



University of Navarra

# Chaplaincy News

December 2005

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**Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is born in Bethlehem, is the bearer of this peace which contains the entire spectrum of peace on earth.**

## Peace to All People on Earth

As the Christmas holidays approach, the angels hymns take on a special significance: the Savior's arrival to the world is for the glory of God and the peace of man.

Peace above all within our hearts. We do not always possess this peace. Very often, for different reasons, we may be worried, anxious, and perhaps even bad tempered. Nevertheless, our soul has surely experienced peace and serenity at given moments in our life, and it is therefore our desire to conserve this state always. Peace in our surroundings which in its absence does not cease to affect us: family quarrels, complications in our place of work, a decline in law and order. Social peace: collective confrontations of class, ethnic groups and cultures, together with international conflicts, oppose this kind of peace.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who is born in Bethlehem, is the bearer of this peace which contains the entire spectrum of peace on earth: "peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you." (John 14:27). He brings us peace, giving his life for all and in such a way raising us to the status of children of God, and therefore making us all brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of the one and the same Father. Then, he sends the Holy Spirit to our souls and in this way "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts" (Romans 5:5) it is the Charity, the Love of God in us which gives us the capacity to love far beyond all human possibility.

Consequently, a disciple of Christ is a builder of peace "Happy the peacemakers, they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). Pope John Paul II stated that "we Christians are called to be the guardians of peace where we live and in our place of work". Thanks to our having been raised to a supernatural level, or at least, for he who has not received the gift of faith, by imploring God's help, peace can be achieved. But if we leave God out, it is impossible.

Let us listen to Saint Josemaría Escrivá: "why is there no peace in the world? That's right, there is no peace; only a certain appearance of peace: a balance created by fear and precarious compromises... And there is no peace in many hearts which vainly strive to make up for their intransquility of soul by continuous activity" (*Christ is Passing By*, No 73). Social peace, peace in the world is born in the human heart when it freely and voluntarily welcomes the love of God.

"Observe the great importance personal interior struggle – that of every man and every woman – for world peace. It is no Utopia: a person who tries – day after day – to please God, who repents of his faults and sets himself both small and bigger goals in the spiritual life, who eagerly dedicates himself to the well-being of those around him, who attempts to transmit to others the Christian ideals which inspire him, this person is contributing to the establishment of peace in an effective way" (Msgr. Javier Echevarría, *Pastoral Letter 1.III.2003*).



## Variety and Choice for Better Education

Foundations, churches and businesses will be able to take care of state education schools.

The reform takes the shape of a shock plan with the aim of shaking up the system and trying to raise levels in secondary schools currently producing the worst results.

Just like other countries, England is dissatisfied with the quality of education in many secondary schools. But the Labour government does not intend to deal with the problem by imposing uniform procedures from above. The "crucial reform" for secondary education which Tony Blair is now calling for is based on providing more freedom: a wider variety of schools, freedom in the choice of schools, greater autonomy for the schools themselves, more parental power and an opening-up in order to allow different institutions (foundations, churches, the business world...) to take care of state education schools. The plans have been drawn up in a White Paper, with which the debate will commence.



Florida are the two examples he cites as having adopted the "school check," allowing parents to use it as they prefer, in either state or private schools. The White Paper, however, does not present English parents with this option.

### Accommodating Variety

The government's idea is to accommodate variety in secondary schools. In recent years, secondary schools have been encouraged to specialize in a particular area (technology, languages, sciences, information technology, art), they have been allowed to function according to more or less independent methods and parents have been left to one side.

Blair is not proposing more state intervention, but rather that more space should be created to accommodate the initiatives of all who may wish to collaborate in education.

The reform takes the shape of a shock plan with the aim of shaking up the system and trying to raise levels in secondary schools currently producing the worst results. There have been many attempts to find a solution, but so far, none has been successful. A recent report by the schools inspectorate maintains that one out of every four schools "offers nothing better than mediocrity." And as a large part of these mediocre schools are in depressed inner-city areas, the result is that many young people are being deprived of the very skills they need for social mobility.

Blair is not proposing more state intervention, but rather that more space should be created to accommodate the initiatives of all who may wish to collaborate in education. The Prime Minister has stated that the government's future role is to abstain from intervention, "except where its help is required."

In the prologue to the White Paper, Blair admits to having learned from those regions which stand by a free choice of school. Sweden and

The White Paper proposes a move in the other direction. Without depriving the Local Education Authorities (LEA) – to which education is accountable – of their role, there will be a reduction in decision-making powers.

The City Academy method will be developed. These are schools offering free, state-funded education, but sponsored by charitable organizations, churches or companies. The aim is to allow these institutions to act as patrons to failing state schools in such a way that the schools can be run independently by the sponsoring bodies, while remaining within the public sector. This notion of the private management of public schools could incite socialists to tear out their hair in other countries, such as Spain, and could also get support up among extreme left-wingers. But Blair's belief is that the quality of education is more important than who runs it.

He is therefore prepared to widen the range of education providers: "Nobody, using the excuse that there are already sufficient places in state schools, can veto the creation of new schools by



family groups or the existence of new education providers," says the White Paper.

The variety of options on offer will be enhanced. A simple vote carried out by the corresponding government advisory boards, will enable schools to adopt the foundations statute; this implies more freedom with regards to budget, the recruitment of teaching staff and admission of pupils and in curriculum preparation. This will also allow schools to gather together in order to organize and share material and human resources, possibly giving rise to agreements between state and public institutions.

Parents, in turn, will have more power to demonstrate a loss of confidence in the running of a school, and to express their opinion about the curriculum, the school meals or the uniform. Teachers unions, who have doubts about the reform, think that "the idea of legions of parents knocking at the school's door in order to take control does not correspond to reality."

