

Church Artists Deplore 'Weak, Hollywood Christs'

By JOHN O'CONNOR
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

There's a revolution going on in sacred art — sparked by artists' creative energies, fanned by the Pope's directives and flickering in innumerable homes and churches.

This rebellion against imitations of past ages aims to spark a living faith and a living liturgy through a living art.

THIS IS THE nub of the message of two artists whose specialty is sacred art. Bob Karmark and Frank Karmark are accomplished professional artists, graduates of the Center for Sacred Art in Paris and sworn enemies of all imitations of Gothic Romanesque and Mission style art.

Lecturing at San Francisco's Junipero Serra Bookshop, both men shot from the hip.

"It is an anachronism to go from a modern home in a modern automobile to a church that is dead, architecturally."

"Sacred art is theology, visible. People do not come to church to be entertained, but to be formed. You don't give them heresy or Chaucerian English in the sermon, why give it to them in sentimental art?"

"Why should the best of modern art — and not all modern art is good — be consecrated to the secular, like department stores and bars?"



Modern depictions of Christ.

Why not consecrate the best to God?"

The artists believe intensely that sacred art is a great each day of our lives. They say, days of transition color advertising, photographs, and the like. Therefore it is the obligation of the Christian to be visibly literate, the artists said.

Let the Church, the Mother of the arts, the artists urged, set the pace, bring beauty to the people, though untrained—

and good art so brought, will form the people. You don't give people just what they want, but what they need. They want whipped cream art, sentimental statues, plaster statues, etc."

"If I were a communist," said Mr. Karmark, "and I wanted to undermine the Church in the field I know — art — I'd paint female Christs, Hollywood Christs. That would wean the people away because such Christs are weak."

"Claudel once said," Karmark recalled, "that should the salt of Christian art be lost, it would be replaced by sugar. That is what has happened to much that passes for sacred art today. It has lost its salt and has gone sugary."

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The two artists believe something can be done — beginning, as it already has, right in the home.

Parents can see that good Christian sacred art hangs on the walls of the children's bedrooms. The crucifix, the missal, the holy cards — they can all be good art, and contemporary.

"People will pay \$30 for a toaster for a wedding gift, and pay 60 cents for a plastic crucifix that glows in the dark."

"The crucifix should be the most precious gift in the home — but is it? What kind of values will parents pass on to their children when they decorate their homes lavishly with secular symbols at Christmas and Easter and hide a cheap insignificant crucifix in the corner?"

"The revolution to enshrine sacred art must begin in the home — with good Mass cards and wedding invitations and death cards. And such a revolution has already begun," the artists state.

Catholic Press Asks Fight On Smut With Court Weapon

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court have greatly strengthened the hands of public authorities in the fight against printed filth.

This is the tenor of editorial comment in Catholic newspapers throughout the country which call for local officials to make use of the implement that has been put into their hands. The papers speak with particular reference to the court opinion that obscene literature falls outside the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech and of the press.

The Catholic Weekly of Saginaw, Mich., called it "a welcome ruling," saying that now "both federal and state authorities have a powerful weapon with which they can conduct a strong war" against smut.

In almost identical language, The Monitor of San Francisco said "we welcome the Supreme Court's decision which arms federal and state authorities with powerful weapons to war on obscene literature."

At the same time, the paper, quoted Herman Stark, director of the California Youth Authority, as reporting that "there are at least 15 daily television programs that cause youngsters to commit certain types of crimes." It applauded this "forthright statement."

The Pilot, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, said opinions may differ in a broad look at recent Supreme Court decisions, but its decision regarding obscenity "struck a serious blow" at all those who have maintained that freedom of the press and of speech must of necessity include that which is obscene.

unbridled press' to the attention of thinking people."

"The matter of obscene literature cannot be ignored any more," the paper asserted.

The Globe, Sioux City, Iowa, said the court's decision "armed federal and state authorities with powerful weapons to war on obscene literature."

