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Four Point Program For Men

Cincinnati — (NC) — Catholic men have been urged to take action to solve the problems of interracial justice, migrant workers, distribution of farm surpluses and violations of Sunday observance.

The appeal for action was made in a report submitted to the executive board of the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men by George M. Barmann, chairman of the council's social action committee.

Congress Prints Prelate's Talks

Washington — (RNS) — Full text of two addresses delivered by Francis Cardinal Spellman to young men training for careers in their nation's service have been published in the final edition of the Congressional Record at the request of Rep. John W. McCormack (D.-Mass.).

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My Parish Is A Prison . . .

By REV. CLARENCE W. GARDNER

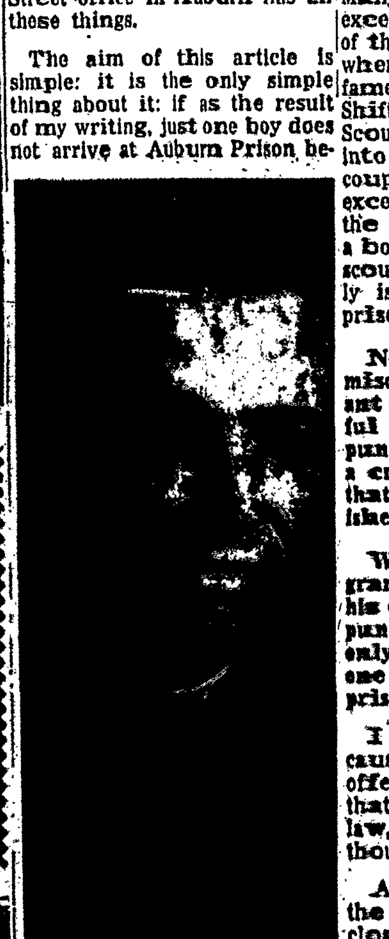
CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN
AUBURN PRISON

The current outburst of crime among teen-agers in New York City has caused even the Communist threat to be pushed to the second page. Never before have I clearly realized the confusion that exists in the minds of our civic leaders and educators as to the best way to handle the problem.

I would like to cut through the many remedies suggested, and offer how the problem should be tackled. I have one advantage over most authorities on this subject; my parishioners are all delinquents!

I need no books, no statistics, no other opinions on which to base my conclusions. My State Street office in Auburn has all these things.

The aim of this article is simple: it is the only simple thing about it: if as the result of my writing, just one boy does not arrive at Auburn Prison be-



FATHER GARDNER

cause either he, or his parents, or someone else with influence over him was able to pick something from my words to change his heart.

First of all, there is no single solution. This is easy to prove. We would all agree, I am sure, that the most wonderful experience any one could have would be to be in the presence of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

There was a man who lived in Christ's presence for three years, heard His teachings and witnessed His miracles, and was loved by Christ. This man became the worst delinquent the world has ever seen, the most despicable criminal known to man. His name was Judas Iscariot.

So you see, there is no simple solution. And since God Himself, did not deign to be 100% successful, neither can we expect to be 100% successful. But before we leave this tragedy, let us note that the other eleven apostles became saints, and therefore we can conclude that the more a boy learns about Christ, the less likely he is to become a criminal.

To you, good parents, who place your children in Catholic Schools, I wish I could tell you that now you have done all that is necessary to make your children law-abiding citizens. I am sorry, but I cannot. I have far too many parishioners who spent many years in Catholic Schools.

If only this could have been the answer, simple and complete, then there would be no need for Institutes of Criminology such as I attended at St. Lawrence University in Canton. On this point, all I can say to you parents is that if you put your child in a Catholic School there is less probability of his becoming a criminal.

WHAT ABOUT education? Here again I have some very well educated parishioners some of whom have even graduated from Universities. Therefore education is no guarantee that your child will never go to prison. Yet most prisoners have been poorly educated, and so we conclude that the more education a boy has, the less likely is he to someday go to jail.

