

Pitfalls In Piety

Catholics can learn an important lesson from two recent unfortunate episodes.

The lesson — intelligent loyalty to the Church.

The episodes — first, the visit to the Rochester area of "Slaves of Mary" disciples of the excommunicated priest, Father Leonard Feeney, and second, the scare article by the Mexico priest Father Augustin Fuentes who claimed Fatima's Sister Lucy had predicted the world was about to be severely punished, probably in 1960.

THE SEMINARIAN-LIKE garbed Slaves of Mary canvassed stores, streets, offices, even taverns, to sell their literature. Gullible Catholics, seeing a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the book's cover, readily gave a dollar to aid "a good cause." They were generous, we admit, but they were also gullible.

Why do so many of our Catholic people continue to forget that the badge of authenticity in a Catholic book is not just a pretty picture but is rather the "impulsiu" or authorization by a Bishop published usually near the title page? The faithful should be immediately suspicious of any book purportedly Catholic if it lacks such approval.

This cautious attitude is also advised in all other appeals for our alms. There are, it is true, countless good causes which deserve our generous help, but there are also, unfortunately, charlatans and knaves who prey upon the piety of devout people. These frauds net thousands of dollars in profits for these individuals who lack the simplest ethical standards of decent human beings.

It is a pity that money, sincerely given as an alms to promote religion, ends up in reality stolen from authentic religious programs.

THE SECOND EPISODE is actually only a phase of a continuing problem—the mounting hysteria about the "Secret of Fatima" and what will happen in 1960.

Last week, the Courier Journal presented a factual report which pointed out that nobody other than Lucy dos Santos, now a Carmelite nun, who saw our Lady at Fatima in 1917, knows the "secret" and she had no intention of stirring up excitement about it.

Irresponsible individuals, however, have made all kinds of impetuous and frightening guesses as to what the secret will be — even stating that the world will end in 1960, a fact which our Lord Himself said the angels themselves don't know about.

A faith founded on wild imaginings and gossamer calamities is a poor substitute for the noble, peaceful religion revealed by Jesus Christ our Saviour.

This diocesan paper has consistently sought to "think with the Church" and to avoid sensationalism which can attract a certain type of readership but at the same time forfeit factors of greater value.

The Courier Journal has chosen rather to emphasize the forthcoming ecumenical council in 1961 (the Pope apparently doesn't expect the world to end in 1960), the current worldwide observance of 1959 as the United Nations sponsored Refugee Year to aid the needy find hope and homes in freedom, diocesan programs with their positive contributions to individuals and the community — such as this week's page one story about the magnificent new St. Ann's Home for the Aged, and the cultural achievements of our schools, social and parish activities.

Above and beyond these aspects of the faith, there is the unseen growth of God's grace in souls which manifests itself in greater respect for the Church's official worship of God — Holy Mass and reception of the Sacraments.

These are the topics to which we can all turn our attention with assurance that we thereby serve God and His Church and in this service our souls are eternally in safe keeping.

SERMONETTE

Eyes For Good . . . Or Evil?

By REV. JAMES D. MORIARTY

An ancient legend, not recorded in the scriptures tells the story of Jesus arriving in a city one evening after he had sent his disciples ahead to make preparations for the evening meal. As he walked into the market place he noticed that a crowd had gathered around a certain spot.



object of the crowd's attention was a dead dog. The unfortunate creature had a rope around his neck and there was every indication that it had been dragged through the streets until dead. It was a sickening sight.

"It stinks," mumbled one man. "Look how his hide is all torn, observed another.

"His eyes are about to fall out of his head," said a third. "And his ears are almost gone."

"He must have been a chicken thief," surmised still another. "No one would treat even a dog like that if he were not."

Our Lord who had stopped to look at the poor creature made a simple remark. "His teeth are white as pearls."

It took Our Lord from this whole group to find something to admire in this poor dead animal.

