

Bishop's Contact With People
Show Good Example
Get Name On Rolls
A Minister of Grace

By MONSIGNOR HART

For Your Courier

Bishop Kearney's letter urging all dioceses to subscribe for and read the *Catholic Courier Journal* comes to thousands who are already subscribers. The 100 per cent plan in parishes has had its effect; pastors and people have answered earlier appeals, and nearly all of our parishes now list all of their parishioners as subscribers.

This year's appeal will care for many who have moved into new parishes, have changed their parish affiliation, or have recently set up new homes following marriage. The main object is to attain and maintain 100% coverage in each parish.

The Bishop looks to his diocesan newspaper as a regular means of close contact with his people. Official diocesan announcements appear regularly in its columns, parochial news of importance comes weekly to every reader. Readers of the *Courier* appreciate the value of their weekly newspaper in the matter of keeping them informed.

Be Sure Your Name Is On List

Your Bishop and your pastor want you to be a subscriber for the *Courier*. See that your name is on the list now, or goes on it during Press Month. Then make it a point to read every news item and every article of each issue.

Act On The Bishop's Letter

Go over it earnestly, learn how to be enrolled as a subscriber, help your pastor to attain 100% coverage for your parish.

Read Catholic Literature

Books, pamphlets, magazines — what a wealth of Catholic reading the Church prepares for us! It awaits our use. It is ready for our own use and as gifts for friends. For the younger members of the family, keep good books, Catholic books, religious publications of every kind on your tables and in your book cases. Show good example by reading them yourselves.

Catholic Press Month! Pope Pius XII is first among Church leaders to urge promotion of the Catholic Press by all of our people. Our Bishop joins with other members of the hierarchy and with all our priests urge us to be guided by the promotional literature that comes to us at this time. The Church carries on its teaching Mission through the columns of our Catholic papers and magazines and books.

Read Catholic literature. Begin with the *Courier*, add other papers and magazines and books! Look for improvement in your own knowledge of your faith, look for evidence of spiritual growth in the minds and hearts of your children. Help Catholic Press Month produce good results!

Father John Lynch, R. I. P.

"Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord." sorrow can find little room in the heart of a bereaved parent that has given a priest-son to the Lord. A surrender first made when that son made known that God had called him to the Priesthood; a surrender more completely consummated when God's Angel of death marked him for eternal life with God.

Seven years of devoted service to God as a laborer for souls came to God's appointed end in the death last Sunday of Rev. John Lynch, Assistant Pastor of St. Charles' Borromeo Church in Rochester.

In thousands of Catholic hearts that seven years will have results as long as they tread the ways of earth until they enter on the path that leads to heaven. The ministry of grace and of the word has been and will be effective in glorious saving results in those who have been inspired and instructed by a young Apostle singularly gifted with knowledge and zeal and a quick obedience to teach God's word.

From the Baptismal Font to the confessional and the Table of the Lord, in Holy Mass and in conferring the Sacraments, Father Lynch has been a minister of grace to a multitude of eager charges both young and old.

And now his course is run! His priestly soul has left the scenes of his earthly sojourn, to be joined to the glorious companionship of the priestly choir in Heaven. God has blessed him in life with priestly power and dignity; God summons him now to the surpassing reward prepared for those who have labored for God in the earthly vineyard.

To those he has served so well at Spencerport and at St. Charles Borromeo, our words of condolence, and petition for prayers for his soul; to the priests and Sisters who have known the fervor of his ministry and the inspiration of his companionship; to the little children whom he has led into their earliest knowledge of the joy of the Lord: our one word of solace, spoken by the Spirit of God: "Blessed are the dead, who died in the Lord."

Bishops and priests join in sympathy to a splendid Catholic Father and Mother and a truly religious Sister and devoted lay brother and sister as the loss that is theirs. May their priest departed continue to be their guide on the road to God! God rest his priestly soul!

Praying For Others' Role Called 'Hardest Work'

ROCHESTER (NC) — The importance of contemplative orders is stressed by Cardinal Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Rochester in a letter to the clergy.

"The hardest work is to pray for others," he writes.

"We know their work," he says. "It is the central dynamic work of Christian life in our community. It is not a running away from the problems of life, not a selfish occupation, but a stripping away of the details of living to the most essential, so that they may be able to help those who are suffering in the same way, the way to pray for others consistently as they go."