What about sports, scouting, music? My answer is the same. Many of my parishioners are excellent ball players — some of the old-timers even remember when the prison team beat the famed Kodak team behind Shifty Gears. Unfortunately Scouts have gotten themselves into trouble, and sad to say, a couple of my parishioners are excellent musicians. But again, the more interested in sports a boy is, the more interested in scouting or music, the less likely is it that he will ever go to prison.

Now let us clear up one other misconception, a very important one. Do you think the youthful offender thinks of possible punishment when he commits a crime. He does not. The idea that he will be caught and punished never enters his head.

We older people take it for granted that the criminal weighs his chances of being caught and punished; I believe this to be only true of the older criminal, one who has been punished in prison before.

I am sure of myself here, because I have talked with young offenders. We can hardly say that they had disrespect for the law, when they never even thought of it.

An astonishing point here is the number of inmates who have close relatives in police work. We cannot begin too early to teach respect for the law. The father who tells his son to look out the back window for a police car as he speeds along the highway, is certainly not teaching respect for the law. And here too, I wonder how much parents are really concerned about their children's becoming delinquent. It seems to me that many parents are only concerned about the fact their child was caught.

The idea that their child committed a sin does not seem to bother them as much as it should. Some parents want their children to look upon the policeman only as a big brother; this is good, but there should be a respectful fear there, also. I have heard and read that the youthful criminals taunt the police in New York. I assure you that no guard is taunted in Auburn Prison.

ANOTHER FALSE IDEA is that it is the city boy who becomes the criminal. If this were so, the solution would again be simple. Unfortunately the country boys hold their own. What is true, however, is the remarkable number who become criminal when they move from the country to the big city. This is true not only of the Puerto Rican, but also of the Negro and the white moving from the South into New York.

It is true that I have been Catholic Chaplain of Auburn Prison only since January, but every day I grow in the conviction that the American woman is not accepting her share of the responsibility for crime in this country. I am truly ashamed to speak out, but I believe it to be the truth.

Oh yes, it is true that the men commit the crimes, but so very, very often the men have been nagged, heckled and provoked to the point that they would risk arrest and imprisonment to obtain money to satisfy their wives and girl friends.

Here I speak of the older criminal, but I have encountered this situation so often that I am convinced that if the teen-age girl were more a lady, the current teen-age boy would be less likely to become a criminal.

What about drink? I dare say that a goodly percentage of all criminals are in prison because they committed a crime while under the influence of drink. Therefore abstinence from drink must be encouraged. However we must remember that in most cases the unlawful action (crime) did not come from the drinking, but from an intolerable situation aggravated by the drinking.

What about gangs? Should I allow my boy to belong to a gang? No! Gangs have plagued our country from the beginning: from the Revolution to Jesse James to Al Capone. They are no good. There are plenty of opportunities for our boys to get together at social functions provided by Church or School or Civic group.

