

# Bishops Acclaimed For Stand Against Segregation

## Bishop Kearney's Appointments



- DECEMBER
- 1 Monday—St. Andrew's Seminary—Solemn Pontifical Mass for Patronal Feast—10:00 a.m.
  - 2 Wednesday—McQuaid Jesuit High School—St. Francis Xavier Mass—11:15 a.m.
  - 3 Friday—St. Joseph's Church—St. Monica's Sodality Mass—9:00 a.m.
  - St. Bernard's Seminary—Conference—5:00 p.m.
  - 4 Saturday—Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse Chapel—L.F.C.A. Mass—8:30 a.m.
  - 5 Sunday—St. Monica's Hall—Lecton of Mary's Magnificat—4:10 p.m.
  - Our Lady of Mercy High School Auditorium—D.C.C.W. Concert—8:30 p.m.
  - 6 Monday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Solemn Pontifical Mass—9:30 a.m.
  - Sacred Heart Academy—Immaculate Conception Ceremony—4:00 p.m.
  - St. Francis of Assisi Church—Rosary for Peace—7:00 p.m.
  - 7 Wednesday—St. Joseph's Villa—Anniversary Mass for Archbishop Hickey—9:00 a.m.
  - St. Joseph's Villa—Confirmation—10:30 a.m.
  - 8 Thursday—St. John Fisher College—Low Mass—9:00 a.m.
  - 9 Saturday—Our Mother of Sorrows Convent—Blessing of Convent and Low Mass—9:00 a.m.
  - 10 Wednesday—Nasareth College—Low Mass—4:30 p.m.
  - 11 Friday—St. Andrew's Seminary—Frodo and Preach at Low Mass—9:30 a.m.
  - Sacred Heart Academy—Christmas Program—2:00 p.m.
  - St. Mary's Hospital—Capping of Nurses and Low Mass—4:30 p.m.
  - 12 Sunday—St. Ann's Home—Low Mass—9:00 a.m.

New York (NC)—Many messages, most of them from Non-Catholics, warmly commending the recent statement of the U.S. Bishops in which they condemned enforced segregation, have been received at headquarters of the Catholic Interracial Council here.

George K. Hunton, secretary of the Council, said that among them are messages from more than 25 Negro leaders. Considerable messages have also come from prominent Jewish and Protestant leaders, he disclosed.

A. Phillip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, said that it is one of the strongest statements yet issued in this country in support of the abolition of segregation.

Charles H. Silver, president of the New York City Board of Education said: "The Catholic Bishops have clearly and unequivocally set forth the moral and religious issues which underlie the struggle for racial justice."

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared the Bishops' statement "is most heartening to all those who seek the full realization of Christian principles in our daily lives."

Jonah J. Goldstein, former judge of the New York Court of General Sessions, said: "I wish every American would read the recent forthright statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on integration."

George Edmund Haynes of Mount Vernon, N.Y., co-founder of the National Urban League, called the Bishops' statement "a milestone in race relations in this country."

Thomas E. Dyett, member of the New York Commission on Integration, called it "a salutary light thrown against the dark shadows of evil."

Allan Morrison of the Johnson Publishing Co., which publishes three national Negro magazines with a combined circulation of more than three million, said "men and women of goodwill everywhere will welcome this forthright declaration against the pernicious evil of racial segregation."

George A. Schuyler, New editor of the Pittsburgh Courier, weekly Negro newspaper, said the statement was "forthright, intelligent, understanding, moderate and statesmanlike."

J. Oscar Lee of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, said the statement "leaves no doubt that racial segregation and discrimination are contradictory both to the Christian way of life and to the democratic heritage. The forthright call for the elimination of these evils from our society is a source of strength and courage to all people of good will."

Mildred H. Mahoney, chairman of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, said the Bishops' statement will exert a "tremendous influence for good."

Statements of the same laudatory nature came from officials of other Negro groups and from persons engaged in the work of organizations in the field of racial justice. Mr. Hunton also said that his office had received many telephone calls from other persons who praised the Bishops' statement.