It is easy to stand around the carcass of someone whose reputation has just suffered death and point out the sins of the accused. Whether it be a politician called before the grand jury, a criminal hauled before the judge or the neighbor's child who lands in juvenile court, it is easy to enumerate the wrongs. It is more charitable to follow Our Lord's example.

It is a simple matter to kick a person when he is down. We hardly have to raise our foot. We can walk over him with little effort. It takes much more effort to stoop down and help him up. He may pull us down in the process. Especially is it harder when the accusers are able to stomp over us while marching over the fallen individual.

No one needs our help when he is riding high. No one will refuse it when he is down. It may take courage to help the downtrodden. But it is a great opportunity. It is Christlike.

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10,000 Meet In Rochester

Joseph Breig The Jehovah Witnesses

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

Ten thousand Jehovah Witnesses from 26 states and 11 foreign countries are currently meeting at Rochester's vast Community War Memorial.

Their downtown meeting presents a graphic contrast to the spectacular, lake-side "Oratorio" of the "Latter Day" where Navy and Marine forces are set for Saturday's defense maneuvers.

The contrast is all the more striking when it is remembered that the Witnesses refuse to salute the American flag and refuse to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

Their meeting, to add another anomaly, is held in the multi-million dollar building erected in memory of Rochester area G.I.s who gave their lives in defense of our flag and all it represents.

The Witnesses count nearly a million members throughout the world, over 300,000 in the United States. In the three year period 1957-60, their American total showed an 11 per cent gain in new members — most of whom were adult converts.

The U.S. Catholic population during the same period showed a 9 per cent increase.

Anyone who has had a militant Jehovah Witness call at his home knows the sect produces a negative effect. Their door-to-door evangelism raises tempers probably more often than it raises questions about the denomination's creed.

Their phenomenal growth from the mere handful of 100 members in 1881 to the present near-million total demands public attention.

Is the sect indeed a reputable denomination or is it, as one irate critic termed it, a "disease"?

Their doctrines, as stated in a booklet written by their president, Nathan K. Knorr, will answer that question.

They believe there is one true God but from that point on they creed in the Bible "aside from established tradition."

They reject the doctrine of the Trinity. They say Jesus is not God but the first-creature God made. The Holy Ghost is to them "not a person" but "the active invisible force of Almighty God."

The Witnesses do not believe in the immortality of the human soul. A select few of the "nonexistent dead" will be given "a restoration to life" to learn about God during a coming thousand-year reign of Christ on earth.

Ultimately, only 144,000 will be admitted to heaven.

The end of the world is imminent. (In a 1953 speech, Knorr warned the end "is so near at hand it will strike the generation now living.")

They further believe that the year-1914 sounded the death knell of "the present system of things." We are now in "a transition period," they say, with a last chance to enroll in the thousand-year Kingdom of God and then perhaps qualify as one of the 144,000 to enter heaven.

Baptism by immersion is, for them, an ordination ceremony also. All Witnesses claim to be ministers and on that rest their additional claim to be exempt from military service.

They not only refuse to bear arms, they further "maintain a strict neutrality, and

in utter disdain for the true Kingdom of God, the Church, which has pointed the way to heaven to uncounted millions of men during the past nineteen hundred years, the Jehovah Witness creed, ignores 20 centuries of Christian history and limits salvation to a pitiful handful.

Without warrant, the Witnesses arbitrarily assume the year 1914 as the date Christ initiated His "invisible kingdom" in the world, nullifying His promise to the apostles. "Behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world."

The Witnesses today are shepherded by square jaw, tight lipped Mr. Knorr who has smoothed away the rough and offensive methods of earlier evangelism.

The simple, untutored rank-and-file Witnesses are hungering for the truth of God. Their zeal is worthy of a better cause. They remain in, though misguided, children for whom Christ died, and whom He loves and wishes to have in His fold.

They are our brothers, and we must love them, be patient with them, pray for them and lead them to the Saviour they sincerely seek but have, as yet, not found.