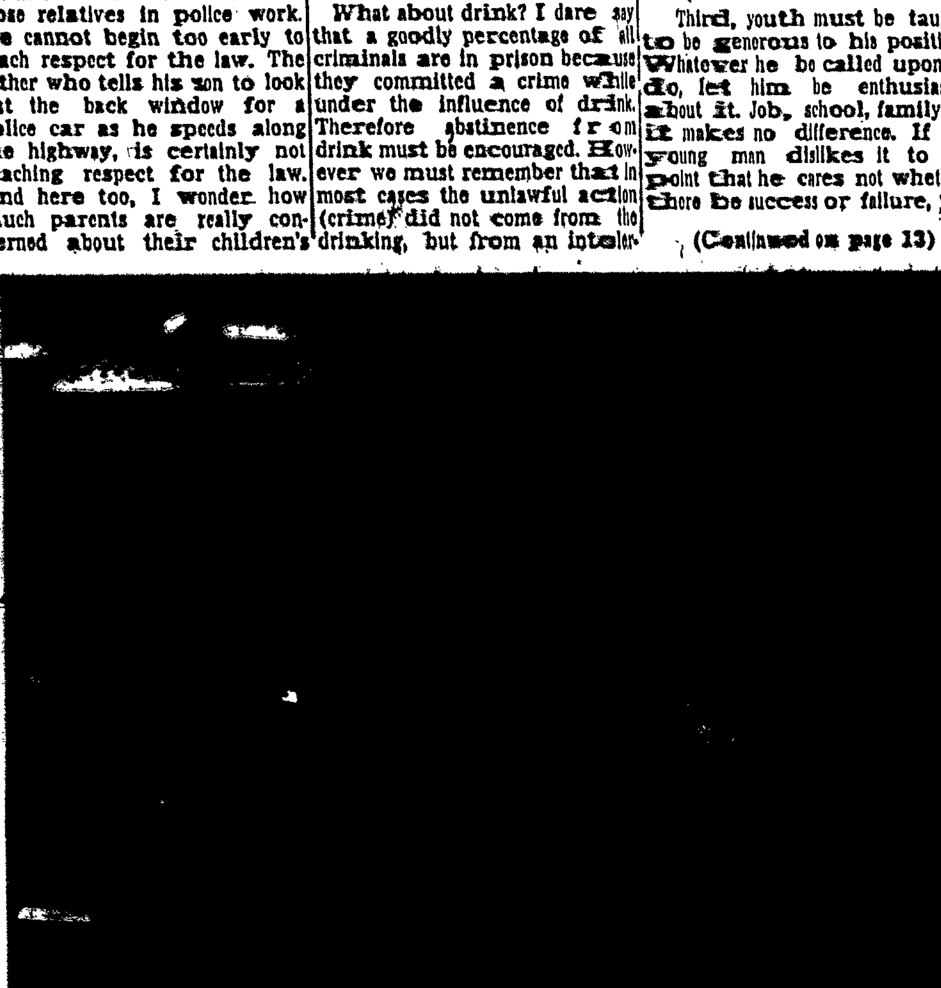
There are Clubs, Dances, Senior Scouts, and many others. And I dare say that if a group, any group of boys want to get together for any good purpose, they can easily find a man in their community who will help them to a meeting place and who will help them to achieve their goal. If the only way to break up gangs is to imprison the members, then I agree with our Governor who intends to put them into youth camps.

Now I would like to suggest three things that every child should be taught. Regardless of what else is done, it seems to me that these must be done. First, the distinction must be emphasized between liberty and license. We are free in our wonderful land, but we are not free to drive on the wrong side of the road; we are not free to aggravate and taunt our neighbour; we are not free to rock a school bus. Such things would be license and would infringe upon our neighbour's rights. If there is one lesson hammered in Auburn Prison it is the Golden Rule: 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'

Second, youth must be taught to be satisfied with little steps in the right direction. Day by day study, small jobs at first, coming home before midnight from a dance — all these are examples of what I mean. No great man ever lived who did not follow this rule. Break it and you have a potential criminal.

Third, youth must be taught to be generous to his position. Whatever he be called upon to do, let him be enthusiastic about it. Job, school, family — it makes no difference. If the young man dislikes it to the point that he cares not whether there be success or failure, you

(Continued on page 13)



You cage him — or we will!

Seminarians To Chant At Shrine Dedication

Washington—(NC)—One of the most unusual choirs ever assembled will sing at the solemn dedication of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on November 20.

The choir will be made up of 150 voices, representing the best singers in more than a score of religious houses of study for men affiliated with the Catholic University of America here.

Among those taking part are Atonement Friars, Augustinians, Capuchins, Carmelites, Christian Brothers, Claretians, Dominicans, Holy Cross seminarians, Franciscans, Josephites, Marists, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Pallotines, Paulists, Salvatorians, Stigmatines, members of Third Order Regular, Trinitarians, Xaverian Brothers, students at St. Josephat's Byzantine Rite seminary, and students from the Theological College of the Catholic University, where seminarians from 55 dioceses are in attendance.