## Questions About Segregation

The clear-cut stand against segregation taken by the American Bishops leaves no doubt what Catholics must think and do about the subject.

First of all Catholics of this area must not take a complacent glance at the statement and dismiss it with a shrug that the Bishops were talking about southern states only.

The Bishops stated, "No region of our land is immune from strife and division resulting from this problem. They did not add that New York State was a lily-white exception.

Where is the segregation problem in our up-state towns and cities?

If we are honest we must admit that white bigotry has kept the Negroes segregated in slum housing conditions.

If a Negro couple try to purchase or rent a home outside their ghetto, what happens?

Do they find any real estate agent (even a Catholic) anxious to serve them as if they were white customers?

If they do locate a desirable home, what do the neighbors (even some Catholics) then do?

If they do accomplish the impossible and manage to move into the house, what kind of welcome do they receive?

The Bishops in their statement reminded us that we are now treating this typical Negro couple in the same un-Christian, un-American way as bigoted people a generation ago treated our Irish, Jewish, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, German, Russian, immigrant ancestors.

This whole hotly debated subject is not, however, a matter of mere opinion.

As Catholics we are in conscience bound to respect and obey our religious superiors in matters of faith and morals. The Bishops emphasize that this whole race question is basically "moral and religious" and that is why they are now speaking on the subject — so Catholics will know their moral responsibility and obligations on the subject.

And just in case some Catholics may seek to escape this obligation with the excuse that they have never done anything against a Negro, the Bishops provide a very practical question as a conscience test these people must ask themselves, "Are we sincerely and earnestly acting to solve these problems?"

We can no longer be content to do nothing wrong, we must start to do something right!

Perhaps the best way to start is by reading and pondering the statement of the U.S. Bishops. If you have lost last week's issue of the Courier Journal which published the statement we will gladly send you another copy.

### A Tight-fisted

A tight-fisted old gentleman argued heatedly with his doctor over the amount of his fee, and finally offered a compromise.

The old gentleman would willingly pay for all medications; but as for the doctor's visits, he would return them.

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MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President

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## Why Do Priests Keep Harping About Modesty And Purity?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.  
Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University

Why do priests always keep harping on bad books and movies? My sisters say I shouldn't kick because they have to listen to constant warnings on modesty besides. Experience shows that the first time you see or hear something a little racy you get bothered; but after awhile you get used to it, and it doesn't bother you. Young people might just as well get used to living in the modern world. They can't avoid it. I think priests should remember this fact.

You've raised a big question. Tom, though I'm not sure you've put your finger on the real source of the difficulty. I agree with you that priests shouldn't keep harping on bad books and movies, and I can understand why your sisters may get a little fed up with endless talks on modesty.

Your letter suggests, however, that somewhere along the line in your training, somebody has failed to relate basic moral principles to the facts of life. Failure to do this makes Catholic teaching on chastity and modesty appear to be nothing more than a series of warning "don'ts."

Stated in briefest outline, Tom, the pertinent facts are as follows.

As a normal young man, you possess a gradually maturing reproductive system. It is an essential part of your nature as a man. In it you carry, almost as a middleman for the human race, the important masculine co-principle of life, containing the accumulated biological heritage you have received from your ancestors. In its use, you are privileged to cooperate with God in the production of new life.

Hence it is a power of which you should be justly proud; yet by its very nature, its use is social, designed to perpetuate the human species, not to serve your personal pleasure.

Further, because it is a complex physico-psychological system, your reproductive faculty is stimulated and prepared to act by a wide variety of physical and psychological factors. Men in particular react readily to what they see and what goes on in their imagination.

There is no mystery about this simple stimulus-reaction process. It is the way the system is designed to act. If the stimulus is present, it should produce the reaction, provided, of course, one is normal.

IT FOLLOWS, Tom, that in all such simple stimulus-reaction processes, control is achieved not primarily by building up resistance to the stimulus, but by avoiding it in the first place. In matters of sex, this is not always wholly

possible, of course, but one must use common sense in avoiding unnecessary sources of stimulation.