This is the hardest work to do, he writes.

JOSEPH BREIG
Child Talk
Makes Sense

Sometimes I can't help wondering whether, after all, it isn't he adults rather than the children who need to be protected from television, at least in one aspect.

I mean the commercial aspect. The youngsters, by and large, seem well able to take care of themselves in that department. In the presence of exaggerated advertising claims, they display a fine skepticism, a rich and mature agnosticism, a splendid contempt, a magnificent level-headedness.

THAT IS, they are not fooled by a nickel's worth. We grown-ups, I think, might occasionally learn wisdom from these little ones.

I offer as an example our youngest child, 4-year-old Regina. The other day, while waiting for the next cowboy picture, she was enduring an advertisement about some kind of beauty preparation.

The visible part of the performance consisted in a young woman, good-looking of course, who, with gratified smiles and an air of surprised and pleased luxuriosity, was smoothing the preparation into her face and throat, meanwhile turning her head this way and that, and making her eyes sparkle.

THE BARKING was done by an invisible announcer, richly endowed with the ability, indispensable to his craft, of making his voice wag its tail and wriggle its hindquarters like a dog discovering its long-lost master.

"There is no sense in growing old," announced the announcer, "batting his breath in approved fashion." He sounded as if he were giving the world the first findings that a flying saucer from Mars had landed on the White House lawn, or that Joe Stalin had repented of his sins and at that moment was struggling across the Alps on a foot-pedaling machine to Rome, seeking absolution.

THERE IS no point in letting your face become lined, proclaimed the announcer; and now his voice grew soothing, like that of a doctor with an expensive bedside manner assuring a patient that everything is going to be just dandy.

There is no excuse for having the kind of skin that betrays your age, said the announcer; and now a note of gentle reproach crept into his voice, as if he might be hurt if those listening neglected to make themselves beautiful.

There is no reason for not appearing as youthful as ever, he insisted. No; science now brings this cream (or lotion, or soap, or whatever it was) which, faithfully applied, will keep each firm, complexion fresh, glowing, flexible, irresistible and whatnot.

THE VOICE indicated that the announcer had dedicated his life to the proposition that no such sacrifice should ever be permitted.

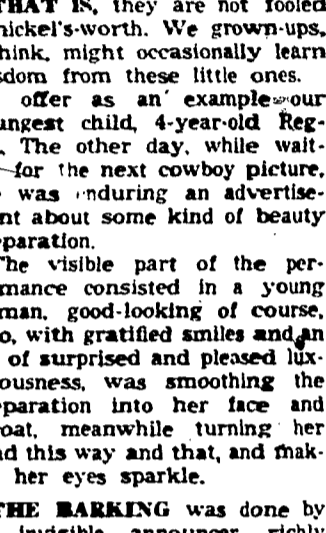
No; he had a mission in life—the mission of preserving priceless beauty, of making it ageless, of turning back the clock, the calendar, the years.

Stay young, stay young, stay young, the announcer commanded; and at last it was over. The good-looking young lady faded from the screen, and the announcer's voice was still.

Whereupon Regina turned to her mother and said, with all the glorious common sense of a 4-year-old:

"MOMMIE, that's silly, isn't it? After you're old, you can't get young again, can you? Can you, Mommie?"

No, Regina, you can't. Not by going backward, anyhow. Only by going forward to God.



Joseph Breig

Holy Father's Action In Rosenberg Case Given Clarification

In separate actions taken last December and on Feb. 13 of this year, the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, D. C., communicated to United States authorities the fact that His Holiness Pope Pius XII had received numerous and urgent requests for intervention in behalf of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. In each instance, the communication of this fact was received from television.

The Rosenbergs were convicted on a charge of passing secret atomic information to the Soviet Russians, and were sentenced to death by a U. S. court.

(The three-man U. S. Court of Appeals early this week granted the Rosenbergs a new stay of execution until March 30 or longer for another appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.)

THE ACTION of last December has just been brought to attention by an announcement in the press.

there, so far as I was concerned. There was no further word from the Apostolic Delegation."

Mr. McGranery said the Vatican, moved by motives of charity, had a perfect right to make known the communications received by the Pope in behalf of condemned persons. After that, he added, "it was up to us to act according to our laws and conscience."

