

Parents Told 'Get Out Of God's Way!'

By JOHN O'CONNOR
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

"Somebody's goofing — and it's not God!" That is the pithy observation of a sandalled Carmelite monk who considers with some alarm the religious vocation shortage in the United States.

Father Richard Madden, O.C.D., author, lecturer and retreat master, doesn't believe the shortage of vocations can be laid at any one doorstep. But of this much he is quite certain:

"WE CAN'T BLAME GOD; it's not His fault — He wants laborers for the vineyard, and He must be supplying the grace. But studies of the situation reveal that 74 per cent of all Sisters in the U.S. faced some form of parental objection to their entering the religious life. And 52

per cent of all priests surveyed encountered some form of parental objection to their following their vocation.

"I say parents should get out of God's way and let grace do its work," Father Madden declares.

He points to the distorted sense of values of too many Catholics as responsible for an attitude that puts money, worldly position and comfort ahead of a call to God's service in the religious life.

"A LOT OF parents think it's all great if the boy down the street enters the seminary. 'But not my boy'... and when a girl comes home from school and announces that she wants to become a Sister what happens — howls from the parents," he said.

Father Madden says that the biggest enemy to a flowering Catholicism today is the indifferentism of far too

many Catholics — of which the attitude toward vocations to the religious life is but one aspect.

The man who wrote the book, "Men in Sandals," the story of life in a Carmelite monastery has some positive ideas about how to help promote vocations to the priesthood and Sisterhood:

"You can't push a youngster," Father Madden warns: "Of course that is hardly a problem today—it's usually the other way around."

"Parents keep pulling kids away from a vocation. But you've got to begin with an understanding of how great the religious vocation really is. It's the greatest, without doubt — the highest calling, and parents should keep before their children, what it really is to be a priest or a Sister."



Shape Of Things To Come . . .

By EARL MURPHY
in Columbia Magazine

(The time is 1958 or, possibly, 3058 A.D. The people are the gentlemen of the press and Etain O'Shrdlu, who has achieved prominence in political life and otherwise.)

Mr. O'Shrdlu: It always is a pleasure to meet with you, gentlemen. Shoot.

Reporter: Is it true, Mr. O'Shrdlu, that you are thinking of being a candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

Mr. O'Shrdlu: It is no secret that my name has been mentioned in that connection.

Reporter: What is your feeling about it?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I feel highly honored, of course.

Reporter: You are a Catholic, Mr. O'Shrdlu?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I am a Catholic.

Reporter: There has been some question, Mr. O'Shrdlu, about the ability of a Catholic to meet the Constitutional requirements of the office of President of the United States. Would you comment on that?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: It appears that I have met the requirements for other public offices to which I have been elected.

Reporter: The situation with regard to the Presidency, Mr. O'Shrdlu, seems to be not quite the same. Will you comment on your eligibility for the Presidency?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I was born in the United States. My parents were citizens of the United States. I have reached the age prescribed for one who might aspire to the Presidency. I have been taught in our schools that these are the requirements for such an aspiration. Am I misinformed?

Reporter: Mr. O'Shrdlu, that still is not quite the point. There is this matter, if I may say so with all due respect, of your being a Catholic.

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I have already said I am a Catholic.

Reporter: What I'm trying to get at, Mr. O'Shrdlu, is this: Do you believe that, as a Catholic, you could fulfill the Constitutional obligations of the Presidency of the United States if you were elected to that office?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I do so believe.

Reporter: But are you not, as a Catholic, a subject of the Pope who is the head of a foreign power, the Vatican State?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: You are right. I am a subject of the Pope. In fact, I am very happy to be a subject of the earthly Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom I believe the Pope to be.

Reporter: Mr. O'Shrdlu, I do not think you have quite covered the point that the Pope is a foreign ruler to whom you give allegiance.

Mr. O'Shrdlu: The Pope, my friend, is so "foreign" a ruler that he is, in a sense, out of this world. He is concerned with the spiritual welfare of every human being — during their lives here and in eternity. He prays for me. I pray for him.

Reporter: You stand on that statement about your allegiance to the Pope?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: If you think I could make it more definite, I would be glad to try.

Reporter: Well now, Mr. O'Shrdlu, let's move into another interesting area. Do you think that your Catholic religion would affect your actions as President of the United States if you should be elected to that office?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I would be greatly disappointed in myself if it did not. My religion affects all my actions. My religion certainly would affect my actions as President if I should be given the honor of that office.

Reporter: You will permit that statement to be used as a direct quotation?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I would prefer that it be so used.

Reporter: Would you care to explain that statement?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I think it is quite clear as it stands.

Reporter: I have in mind the possibility that it might be misunderstood.