This brings us to the point of bad books, movies, and so forth. As you well know, the moral law forbids unmarried persons deliberately to seek or to take pleasure in sexual (venereal) pleasure.

This implies that you avoid all unnecessary stimulation, since once the normal reaction occurs in your system, there is serious danger that you will consent to the pleasure accompanying it. Living up to this law is no easy task, in fact, it is normally impossible without grace.

Now, since our imagination is such a common source of sexual stimulation, carelessness in what we see, read or listen to may not only create difficulties at the time, but will be stored in the mind, only to return later to plague us through the working of our imagination.

In other words, one who is careless about what enters his mind in this regard is asking for trouble and has only himself to blame if he finds the moral law difficult to fulfill.

You say, Tom, that we get

used to things after a time. This is only partly true. Common usage and custom does modify the way we interpret things and consequently the way they affect us. This principle holds for long range cultural trends, but in the individual's life, frequent exposure to what is considered stimulating seldom lessens its reaction. It merely makes us accustomed to it, so it ceases to bother our consciences.

Remember, a broad conscience in this matter is generally only a relaxed conscience which has lost its moral tone through too frequent stretching.

Finally, if priests seem to "harp" on this subject, it is probably because they realize better than you that modern society tolerates or openly promotes about every form of "sex tease" and stimulation known to man.

Under these circumstances, the Christian moral code becomes impossible unless youth use common sense in avoiding the sources of danger. You can't play it both ways. Tom, if you want to be chaste, you must make use of the proper means — otherwise, you're merely trying to kid yourself.

### Making Marriage Click

## Loneliness, Our Era's Great Heartache

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANCO

"I have been in this city five years. Am getting so I hate weekends, especially Sundays. A man walking alone not only feels conscious of his aloneness but he feels like his whole personality is wasted." D. R. M.

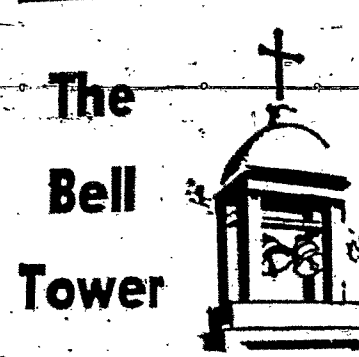
It is an ironic fact that all the progress made, both social and scientific, seems only to increase the number of the lonely. The turn of a knob today brings a world of entertainment but not one warm human flesh and blood contact.

And the middle-aged groups seem to be the most prone to loneliness (except perhaps for the aged poor).

The middle-aged single woman also suffers very often from frustrations. She sometimes feels that life has passed her by and she is left with a heavy heart and a sense of helplessness. Hereafter, maybe for many years she has looked after an old parent who is now no longer living. She

may not know how to be good company for herself, but life is passing them by and they are afraid of loneliness and old age.

Father Sebastian, O.F.M., of Phoenix, has an attractive set-up which he calls a "Catholic Escort Club." Associate members are accepted after an interview and a background check-up. The new member's name is placed before an Advisory Board. His first date or so is a double date. This subterfuge is to be a practicing Catholic and must have taken the vows and start a series of instructions on courtship and marriage. The idea is only one answer to D.R.M. More suggestions will appear next week.



## The Bell Tower

DEFINITIONS

Budget Problem: Too much month at the end of the month.

Fredjudice: Vagrant opinion without visible means of support.

Democracy: The recurrent suspicion that more than half the people are right more than half the time.

Curp Service Next

A thug entered a restaurant and said to the cashier, "Fix me up all your money to take out."

No Guards

In one parish six-year-old Cathy came home from school eager to relate her experiences of the day.

"We set out some plants in cans," she reported, "and Sister sent me out in the yard to get some dirt. There was nobody there."

"Daddy," she said in an awed voice, "I could have escaped."

No Work

A Jan, aged seven, was told by her teacher that the next day was a holiday and that school would be resumed the day after that. As she bounded into the house she came upon her father, who had been home all week because of a strike at the plant.