Jehovah Witnesses become ministers of the sect as well as members by baptism rite.

as neutrals? They neither support nor oppose the war effort of any nation."

The sect's doctrines are spread by the door-to-door missionary work of its members, street-corner distribution of 16 magazines and by crowd-catching rallies such as the current one in Rochester.

Circulation reports of their two principal magazines are staggering.

Their "Watchtower" counts 3,600,000 copies every issue, in 54 languages. "Awake," published in 19 languages, has a distribution figure of over 2,850,000.

CATHOLICS VIEW the Jehovah Witness doctrine as a travesty on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Despite the massive testimony of Scripture, history and common sense, fundamental Christian beliefs — including the divinity of Christ — are all summarily rejected by the Witnesses.

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Nathan K. Knorr, head of the Jehovah Witness organization, all but the chosen 144,000 to obliteration.

The sect was launched in 1876 by divorced Charles Taze Russell who sold gullible farmers "miracle wheat" at \$60 a bushel before he turned to Bible exegesis. His successor was four-times-judge Joseph F. Rutherford who served 9 months in Atlanta penitentiary, during World War I for urging troops to insubordination.

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Orthodox Ponder Link With Rome

Rome — (RNS) — A strong feeling in favor of closer collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church exists among the Eastern-Orthodox, even though they seem uniformly to reject any complete return to Rome.

This is the finding of an article published here by Civiltà Cattolica, a leading Jesuit publication. It was based on a five-months study of Orthodox reactions to Pope John XXIII's announcement of plans for an Ecumenical Council at which Christian unity will be a major topic of discussion.

The article, written by Father Giovanni Caprio, S.J., a member of the Civiltà Cattolica staff, noted that one of the strongest incentives toward Catholic-Orthodox collaboration stems from the intensified ecumenic propaganda promoted by the Communist regimes in countries with large Orthodox as well as Catholic populations.

It quoted Bishop Vinos of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of London, England, as stating that "we must not wish destructive controversies, but a constructive fraternity. Many theologians desire a real and solid rapprochement and advocate the possibility of serious talks between Orthodox and Catholics."

The article noted as "very important" comments by Patriarch Athenagoras, "first among equals" of the Orthodox patriarchs, in response to Pope John's Christmas message. Besides appealing for Christian unity, the Patriarch stressed the need for "fraternity among all Christian people, all moving together in a common desire of comprehension, of great respect for the sacred liberties of collective life in the triple religious, civil and social order."

"Our common duty as religious leaders," Civiltà Cattolica stated, "is to show to the world, that technical progress is not sufficient to build a new world civilization, which is not possible without a spiritual, religious and moral basis. Christ is the only One to make possible love, peace and justice among men . . ."

Another comment quoted by Civiltà Cattolica was made by Archbishop Eulimianos Timinidis, liaison official between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the World Council of Churches in Geneva, who advocates greater contacts between Orthodox and Catholic theologians.

The Civiltà article said that Pravoslavnaia Rus, official publication of Russian Orthodoxes, had branded the Catholic Church as a "deviationist from the true faith" and declared that the Orthodox Churches regarded as valid only the first seven ecumenical councils and "will never give up" regarding the authority of the 13 later councils.

However, it observed, that Russian Orthodox circles in exile were closely following the Pope's summons for a new Council. It said that early in May Russian Orthodox in Paris held a study session there in which 350 persons, including two bishops and twelve priests, took part.

Also quoted by the Civiltà article was a theologian attached to the Ecumenical Patriarchate who described Pope John's "project" as "an excellent but not an easy one."

"There exist enormous difficulties," the theologian said. "But God wishes unity. And if the representatives of our Churches want it, too, they must make efforts in order to reach a result."

"The gesture of the Pope is a very kind one, but many things separate us. The main difficulties are the primacy of the Pope, and the dogma of the Trinity. If the Vatican proposal aims at the submission of the Orthodox Churches, it cannot be considered. But if it tends to create unity and a real reciprocal understanding, it can be welcomed."