"We realize that legislation cannot solve the problem in its entirety," the Globe said. "It can only rid the stands of the worst of the material. But that certainly would be a great help. Let us hope that our public officials will be encouraged by this ruling of the Supreme Court and that

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they will be stimulated to act accordingly."

THE EVANGELIST, Iowa paper of the Diocese of Albany, says the obscenity ruling of the Supreme Court as "in the nature of a silver lining to the black clouds cast by previous decisions." It said "those charged with the responsibility for individual and community welfare must see the need for a united effort to eradicate the ever increasing sources of moral contamination that generate evil in the minds of young and old."

National Leader Of Alhambra Dies

The funeral of Harry J. Brogan, active Buffalo Catholic layman, supreme commander of the Order of the Alhambra and known in Knights of Columbus and Alhambra circles in Rochester was held at St. John the Baptist Church, Tonawanda, Monday.

Mr. Brogan, 56, vice president of Buffalo's Liberty Bank died in Sisters Hospital on July 4 after a four month illness. He was born in Rochester and taken to Buffalo in infancy.

Rochester representatives paying their respects were Supreme Advocate Norman A. O'Brien at the funeral and a delegation of Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra headed by Grand Commander James E. Marcell at the home on Sunday.

MR. BROGAN who was a frequent visitor to Rochester, he attended the placing of the marker commemorating St. Patrick Cathedral on the Eastman Kodak Building in March, 1954, was elected national head of the Alhambra in 1955. He was a past grand commander of Cordova Caravan of Buffalo.

A leading worker for the Buffalo Catholic Charities for a number of years he raised a record amount of money for the Corporate Gifts Division in 1955.

Besides the Alhambra he held membership in the Knights of Columbus Council 184 and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. A past director of the Catholic Club of Buffalo, he was for nine years its president pro tem.

He has an outstanding record in banking and was associated with Liberty Bank for 29 years. He was widely active in Buffalo civic groups and business organizations.

He is survived by his wife the former Gertrude Thomas of Coudersport, Pa.

Jesuit Scholar Hails Technology

Cincinnati (NC) — Dwellers in the present age of technology who long for the "good old days" are making a serious mistake, a Jesuit scholar maintained here.

SPEAKING HERE on "Catholicism in the Technological Era," Father Walter Ong, S.J., of St. Louis University, said it was "not only pre-achal but scandalous" to think of the Middle Ages as "a genuinely Catholic era."

As a matter of fact, he said, in the Middle Ages "most men never heard of the Catholic Faith," and therefore that era could be called the "greatest age of faith" only by writing off the majority of human beings, who were not Europeans and who had no external contact with the Catholic faith at all.

THE FAITH TODAY is more Catholic than it was in the Middle Ages, he said.

Veterinary Degree Presented To Nazareth Grad

Miss Virginia L. Eaton, a 1953 graduate of Nazareth College, was awarded the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. Miss Eaton is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland G. Eaton, formerly of 453 Wellington Ave., Rochester, now residing in Troy.

Miss Eaton was a biology major at Nazareth College and during her college vacations worked as an assistant to Dr. D. E. Bradley in Rochester.

The awarding of this degree marks the culmination of a lifelong interest in animals, especially in horses and dogs. Horseback riding was one of Miss Eaton's leisure-time activities and during her college career she was a riding instructor at the Country Club of Rochester.

Middle Ages, Father Ong said. "Today there are Catholics in every country. They are scattered, but their lines of communication with one another, and thus their awareness of one another, are far more active."

Catholicism, especially, he said, should understand that "the age of technology is part of the great and mysterious evolution of the universe devised by God."

Penn Yan CDA Elect Mrs. Mary Scott

Penn Yan — Mrs. Mary Scott is the new grand regent of Court St. Michael, No. 1173, Catholic Daughters of America. She and her staff were installed by Mrs. Mary Souders of Geneva, district deputy.