ON FEB. 14, the White House announced that a letter from the Apostolic Delegate had been received the night before. The letter bore the date of Feb. 13 and was addressed to Sherman Adams, Assistant to the President, it was added.

The White House said the Apostolic Delegate's letter included the statement issued by the Apostolic Delegation earlier in the day, telling of its communication of the fact of the appeals to the Department of Justice last December. The Apostolic Delegate's letter added:

"IN VIEW of the many reports that have appeared in the press I felt that I should inform you of this statement directly."

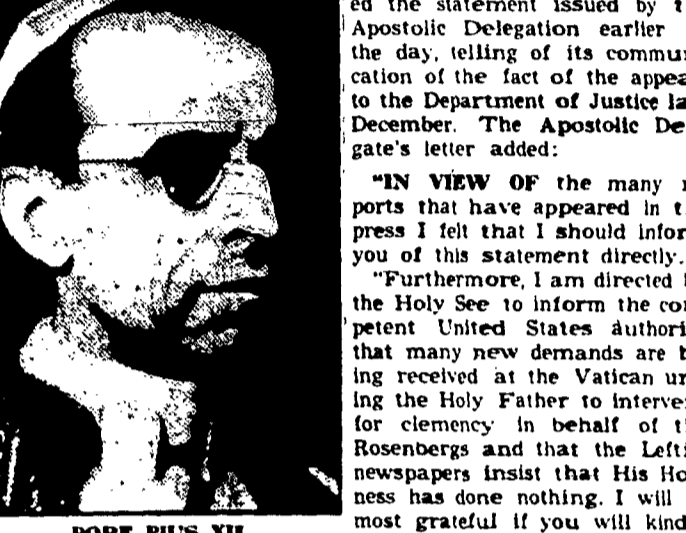
"Furthermore, I am directed by the Holy See to inform the competent United States authority that many new demands are being received at the Vatican urging the Pope to intervene for clemency in behalf of the Rosenbergs and that the Leftist newspapers insist that His Holiness has done nothing. I will be most grateful if you will kindly notify this to the President."

The front-page *Observatore* announcement of February 11 said some newspapers have criticized the Pope in connection with the fate of the Rosenbergs. It noted the Pope "never refuses his influence when proper to his Apostolic Ministry."

THE TEXT of the announcement follows:

"Some newspapers have called the Holy Father to task concerning the fate of the Rosenberg couple as if he had remained insensitive to the various requests sent him to intervene in favor of this condemned couple."

"It is well to know that His Holiness, without really being able to enter into the merits of the case, never refuses his influence when it is requested for the purpose of saving human lives out of higher motives of charity proper to his Apostolic Ministry, and he has compassionately done so in various similar cases, so also in this one he has not failed to interest himself insofar as is permitted to him in the absence of all official relations with the competent government authorities."



Pope Pius XII

Observatore Romano, the Vatican City newspaper, that "out of higher motives of charity," and as he had done in "various similar cases" when requested, the Holy Father has "interested himself" in the Rosenberg case so far as he could in the absence of official relations with the U. S.

The December action of the Apostolic Delegation was to inform the U. S. Department of Justice that the Pope had received numerous and urgent requests for intervention in the Rosenberg case.

The Feb. 13 action consisted of a letter sent to the White House by His Excellency Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S. A., stating that many new pleas in behalf of the condemned couple had been received by the Holy Father, who felt that the American authorities ought to be informed.

THE WHITE HOUSE spokesman said a reply had been sent to the Apostolic Delegate. He said the reply assured the Delegate that President Eisenhower would be informed of his letter and expressed thanks to Archbishop Cicognani "for this courtesy."

Newsmen at the White House might reconsider his refusal, on Feb. 11, to block the execution of the Rosenbergs. They were told that the statement the President issued at that time "applied to itself." The President had said the Rosenbergs had received "their full measure of justice" and he could find no grounds for clemency.

On Feb. 13, in response to inquiries concerning the *Observatore* Romano announcement that Pope Pius XII had interested himself in the Rosenberg case, the Apostolic Delegation in Washington issued the following statement:

"At the request of the Holy See, the Apostolic Delegation in Washington has communicated to the Department of Justice the fact that the Holy Father had received numerous and urgent appeals for intervention with intercession in behalf of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, which out of motives of charity proper to his Apostolic Office, without being able to enter into the merits of the case, His Holiness felt appropriate to bring to the attention of the U. S. civil authorities."