"Say dad," she shouted, "guess what? I won't be going to school tomorrow. Sister Cecilia laid us all off until Thursday morning!"

No Glory

A young man attended a meeting of his civic club, at which neighbors elected him to be representative of his block. But his kids cut him down to size by telling people, "Daddy was elected block-head."

Turkey Pilsone

During his first months in the U.S., opera star Enrico Caruso ate Italian food exclusively. Then one Thanksgiving day he was prevailed upon to celebrate with a real American dinner, turkey and all the trimmings.

Caruso tasted the turkey and raised his eyebrows approvingly. Then he tasted the stuffing, and a bravo became ecstatic, "Bravo! Bravo bravissimo!" he exclaimed. "This is superb!"

The chef, after a little coaxing, revealed that he had stuffed the turkey with spaghetti.

God's Grace

In Idol's Temple

Chelu, Korea (NC)—A Columbian missionary priest administered the last sacraments in a Buddhist temple here.

## JOSEPH BREIG

Some We Read About

And so we enter Advent, and go again on the road to Bethlehem. There are any number of people in this means a thing; to whom Christ means nothing to whom life, therefore, means nothing.

Some we read about in the newspapers. Some we see as they drift aimlessly past, or scurry along in pursuit of values which turn out to be spurious.

Some we know; some are acquaintances; some even are beloved friends whose hands we hold across a gulf, to whom we speak but are not understood.

Here is one, or here was one. He piled money on money; power on power; possession on possession. He had sycophants to truckle to him, hangers-on to flatter him. Reporters sought interviews; worldly honors were heaped up. And he took a gun and killed himself.

HERE IS ANOTHER. She has the beauty of face and body that lies about the empty, self-seeking soul of her. She labors at gaily, she clutches at pleasure, and she is unhappy. She does not know why. But her flitting from man to man betrays her. She wants love, but for love there must be more than flesh.

HERE IS STILL ANOTHER. He is immensely talented; he is brilliant; his mind flashes like lightning. But he is ill, or at least is convinced he is ill. He does not realize that his sickness is the disease of meaninglessness. He is addicted to attention; he wants all and gives nothing. And he is miserable.

Still another — this one a social leader, with a rich husband, a magnificent home, well-bred children, and days filled with things to do. The trouble is that the things to do are not worth doing, for cause she does not do them for God. They leave her not unhappy, but simply not happy, because they give her no hold on permanence. Her treasures have a way of vanishing.

ANOTHER — A CLOD. Not that he is born to be a clod; not that he is devoid of ability. But nothing really interests him; his life is a passing of time away until he dies. No trumpets summon him to joy.

I do not mean that He will not let coming to Him cost something. He will let it cost what it is best for us that it should cost; He desires to lift us as high as we will go. But into the heart that turns to Him, He pours grace to hold it sure and firm; and with each step taken with Him, joy increases. The mirth of Christians, and the sadness of pagans, are observable facts. Bethlehem is the house of laughter, as well as the house of eternal bread.

Unless Christmas is spiritual as well as material, its soul is lost, and with the soul, the joy. In some sense we must hear the angels singing before there is any real point in going to the crib.

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## SERMONETTE

Charity Rejoiceth With Truth, I Cor. 13, 6  
By THE REV. MICHAEL J. BENEDECT

Several years ago Sister Sacred Heart, principal of our school bought me a present, a compass for my car.

"Thanks," I said, "now I'll always know exactly where I'm going." Neither my assistants nor any teen-agers were around at the time, so that remark went unchallenged.

Some days later a group of us were in our back yard. "That's North," said Pat, holding the compass and pointing a finger toward a large oak.

This disturbed me. I had always believed that North was many feet to the left of that big oak.

According to the compass, East isn't where it was, West isn't South isn't. No place is in the right place. Who moved everything around?

If you think this is foolish, try it. Most of us are off, slightly or seriously on directions.

It is no easy matter to stay "on course" in the important business of one's soul. None but the strongest stays on target head winds of passion.

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