Mr. O'Shrdlu: There is always that possibility.

Reporter: Well, would you care to qualify your statement somewhat with the thought that, let us say, it would not appear to be so unequivocal. If I may say so, would you not like, so to speak, to hedge your bet just a little bit?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I do not wish to do so.

Reporter: Do you feel that such a statement helps your chance for the nomination or for election?

Mr. O'Shrdlu: I do not know and I do not care. The voters decide who will be President. I have tried to make my position clear on the matters you have chosen to question me about.

Reporter: You have made it clear. Thank you, Mr. O'Shrdlu.

Mr. O'Shrdlu: Thank you, gentlemen.

Baptism

Gateway To Heaven

By FATHER ATWELL

Every Sunday afternoon throughout the Rochester Diocese hundreds of proud parents bring their newborn infants to their parish church for baptism.

From statistics compiled by parishes in the diocese it is estimated that on some Sunday days as many as 500 infants receive this sacrament. Radiating from the parish church and setting them on the pathway to heaven.

Children who are baptized are also receiving private instruction to prepare adult converts for baptism at the Easter Vigil rites late Holy Saturday night.

Some converts are also receiving private instruction from parish priests and will be baptized when their course of study is completed.

Following are the chief points of Catholic doctrine on this first of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ:

Baptism is a spiritual bath and a spiritual birth.

The outward visible sign of the sacrament consists in the pouring of water over the candidate's head while saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Ordinarily, the water used for the ceremony is specially blessed for the purpose at the Easter Vigil service. In emergencies any natural water may be used. From the sick faucet, a lake, a stream, an animal water, or even melted ice or snow.

Water aptly symbolizes the spiritual effects of the sacrament. Just as water is normally used for washing, and just as it is absolutely indispensable for life, so baptism cleanses the soul of all sin and gives a new life, the life of sanctifying grace, to the soul.

The sacrament remits not only the inherited stain of original sin but also, in the case of adults, all actual sins as well.

Church theologians also teach that baptism wipes out all punishment due to these sins as well as the sins themselves. Should a person die immediately after baptism, he is promptly admitted to heaven. None of the other sacraments grants such a fullness of pardon as does baptism.

THE SACRAMENT also confers on the soul a new life, somewhat of a divine transfusion, lifting the soul to a supernatural level with a capacity to act above and beyond even the keenest natural powers of an unbaptized person.

One of these new powers is the ability to believe divine revelation, to have the virtue or ability of faith.

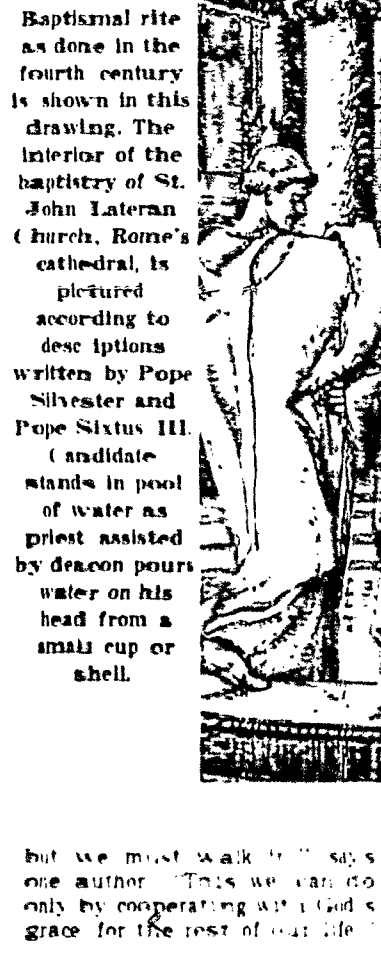
Another new power is the right to make progress toward heaven and ultimately to attain this eternal reward.

The catechism expresses this by saying the newly baptized becomes "a child of God and an heir of heaven."

One of the permanent results of the sacrament is that a sacramental seal or character is "stamped" on the soul identifying this person as a Christian forever.

THIS PERSON is henceforth a member of Christ's Church and entitled to its privileges and bound by its obligations. Even if the person disgraces his Christian name by a sinful life, he loses the Church's privileges but never ceases to be a Christian even though a poor one.

Theologians point out that baptism is the key to heaven but is definitely no guarantee of salvation. "Baptism opens the gates of paradise for us,



Baptismal rite as done in the fourth century is shown in this drawing. The interior of the baptistry of St. John Lateran (church, Rome's cathedral, is pictured according to descriptions written by Pope Silverius and Pope Sixtus III (candidate stands in pool of water as priest assisted by deacon pours water on his head from a small cup or shell).

but we must walk in it," says one author. "This we can do only by cooperating with God's grace for the rest of our life."