Propelled by the idea of promoting what works, the Labour Government sees no reason for suppressing the expansion of successful schools, even if this means the eventual closure of those in decline. Blair admits that just as in the case of health, education will have its own market: "Both the family and the patient will have more freedom of choice. But this refers only to the consumer's choice; it will not be a market based

on the power of private purchase. On the contrary, it will be a regulated market. The funding of schools will be fair and equitable."

Admission criteria for potential pupils will also be the responsibility of schools. Here, left-wing Labour critics identify a risk; good schools may select the most outstanding pupils and avoid the most problematic – who tend to come from the poorest families – resulting in the good schools being cornered by the middle classes. But this is already to a large extent the current situation, and the government believes that leveling at the bottom is above all detrimental to studious pupils from poor families who are unable to find the necessary means to progress.

## Goodbye to "Comprehensive Education"

All these reforms are gradually filing down the characteristics of "comprehensive education" at secondary level, introduced by Labour some time ago and based on offering the same education to a heterogeneous group of pupils. It is evident in all too many cases that this heterogeneous grouping has not managed to properly attend either the most brilliant pupils or to respond to the needs of those who have been left behind, and this same line of thought is adopted in the White Paper.

By Ignacio Aréchaga

*Acepresa*

**The Labour Government sees no reason for suppressing the expansion of successful schools, even if this means the eventual closure of those in decline.**

**Admission criteria for potential pupils will also be the responsibility of schools.**

## Who is Jesus?

The news agency Zenit published an interesting interview with Father Marchesi, author of a book on Jesus of Nazareth

It is true; Christ raises a question within all of us: is he man or myth? After so many years of study, who can tell us who this man is? There is currently a running debate in the big Italian papers about fundamental values, based on the dignity of the human person: the direct exchange of messages between Benedict XVI and Marcello Pera, the president of the Senate, articles in other papers about the meaning of faith,





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## Activities in December

an Italian philosopher who keeps repeating that in the search for truth, reason is the only tool for evaluation, and that all religion is a myth.

Faith in itself does not constitute the abdication of reason, it is not a refusal to think, to rationalize. Theology deals with God, with Jesus Christ and with revealed truths, it is faith's intelligence, and faith in God is intelligence.

Jesus Christ is not a myth; he is a real historical person. We know infinitely more about Jesus from an historical point of view than we do about Julius Cesar, Socrates, Plato and other great people who have made history.

Could we say that the face of Christ can be seen in the Eucharist? Is the Eucharist the continuity of Christianity? The Eucharist is not just another sacrament. The Eucharist and Baptism are two veins sustaining the entire community of believers; the community of the family, of a village, a country, a diocese, of a nation founded on these two pillars. The Church is built upon two sacraments; these are Baptism and the Eucharist, symbolized by the outpouring of water and blood at the moment when they pierced Christ's side with the spear. Saint John, the evangelist, saw the birth of the Church both symbolically and mystically in this flow of water and blood, symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the mystery of Faith par excellence, because within it all the other sacraments, and everything it means to be a Christian, are contained.

**Interview with Fr. Giovanni Marchesi, S.J**  
*author of Gesù di Nazaret chi sei? (in Zenit)*

### Barcelona

**Holy Mass:**  
Monday to Friday  
Time: 7:45 a.m. and 12:35 p.m

**Confession:**  
*EVERY DAY:*  
10 minutes before Holy Mass

Confession can also be heard at any time:  
please contact the priests

**Novena to the Immaculate Conception:**  
• November 30 and December 7, Masses at 7:45 and 12:35. There will be a brief homily and Hail Mary

**Midnight Christmas Mass:**  
• December 24 at 12 a.m. in the Auditorium.

**Candle of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
• Thursday, 1 and 15  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Monthly Retreats:**  
Professors, Alumni, participants in Continuous Education Programs, non-teaching staff, family members and invited friends.

**Men**  
• Tuesday, 13  
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
• Thursday, 15 (change of week)  
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Women**  
• Monday, 5  
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
• Tuesday, 13  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
• Thursday, 15  
Time: 4:50 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.  
• Tuesday, 20  
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Chaplaincy visiting hours:**  
• *Joan Garcia Llobet*  
Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m to 7 p.m.  
• *Domènec Melé*  
Monday to Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday, 7 p.m to 9 p.m.  
and scheduled times  
• *Ricardo Peris*  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
• *John Twist*

### Madrid

**Holy Mass:**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 1:45 p.m.  
Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday at 8 a.m.

**Confession:**  
*EVERY DAY:*  
15 minutes before Holy Mass  
From 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Confession can also be heard at any time:  
please contact the priests

**Novena to the Immaculate Conception:**  
• November 30 and December 7,  
Holy Masses with homily and Hail Mary (only readings)

**Candle of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
• Friday, 2  
Time: From 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Monthly Retreats:**  
Professors, Alumni, participants in Continuous Education Programs, non-teaching staff, family members and invited friends.

**Men**  
• Monday, 12  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
• Thursday, 15  
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
• Thursday, 15 (for IESE Alumni)  
Time: 7:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
Venue: Vitrubio, 3

**Chaplaincy visiting hours:**  
• *Pelegrin Muñoz*  
Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
• *Ernesto Juliá*  
Friday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**\* All activities take place in IESE's chapel, unless otherwise indicated.**

#### Saints Days and Holy Days:

3 St. Francisco Xavier, 6 Saint Nicholas; Anniversary of the Spanish Constitution, 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 12 The Virgin of Guadalupe, 25 The Birth of Our Lord, 26 St. Stephen, 27 St. John the Apostle, 30 Day of the Holy Family