

Clergy Paper Hits Craze For Astrology

Rome — (NC) — A nationally-known magazine for Italian priests has published an article depicting the widespread printing of horoscopes in Italian newspapers.

THE ARTICLE in "Rivista del Clero Italiano"—Review of the Italian Clergy—stressed the moral responsibilities that accompany what it called "horoscopia mania."

The magazine stated in effect that a person commits a serious sin, at least materially, if he believes that the future of man can be known through the influence of the stars and that the value of a horoscope is infallible and determinant.

It also pointed out that a person still leaves himself open to an occasion of sin even if he does not believe in the infallibility of a horoscope, but merely consults it as an amusing curiosity or as a means of finding surprising coincidences.



March 8th, Date To Aid Needy

New York — Monsignor John E. Maney, at right in photo, chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, attended a meeting of 25 diocesan directors to plan the annual mid-Lent Bishops' Relief Fund Appeal to aid the world's needy. The collection will be taken in parish churches on March 8th. Cardinal Spellman presided at the meeting. Photo shows, from left, Msgr. Edward Swanstrom, director of the aid program, the Cardinal, Msgr. John McCarty of New York, Msgr. Julius Szabo of Buffalo and Msgr. Maney.

Marriage Rite Lifts Human Love To Share In God's Love

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
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Ever since Jim and I were engaged, we've been trying to get a deeper understanding of the meaning of marriage. We've discovered plenty of books on marital adjustment, family problems, conjugal relations and raising children but very little on the spiritual nature of marriage. In particular, we'd like more about the sacrament. Could you write something about that?

Before answering your request, I want to commend you for the common sense approach you are taking toward your marriage.

If more engaged couples spent their time and energy trying to acquire a better understanding of the step they are about to take, they would avoid a good many routine problems before and after marriage. Maybe this is asking too much of the modern juveniles eagerly rushing to the altar.

Now to your request. Although marriage existed as a natural institution from the very beginning of the human race, Our Lord marvelously increased its excellence by making it one of the seven sacraments or primary channels of grace through which He sanctifies the members of His Mystical Body.

What do we mean when we say that marriage is a sacrament? It will help us grasp the full significance of the answer if we review briefly what we know about a sacrament in general.

As you have been taught, Christ continues His redemptive work in space and in time through the Church that He established to teach His message of salvation and to dispense the graces that He merited. This dispensation of grace to men is carried out primarily through the sacraments.

In other words, Our Lord instituted a set of permanent rites, called the sacramental system, that constitute the channels through which He sanctifies His members in the Church. These channels or sacraments are certain transactions of such a nature that they are visible signs of something spiritual and divine, confer, and contain what they signify.

Hence a sacrament may be defined as an outward, sensible sign instituted as a permanent rite by Jesus Christ to signify an effect by divine grace the sanctification of men. For example, the pouring of water on the head of the recipient in the sacrament of baptism signifies the inner cleansing from sin and, in conjunction with the words of the rite, confers supernatural life upon him.

In making Christian marriage a sacrament, Christ ordained that the marital agreement or contract was to signify and effect by the



divine grace that it conferred the sanctification of the marriage partners.

In other words, when each of you received your partner's pledge of love, expressed in the simple "I will" of the marriage contract, you also receive the gift of Christ's divine love, for He has made your human love in this rite the sign or symbol of His own gift.

Likewise, in giving your own pledge of love, your love becomes the symbol or sign of Christ's love for your partner. This means that you are ministers of the sacrament, one to another. The mutual gift and reception of your "I will" is the sign of the gift and reception of Christ's divine love for you.

As St. Paul tells us, marriage is the sign or symbol of Christ's union with His Church. When two Christians are joined in marriage, their union renders visible that more profound, supernatural union of Christ and His Mystical Body.