The White House announced on Feb. 13 that it knew nothing about this communication addressed to the Department of Justice in the Truman administration, and said it was not contained in the file on the Rosenberg case when it came up from the Justice Department for final presidential action.

JAMES F. MCGRANERY, who was Attorney General of the United States at the time of the Apostolic Delegation's communication to the Justice Department, said in Florida that he had received the message.

"I raised them," McGranery said, "that I would consider only the facts relative to the merits of the case in connection with recommendations for executive clemency. The matter ended

You Can Win Converts

Tickling a Toe By Rev. John A. O'Brien, Ph.D. (The University of Notre Dame)

To win souls for Christ it isn't necessary to go far-off heathen lands and wrestle with the alien tongues. The churchless people rub shoulders with us every day; we talk with them, work with them, dine with them. A friendly word, a kindly deed, a gracious invitation is often all that is needed to get them started on their way into the Church.

Louis Corona is a barber in Oakland, California. He used the contacts afforded by his craft to win souls for Christ.

While trimming the hair of Robert Davis, a customer, Louis remarked, "Bob, you've probably noticed some of the signs placed in the store windows . . . and in our shop here . . . by the churches of the city reading: 'Go to Your Church on Sunday. Bring your family. You Need the Church and the Church Needs You.'"

"Yes," replied Bob, "I've noticed those ads. But I haven't been to church for years. I've forgotten how to pray."

"YOU'RE MISSING something important," replied Louis. "Man is more than an animal. He has a soul, made in the image of God, and he has to nourish it by prayer and worship. Otherwise, it languishes and one lives a merely physical existence — like an animal."

"You've got something there," agreed Bob. "How would I go about getting my spiritual battery recharged? It's pretty weak now . . . and it will need a lot of power to get it clicking again."

"The Church," replied Louis, "is God's power house. I'll take you to the inquiry class which Father Otto, O.F.M., is conducting. He will explain God's plan for your salvation . . . show you how the Church channels divine power into your soul — into your spiritual battery, as you call it. It will cost nothing and there will be no pressure."

"THAT'S FAIR enough. I'll go with you. It won't hurt to give it a trial."

Father Otto welcomed the two additional members to his class and made them feel right at home. "Light up your pipe and cigarette," he said. "I want you to relax. I'll do the work here — at least most of it. And at the end of the class you can remain and ask me any questions you wish."

Bob liked the inquiry class. "I am glad I'm not the only pupil here," he said to Louis. "It makes it easier to know there are others in the same boat with you. Other wise Father Otto would be centering all his fire on me . . . and I'd probably pass out."

THREE MONTHS later Louis was godfather at Bob's baptism. On the following day he knelt at Bob's side when, along with 15 other converts, he received his First Holy Communion.

But Louis Corona hasn't confined his convert apostolate to his customers. At a nearby corner, Joe Reynolds, an elderly man who has had his newspaper stand for many years and Louis has been one of his daily customers.

"Joe," said Louis, "we're having a mission for non-Catholics at our church starting next Sunday. I'd be glad to take you with me. I think you'd enjoy it and profit by it."

"I haven't any decent clothes to go to church," replied the elderly man. "I'd feel out of place in these rags."

Louis got Joe a suit of clothes and a hat from the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He took him to the mission and then to the inquiry class which usually follows such a mission. The elderly man followed the simple instructions and learned the requisite prayers.

"I'VE HAD a warm spot in my heart for the Catholic Church," he remarked, "since I was in the Providence Hospital here. The Sister there was kind to me and Father Idephonse used to visit me and cheer me up. In fact, when I'd look too glum, he used to tickle my toe . . . and I could not help smiling then."

These were the little acts of kindness that Mr. Reynolds had remembered through the years. These were what prompted him to respond so promptly to Louis Corona's invitation and predisposed him to listen with an open mind and a friendly heart to the teachings of the Church . . . and ultimately to embrace them with humility and gratitude. Louis was radiant as he knelt beside Joe, who was making his First Holy Communion at the age of 67.

OH, YES! The priest who had tickled Joe's toes was none other than the Very Reverend Idephonse Moser, O.F.M., Provincial of Santa Barbara Province.

The Apostles' Creed
'I Believe...!'

By Rev. Albert J. Shamon

(This is a series of articles on "The Apostles' Creed" written by Father Albert Shamon, professor at St. Andrew's Seminary and author of "Behind the Mass.")

