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Editorial Comment

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Editorial Comment

Negroes throughout our Nation have made it abundantly clear, in recent months, that their century-old patience with second-class citizenship is finally at an end. The Nation, in turn, gives evidence of recognizing that the current civil rights crisis constitutes a grave challenge. Clearly the Nation cannot continue to deny equality to Negro and other minority groups without compromising its integrity and eroding the moral foundation that is its greatest strength.

The lead article in this issue of *The Catholic Lawyer* clearly delineates the unique responsibility which all lawyers bear for the enforcement of civil rights. Written by the Very Reverend Joseph T. Tinnelly, C.M., a former editor of *The Catholic Lawyer*, it recognizes that the government alone cannot hope to solve the civil rights problem. The subject is too fraught with moral implications to be capable of exclusively legal solutions.¹ Father Tinnelly has therefore offered a detailed program for individual legal action in the area of civil rights enforcement as a necessary supplement to proposed governmental legislative action.

The article recognizes that many communities are bewildered by the magnitude of their civil rights problems, the existence of which was officially denied or only dimly realized in the past. Many seek guidance and assistance in developing corrective programs and establishing the lines of communication that make such programs possible. It is therefore obvious that the role which the lawyer must play in this operation is of paramount importance if this Nation's most urgent domestic problem is to be properly resolved.

The reprint of Parts I and II of Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris* which immediately follows the lead article in this issue provides necessary supplemental material for the reader on the subject of human rights. *The Catholic Lawyer* has previously published the complete texts of Parts III, IV and V of *Pacem in Terris* in its Summer 1963 issue.

¹ See 1963 REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS.

Students of *Pacem in Terris* should keep in mind the comment by Donald R. Campion, S.J., in the America Press edition, at page 55:

The history of the drafting of previous papal social documents and current information from informed sources as to the background of *Pacem in Terris* will persuade most students to look to the Italian version as a reliable tool for clarifying and interpreting the Latin text of the encyclical. Careful review of various modern-language versions reveals that they are free from any gross defects. Early criticisms of the Vatican-released English translation seem to have rested principally on differences of literary judgment. Such differences are inevitable when there is question of transposing a contemporary discussion of complex social and technical issues into the more rigid mold of semi-classical Latin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward Tegen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

EDITOR