The choir is being trained and will be directed by Father John C. Selner, S.S., of the Theological College. Dr. Conrad Bernier of the staff of the Catholic University will be the organist, and there will be further accompaniment of a 26-piece section of the university orchestra.

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While they are already rich in grace, we speak of the POOR SOULS IN NOVEMBER because they ARE SUFFERING in anticipation of their final reward. Masses for YOUR Poor Souls will be said in November if you send in your offerings NOW.

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WILL YOU MAKE THE MISSION? This is the reminding question your pastor asks you every year or two. Each week, and most earnestly on MISSION SUNDAY, we ask you to help make ONE OF THE NEAR EAST MISSIONS a worthy place for CHRIST—WORSHIP and CHRIST-TEACHING. AND—an olive seed rosary FROM THE HOLY LAND will be sent to you as soon as we receive your $10 offering to the Holy Father for a REFUGEE FOOD PACKAGE.

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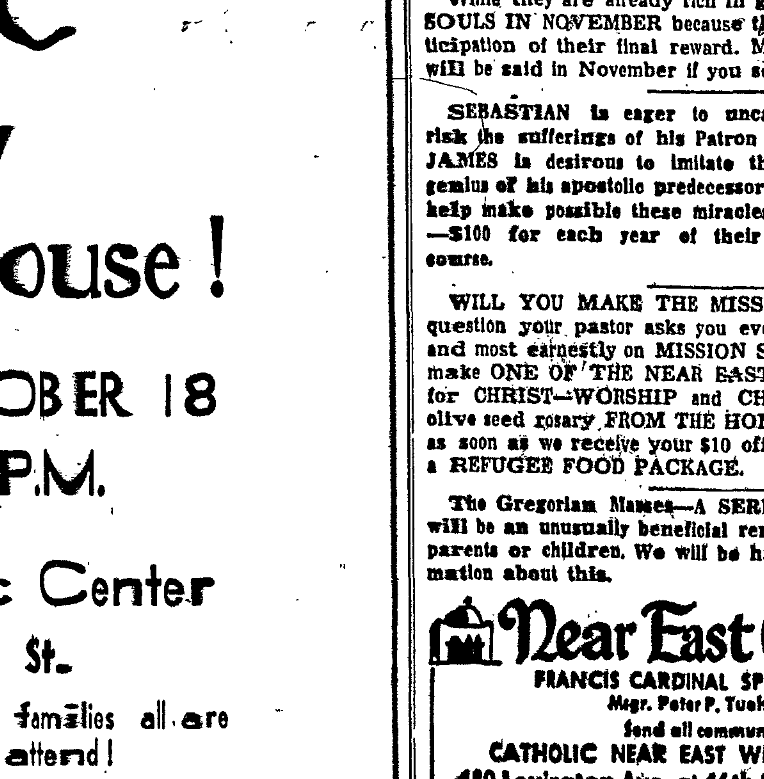

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Women Schedule Mission Movie

Seneca Falls — St. Patri[ck's] Guild and Altar Society ... hold their 20th Annual ban[quet] Monday, Oct. 26 at 6:30 ... at the Gould Hotel. Miss C... lotte Barbi is the chairman ... the banquet and Mrs. Ro... Morganti is the co-chairman.

Invocation will be given ... Rev. John P. O'Beirne, pa... of St. Patrick's Church ... chaplain of the Altar Society.

THE GUESTS of the eve... will be two Sisters from ... Medical Missionaries of M... They will show a film, "Vi... tion," which is profession[ally] made depicting the work of ... Medical Missionaries of Mar[y] ... the mission field of Africa. ... film has a color introductio[n by] Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

This remarkable film is f... with inspiration and dram... shows how the Sisters, who ... trained to be doctors, nu... technicians and secretaries ... binging skilled medical ca... the suffering people in t... pagan lands and thereby ... ing the way for grace of s... tion. If not contacted, mem... who wish to attend may ... Miss Barbi or Mrs. Mor... before Oct. 21.

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