WAS CRUCIFIED—When Archbishop Stepinac was released from prison in 1952, he refused to make any lengthy statement to the press. His reason: "One cannot say much without offending against charity."

Perhaps that explains the discreet silence of the evangelists on the crucifixion of Christ. Their accounts of it are so objective, so unemotional, they resemble a medical or scientific report. "They crucified him." That's all that's said.

But that sufficed. Packed into the one word "crucified" was agony enough to defy the description of words. For those damned to die nothing was so frightful.

Cicero termed it the "most cruel and atrocious of punishments." The very thought of it caused even the iron-hearted Roman to pale.

IN CRUCIFYING A PERSON, a certain protocol was observed. First a narcotic was administered to the victim. Among all peoples some slight solace is offered those condemned to die. In modern times, it is the full-course meal served before electrocution.

In ancient times, it was a drink of wine mixed with gall. Like an anesthetic, the drink would deaden the senses slightly until the nails had been pounded in.

Undoubtedly the same office was performed by some of the noble women of Jerusalem. Like sisters of mercy, they had organized to mitigate in some way by their charity the painful last hours of those destined to die. Perhaps it was a band of these good women who met Christ on the way to Calvary.

AT CALVARY, TO AVOID WOUNDING THEM, Christ accepted their soporific potion. He wet His lips. But in order to drain the chalice of suffering to the last drop, however, Christ swallowed none of the proffered cup.

After this act of mercy, the victim was stripped of all his garments, save a loin cloth. Despite a nurse's delicate care, removing a bandage often causes the body to shiver with pain. The scourging had left Christ's body one open wound; His robe had become one with the fabric of His raw back. When strong hands pulled it free, that garment, like adhesive tape, tore off with it a thousand tiny patches of skin. With matchless pain, Christ reeled. Mary quivered.

Lastly, came the crucifixion. Crosses consisted of two beams: a vertical one about fifteen feet long so that the feet of the crucified would be on a level with a person's head, and a horizontal one long enough for the victim's outstretched arms.

The vertical beam was first planted firmly in the ground, like a miniature telephone pole. Next, the prisoner's arms were spiked to the crossbar. Then, by means of a rope tied around the crucified's chest and thrown over the vertical beam, the victim was hoisted up.

TWO SOLDIERS TUGGED THE ROPE, and two steadied and lifted the body until the victim could straddle a saddle-like "selle" (the "selle" was a short thick block fashioned like the horn of a rhinoceros and fastened to the vertical beam).

Astride this, the victim's feet would dangle to each side. From the ground, two soldiers would flex the feet, slap the soles flatly against the beam, and then with expert efficiency, spike them to it. At the same time, the two remaining soldiers would fasten the crossbar to the vertical beam. Eagle-spread thus, the victim would writhe in spasms of agony, until merciful death brought relief.

SUCH WAS THE WAY CHRIST DIED. For Him, it was a fitting way to die.

For a fruit plucked from a tree caused the fall of man. By being fastened to a tree, Christ restored, as it were, what Adam had perished.

Death by crucifixion, moreover, teaches all men never to fear the manner of death. "Towards die many times before their death, the valiant never taste of death but once." Persecution, the fifth mark of the Church of Christ, must never intimidate the followers of Christ, for His death showed man the possibility of bearing the impossible.

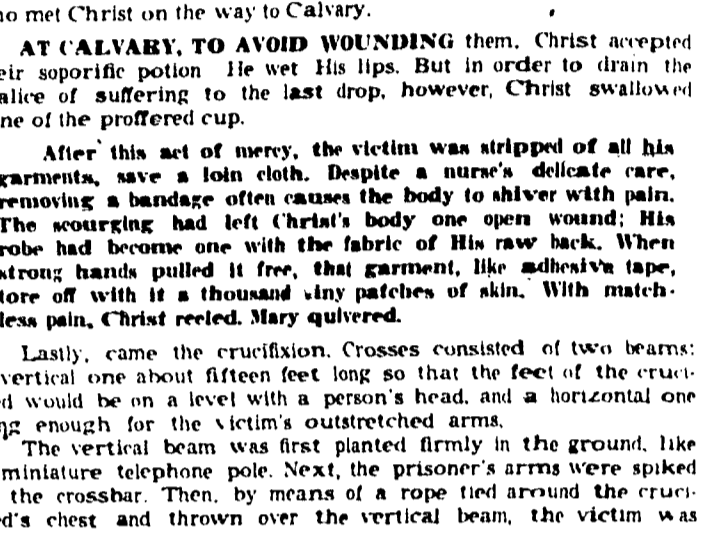
But why did Christ die so painfully?

