



## WORLD DAY OF PEACE<sup>(1)</sup>

On January 1, 1972 the 5th World Day of Peace was observed. The theme of the celebration was: "If you want **Peace work for Justice.**" This theme harmonized with the theme of the recently concluded Synod of Bishops' **Justice in the World.** The Synod provided the idea and authoritative proposals and stirred up among the People of God a considerable increase of attention on this matter. On the other hand, the World Day of Peace ensured that the work of the Assembly of Bishops would be followed up in practical ways. In a way, the World Day of Peace complements the Synod by its own original approach concerning a point upon which the survival of mankind is staked, namely, **the link between justice and peace.** To show how closely they are linked, the Bible tells us: "Justice and Peace now embrace." (Ps. 85:10)

Peace is something different from the established order or order at any price. An apparent order, free from civil or international agitation, can conceal and give legal status to real disorder. Today, all forms of oppression are listed and vigorously protested against, especially by the young, and **peace is thought of as the passing from alienation to liberation.** That is in harmony with the traditional representation of justice which attributes to her three emblems:

**Her blindfolded eyes** indicate that she should not act out of respect for individuals but should remain incorruptible and refrain from all discrimination.

**Her scales** denote equitable distribution of goods among individuals and peoples. By goods we mean not only material wealth but also power, responsibility and opportunities — in short, whatever develops one's being.

**Her sword,** finally, recalls that justice is a combat; it is won only by struggle; it involves risk. In fact, it is not enough to "declare" justice. It must be made to reign.

<sup>1</sup> L'Osservatore Romano, July 22, 1971.

**Fighting for justice demands, first of all, victory over self. Before being preached, justice must be practised. Protest against society comes after protest against self by each individual.**

**The theme of the January 1st World Day of Peace restores to a place of honor the notion of sacrifice and is based on Charity. Justice, like Peace, is the fruit of Love.**

What is the objective of the World Day of Peace observance? To give peace a content of justice and to give justice a content of peace. Otherwise, there would be false peace and false justice.

In this issue of the *Boletín Eclesiástico*, we offer to our brother priests and readers the **Synodal Document on Justice in the World** and other synodal speeches which contributed the ideas that made the World Day of Peace a meaningful observance.

The second theme of the Synod, **Justice in the World**, was discussed from the 20th Congregation in the evening of October 19th to the 29th Congregation in the evening of October 29th. One hundred nineteen Fathers intervened in the discussions. Twelve Language Groups studied and reported on the subject. Archbishop Teopisto Alberto from the Philippines was given the honor of presenting the Report at the start of the discussions. He also gave the Summary of the synodal discussions. Archbishop Antonio Mabutas, Bishop Julio Labayen and Bishop Mariano Gaviola spoke during the discussions. Bishop Mariano Gaviola gave the Report of the English Group B. Three lay people were invited to address the Synodal Fathers, namely: Miss Brabara Ward (Lady Jackson), Assistant to the Special Secretary for theme, Mr. Candido Mendes and Mr. Kinhida Mushakoji, both Auditors of the Special Secretary for the theme.