example."

Asked by a questioner whether the Bishops would change their views, Bishop Quinn said: "You cannot change the law of God. We can only proclaim it. Not all problems are capable of being solved, but in an endeavor to solve them we are bound to use morally justifiable means."

Bishop Quinn described as "juvenile exhibitionism" the attitude of some dissenting clergy to recent statements of the church. He said that while some of the dissenters had every right, by their expertise and competence to voice their views, there were some who were not so qualified.

"The priest is the extension of the bishop in proclaiming the teaching of the church," he said. "If the priest cannot in conscience carry out this responsibility then he must ask to be relieved of it."

Bishop Quinn explained the Bishops' attitude towards selective conscientious objection. "As the law at present allows a form of conscientious objection, the Bishops consider this might be examined with a view to incorporating some method of making similar allowances for those who support a particular type of war, but conscientiously object to other types."

Bishop Quinn was introduced by Eric Johnson, president of the ASB, USD College for Men.

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