Members were told that a mystery ride will take place in August and the first official meeting following the summer recess will be Sept. 11.

Elected and installed also were: Mrs. Nady Calaron vice grand regent; Mrs. Mary McOrmark, propleess; Miss Angeline Luppino, financial secretary; Miss Betty Murphy, treasurer; Mrs. Marie Updike, historian; Mrs. Diana Ostrowski, lecturer; Mrs. Lucie Condella, monitor; Mrs. Mary Cook, sentral; Mrs. Joyce Savino, organist.

Mrs. Jean Furdock, Mrs. Joan Swarthout are trustees for three years; Mrs. Margaret Eighmey, Mrs. Virginia Murphy, Mrs. Mary Ann Nielsen and Mrs. Phyllis Erwin are other trustees.

Standing committees appointed by Mrs. Scott are: Mrs. Helen Swarthout, charity; Mrs. Eleanor Metzger, cheer; Mrs. Eloise Soper, publicity; The Rev. Francis C. Waterstraat, pastor of St. Michael's is chaplain.

Mystery ride committee chairmen are: Mrs. Joan Swarthout, Mrs. Mary Miller and Mrs. Janet Buckley.

Mercy Nun Dies In N. Carolina

Mother Mary Bride McGrath, a native of Fairport and a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, N. C., died at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, June 29, 1957. Mother Bride had had a long and useful career in caring for the sick.

Mother Bride was born in Fairport, August 15, 1877. She entered the Sisters of Mercy at Belmont on Sept. 24, 1899.

Throughout her religious life, she was closely associated with Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, N. C. from its founding with 25 beds in 1906 when it was located on East First St. until its present 300-bed plant on East Fifth St. and Caswell Road.

Mother Bride was the hospital's first superintendent and continued in that capacity until elected Mother Superior of the Sisters of Mercy. She served eight years in that office. She also served as Mother Assistant of the Community and was for many years superintendent of St. Joseph Hospital, Asheville.

Rev. Abbot Vincent Taylor, O.S.B. of Belmont Abbey, N.C., celebrated the funeral Mass in Belmont Abbey Cathedral, July 1. Burial was in the Sisters Plot in the Abbey Cemetery.

Survivors, all of Rochester, are: Daniel J. McGrath, a nephew; Miss Mary Rose Malley and Miss Catherine Eli, nieces; and Mrs. Margaret McGrath, sister-in-law.

Hospital Association
Saskatoon — (NC) — Father Joseph B. Nearing, pastor of Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia, and representative of the Bishops of the Maritime Provinces, has been elected president of the Catholic Hospital Association of Canada.

Bishop Ireton
Richmond, Va. — (NC) — Prayers of the faithful in the Richmond diocese have been requested for the complete recovery of Bishop Peter L. Ireton who has undergone a major operation.

Summer Benefit Slated By Sisters Of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph will hold their annual summer festival on the Nazareth College Campus in Pittsford on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, July 16 and 17.

A roast ham supper will be served from 5 to 9 p. m. New and attractive games of skill and a large variety of booths will offer good entertainment. Hand-made novelties will be offered in abundance.

PROCEEDS WILL be applied to the debt on the Nazareth College Library just completed, and on St. Agnes High School on East River Road.

Chairman Emmet O'Neill will be assisted by Joseph Attinai, Rocco Natale, John Kinney, William Ball, Sam Rema, Frank Davis, Harold Driscoll, Cleveland Keegan, Charles Northcote, Edward Deviny, John McDermott, Eugene Austing, Frank Donnelly, Oscar Bott, Bernard Kennedy, Orrin Ochs, Walter Corcoran, Joseph Buggie, Emmett Schnepf, Frank Toomey, Nicholas Sippel, James Rogers, John Riedman, Donald Foley, John Oster, Frank Miceli, Clifford Sargent and Clarence Burg.

"The interests of God shall be our interests" (St. Pius X)

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