St. Thomas wrote: "O loving Pelican, O Jesus Lord, I thank I am but a sinner. Cleanse me in Thy blood. Of which a single drop for sinners will suffice." "Can I purge the entire world of all its guilt?"

If a single drop were enough, why the staff of the cross and the red sea of blood?

A SINGLE DROP WAS ENOUGH to satisfy God in heaven, but it was not enough for man on earth. To teach man that God really loves him and to seize from man the love of the human heart, God had to go to extremes.

He had to give everything, and He gave everything in the hardest possible way. "Greater Love than this no man hath," so that no man would ever have a greater love than for God Himself.



Fr. Shamon

Sunday Sermon
 By Magr. Hart

THE GLORY OF HEAVEN AND POWER OVER HELL

The Heavens were opened as Christ came out of the waters of Jordan in which He had just been baptized; the Father spoke the words—"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."

Hell was opened when the devil came forth to tempt Christ. Christ was well known in all the majesty of His glory to His heavenly Father. The devil did not know Him; the devil was curious as to His identity; he tempted Him that he might learn who He was, what were His powers, what was His office on earth.

THREE TEMPTATIONS to show He was the Son of God by changing stones into bread; to show His divine power for the sake of vain glory by casting Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple so that His Angels might save Him; to accept all that the earth could give for His very own, at the price of bowing to Satan. Back into hell went Satan still not sure of Christ's true dignity as the Son of God; but quite sure of his own defeat at the hands of his intended victim.

Hell now closed on Satan! Heaven now ministering. Angels! Christ is here to be Our Saviour; Christ is here in keep from us the power of Satan, and to give us the companionship of Christ's ministering Angels!

No temptation can touch Christ! No temptation can hurt those who belong to Christ. We can be ready to complete the rout of the evil one by Christ's authority and in Christ's words: "Begone Satan! The Lord God shall thou adore; and Him only shalt thou serve."

Poll Tells How Americans Stand On Religious Schools

St. Paul, Minn. — (NC) — Almost half the people in the U. S. think private denominational schools are good for the nation, a Catholic Digest survey has revealed.

Forty-two per cent of over 43 million people throughout the country told pollsters that they thought private religious schools — including Catholic parochial schools — benefit America.

But 16 per cent think such schools are bad, 31 per cent have no opinion, and 41 per cent qualified their answers, the Digest reported in its March issue.

"THOSE WHO believe in private schools have a gigantic task before them," the magazine stated. "To convince sixteen and a half million people that private schools are not what they think they are."

The country is almost evenly divided on whether public funds should be used to give free bus service and free books to children in religious schools. There is another 50-50 split on whether public taxes should be used to support the religious schools.

On the bus service problem, those who approve have a ten per cent edge; on the tax support question, those who disapprove are in the majority by nine per cent.

The released-time plan for religious education of public school children is favored by 54 per cent of Americans, the survey reports.

THE CATHOLIC Digest article included a comment that "it is a pity that such a question as the free bus service problem should be allowed to divide the country."

Half of the people approve free transportation for private school pupils, the article stated, "and to them it obviously seems rather foolish to pick up the public school children at one house and pass up the other school children next door. Perhaps they feel that the present policy is bad for both groups, since it cannot help but

Girl Fired In Defending God's Laws

San Juan, P. R. — (NC) — A Catholic worker in the Department of Education has been fired for refusing to uphold Puerto Rican laws contrary to the law of God.

REQUIRED TO swear allegiance to the new Commonwealth Constitution, Miss Ana Maria Collazo swore the oath with the following reservation: "Regarding the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico I swear that I will defend and keep them with the exception of those laws which are against divine law."

She rejected laws concerning therapeutic abortion and artificial birth control which have been condemned by the Bishops.

BEFORE FIRING Miss Collazo, Secretary of Education Mariano Villaronga had received an opinion from the Justice Department that her oath did "not comply with the constitutional and statutory requirements."

The woman's lawyer has announced he is appealing the decision to the Personnel Board.

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