Our Lord Jesus Christ emphasized the necessity of this sacrament many times in his preaching.

He told Nicodemus, "Unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5) Our Lord's final command to His Apostles was, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)

THE QUESTION naturally comes up, "Are there any substitutes for baptism?"

Again the theologians list two possibilities: baptism of desire and baptism of blood.

Baptism of desire is the case of a person who either does not know about the sacrament or is unable actually to receive it but moves the heart sincerely desiring to do all that God has commanded.

Examples of this are pagans who have never heard about the need for baptism, or a prospective convert preparing for baptism who dies suddenly.

Baptism of blood means martyrdom, a person killed for the faith or some Christian virtue prior to receiving the sacrament.

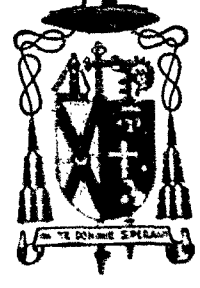
People also ask, "What about unbaptized babies?"

Our Lord never revealed what happens to these little ones. We know they do not suffer because they have committed no sin. Beyond that fact there is only speculation, but we should remember that God's mercy and kindness is far greater than He has ever revealed it to us.

Since baptism is so essential a sacrament, the Catholic Church surrounds its administration with many special laws and ceremonies.

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Bishop Kearney's Appointments

FEBRUARY

1. Saturday — Nazareth Convent: I. F. C. A. Mass — 8:30 a.m.
2. Sunday — St. Francis of Assisi: Family Rosary — 7:00 p.m.
3. Monday — St. Mary's Hospital: Blessing of Throats — 9:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Hospital: Low Mass — 5:00 p.m.
St. Michael's Church: Preside and Preach at St. Michael's Mass — 7:45 p.m.
4. Wednesday — Rochester Club: Catholic Women's Club Annual Dinner — 6:30 p.m.
5. Tuesday — Marymount College: Centenary Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes.
6. Sunday — New York City: Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Banquet — 7:00 p.m.

Laity's Legacy

The Diocese has lost two outstanding members of the laity in the recent deaths of Charles Tucker and Mary Whalen.

Both were long active in Catholic and civic programs. Characteristic of their truly Christian spirit was their readiness to serve as leaders or in the ranks of the various organizations to which they belonged.

Mr. Tucker and Mrs. Whalen had the stamp of pioneers in their lives.

Mr. Tucker helped establish the laymen's retreat house, first at Geneva and later in Rochester. He was a charter member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society besides holding membership for 37 years in the Knights of Columbus and for many of those years was one of the top members of that organization's speakers bureau.

Mrs. Whalen was "first lady" of the Rochester Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women, the Catholic Women's Club, Sacred Heart Academy's Mothers Club and the Volunteer Aid Service of St. Mary's Hospital — all four organizations still flourishing on the foundations she laid as their first president.

BOTH OF THESE devoted lay people were also blessed in their family life with children now grown to maturity and living lives that have been a joy to their parents.

Both families were especially blessed in God's calling children from each to serve Him in the priesthood and in the religious life.

The greatest monuments to the memory of each of these two people will be the continuing works of faith accomplished to God's honor by the families and organizations they so exemplarily served.

Sort of Lonesome

Reporter: "To what do you attribute your success?"
Business Man: "Well, I'm just trying to make an honest living, and there isn't much competition."

Strange But True . . .



The Church of the SHEPHERD FIELDS, BETHLEHEM, is built in the form of a BEDOUIN TENT.

SANTA MARIA IN TRASTEVERE CHURCH, ROME, IS BUILT OVER AN OIL WELL. A TABLET ON THE CHURCH FLOOR INDICATES WHERE OIL GUSHED FORTH THREE YEARS BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH BUT WAS STOPPED UP AND HAS REMAINED UNTAPPED.

THIS PERSON is henceforth a member of Christ's Church and entitled to its privileges and bound by its obligations. Even if the person disgraces his Christian name by a sinful life, he loses the Church's privileges but never ceases to be a Christian even though a poor one.

Theologians point out that baptism is the key to heaven but is definitely no guarantee of salvation. "Baptism opens the gates of paradise for us,

The BASILICA over the TOMB OF ST. FRANCIS IN ASSISI STANDS ON GROUND WHERE WOLFPISTORS WERE EXECUTED. CALLED "THE HILL OF HELL," THE POPE RESIGNED "THE HILL OF PARADISE."

The Shrine of the SACRED CORPORAL, in ST. MARY'S BASILICA, BARCELONA, contains SIX HOSTS which shed blood during a battle between Spaniards & Moors at Valencia in 1259.