Civiltà Cattolica summed up the general Orthodox reaction as "understandably reticent, but cautious and not entirely negative."

Making Marriage Click

Childlessness

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"I meet my former girl friends who proudly display their offspring. I see my neighbors pushing their strollers past my gate. I read with exasperation of young girls and older-married women having babies they don't want. My husband doesn't say much, but I get the feeling that he thinks I am a failure, and I guess I am really a sort of second rate wife. Why does this have to happen to me? Why? Why? Mrs. M. M."

It is true, Mrs. M, that society has always tended to look askance at the "barren" woman. Many like Rachel have cried to God: "Give me children or I shall die."

Nearly 15 per cent of American women cannot have children. But have you ever considered childlessness as a vocation?

A vocation is God's plan by which we serve His cause on earth and at the same time win our way to heaven. This vocation to childlessness is just as truly a vocation as is a vocation to the religious life, or marriage, or virginity on earth in the world.

Obviously if one is selfishly and sinfully childless, that is no vocation. If, however, childlessness is willed by God, it is a vocation.

But before believing that one is called to this vocation, he or she must have recourse to every remedy medical science has available. If a couple has tried intelligently to start a family for a year, and has had no success, they should not hesitate to seek medical aid.

There is hardly any field of medical research where more progress has been made than in this one. The causes for not having children are about equally distributed between husband and wife. So visit not only a specialist but as many as necessary.

This vocation differs from others in that it is not deliberately chosen. But once all is done that is humanly possible to have children and there is no success, there should then be no doubt that this vocation glorifies God as much

as that of having a large family. It is noteworthy that Sarah and Elizabeth in Scripture were both childless and conceived miraculously in their old age. It was as if God used their childlessness to prepare and to sanctify them before entrusting them with important sons.

We have need of a developed spiritual pattern for childless couples. This vocation is neglected, to be without offspring goes against the deep yearning of man and woman to be father or mother. Much help is needed. It is not easy to adapt. Incidentally, couples with children should be natural and warm in associating with the childless, not pity, embarrassment, or judge them.

The first purpose of marriage disappears when a couple is childless. They appear to be abnormal. This way of life, then, must be entirely revaluated.

Without children of your own, your interest may now become wide open to help other children and other families. Your home becomes a haven for others in need of counseling, of generosity, and of inspiration.

If a couple is temperamentally suited and is fortunate enough to locate a baby or two, they should surely adopt them. Some couples are now adopting children of mixed races.

If that husband of yours loves you, Mrs. I, do not worry. He may not be thinking about children in the same way that you do. Love is more than a sudden-blaze of a certain glance.

He did not marry you because you smelled sweet or had soft hair. Love is more than touch, chemistry, or even having children.

Being childless should not turn love sour or marriage into a bondage. Rather, it should bring you closer to have children and there is no success, there should then be no doubt that this vocation glorifies God as much

Daily Mass Calendar

- Sunday, July 26 — St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary (white); Gloria, 2nd prayer of 10th Sunday after Pentecost, Creed, common preface.
- Monday, July 27 — Mass of 10th Sunday after Pentecost (green), 2nd prayer of St. Pantaleon; VR.
- Tuesday, July 28 — Saints Nazarius, Celsus, Victor and Innocent (red); Gloria; VR.
- Wednesday, July 29 — St. Martha (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of martyrs; VR.
- Thursday, July 30 — Mass of Monday except 2nd prayer of Saints Abdon and Sennen; VR.
- Friday, July 31 — St. Ignatius, Jesuit (white), Gloria.
- Saturday, August 1 — St. Peter in chains (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of St. Paul, 3rd of the Machabees, no Creed, Preface of Apostles.
- VR—Votive or Requiem permitted.

Door-to-door apostles spread Jehovah Witness doctrines in Africa just as in United States.