Just as husband and wife in a consummated marriage, become "two in one flesh," so Christ and the members of His Mystical Body become one through baptism. Just as union with Christ confers grace upon His members, so the union of husband and wife becomes the effective instrument through which Christ confers grace upon Christian spouses. Thus, as husband and wife, you are instruments of Christ's grace to each other.

It will help to understand this sacrament if you recall that at baptism you were consecrated a member of Christ's Mystical Body. This involves your personal, total, and definitive dedication to Him. But marriage also involves a personal, total, and definitive dedication of self to one's partner.

Now there is no opposition between these two bonds in Christian marriage because

Protestants Focus Study On Catholics

Geneva — (RNS) — Students completing a four-and-a-half-month course at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute in Bossey near here, during which they focused their attention on the Roman Catholic Church, were urged to bring a "new atmosphere" to their denominations' Christian unity efforts.

DR. HANS WOLF, director of the institute, in a closing lecture told 42 students from 11 denominations in 21 countries not to return home "satisfied."

He said Christians felt some "expectancy" over proposals to establish relations between the WCC and the Russian Orthodox Church and over the forthcoming Ecumenical Council to be convened by Pope John XXIII in Rome.

Among guest lecturers were three Catholics: Prof. J. C. M. Willebrands of Warmond, Holland, who spoke on "Roman Catholic Ecclesiology," with special reference to the theme "Christ and His Church"; Abbe Paul Couturier of the Seminaire de Missions, Le Puy, France on "The Roman Catholic Conception of Missions"; and Abbe Villaz, Residence de Missionnaires, Paris, on "Roman Catholic View of Ecumenism."

Half Fare During Lent

North Tonawanda — (RNS) — The Wurlitzer Park Taxi Co. here announced it will charge half fare on all church calls on Sundays during Lent.

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'Come Into Me'

Klinge, Germany — (RNS) — Father Heinrich Magran greets some of the orphaned post war children who live with a sense of "belonging" here in a community of their own. Founded ten years ago by Father Magran, the village has a score of family-type homes, in which the youngsters live with a volunteer "mother" to supervise them, several farm buildings, a schoolhouse, a church and a community center. More than 50 per cent of the children come to Klinge as orphaned refugees from lands which were once part of Eastern Germany, but are now under Polish or Russian control.

Pope John Cited For Aid To Jews

Washington — (NC) — An article lauding the part Pope John XXIII, as Msgr. Angelo Roncalli, took in assisting persecuted Jews in World War II has been inserted in the Congressional Record.

The article, written for the Jewish Newsletter by William Zukerman, was placed in the Record at the request of Sen. Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon.

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Explosive

Laymen Plan Meet In Detroit

Washington — (NC) — "It's shaping up as an explosive convention," said Martin H. Work, executive director, in discussing plans for the 1959 biennial meeting of the National Council of Catholic Men in Detroit from April 3 to 5.

In the main, Mr. Work said, the convention will be a huge workshop in which the efforts of representative organizations of Catholic men throughout the nation, nationally known authorities in various fields and top figures in every phase of American Catholic life who will serve as speakers, will pool their efforts.

"This new concept of a convention involves the explosive spreading of ideas and techniques into all quarters of the country," the NCCM executive director said.

"The convention will serve as a master plan of Catholic lay leaders for the benefit of all Catholic men. Compressed under high pressure into a three-day meeting, it is the hope that it will explode into similar but small meetings in as many different areas as there are groups

of men with the apostolic urge to put such meetings into being.

"In a sense, the 1959 biennial convention has been planned as a satellite launching effort designed to put into orbit a galaxy of conventions concerned with the lives of the layman in Catholic Action, fulfilling his apostolic opportunities in his family, parish, community and daily work."

Judge David A. McMillan of the juvenile division of the Missouri Circuit Court, who is NCCM president, said that two years of preparation have gone into the plans for the Detroit convention. The sessions have been geared to attract some 2,000 leaders from among the 9,000 organizations affiliated with the NCCM which represent a total of nine million Catholic men.



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