

### Family Communion Sunday, Jan. 10

My dear People:

The Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on next Sunday, January 10. Again, may I ask that you sanctify this feast by the beautiful custom of the Family Communion.



This tribute of the Family Communion is an outstanding event in the spiritual life of our diocese. Its continuation this year will again bring the blessings of the Holy Family so abundantly into every parish and home.

Let us, therefore, join together again in this devotion this year. It will be an assurance of God's blessings in the New Year, which is the sincere prayer of  
Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

*James Kearney*  
Bishop of Rochester

## A Smile On The Vatican

Senator John F. Kennedy's expected announcement that he would seek nomination as Democratic presidential candidate promptly raised again the question whether a Catholic can qualify for the nation's top office.

A Catholic in the White House conjures up in vivid imaginations the specter of the Capitol dome suddenly becoming a papal tiara.

Newspapers reported the Vatican was happy at Kennedy's announcement.

We noticed no special smile on the dome of St. Peter's Basilica and from our remote acquaintance with papal protocol, we suspect the happy Vatican was a quite-a-ways-down-the-line spokesman giving a reporter an obvious answer to a very silly question.

The Vatican was also happy when Episcopalian Queen Elizabeth was crowned in London or when Presbyterian President Eisenhower was inaugurated in Washington or when Moslem Nehru took office in New Delhi.

The Vatican, besides being the headquarters of a faith cherished by half a billion people, is also the capital of an influential little kingdom which has happy diplomatic ties with scores of nations. When these nations function in freedom according to their separate types of governments, why should the Vatican be other than happy about it? We venture a prediction that in November the Vatican will still be happy even if Unitarian Stevenson or Quaker Nixon happen to win the election instead of Catholic Kennedy.

The Massachusetts Senator wisely pointed out there are more important issues in 1960 than the old scare-crow question of a candidate's religion.

Whether Kennedy is nominated — elected or not, the Catholic Church will probably find a few slight advantages and disadvantages no matter what the result but so slight as to be negligible and such that one about cancels the other out.

The Church is so closely linked with some governments and so oppressed by others that a change in these governments would mean a major readjustment for the Church. But in America, where Church and state are separate, the two will certainly continue their separate courses regardless of the election's outcome.

Those Americans who think otherwise betray a weak faith in our national heritage.

## SERMONETTE

BY THE REV. EDWARD MADDON, O.C.D.

He was a little boy, private carried up on a bench in a railroad depot and named nothing. His hair was touched, his clothes polished, his I think I served him. True, he was named by someone from the past and called of the West Point Cadet on duty. He was named, but he was named wrong with him, there was something very right. We had answered the call of the military, and in so doing had fulfilled his Christian obligation to God and Country.

Responsibility cannot be detached, and they cannot be substituted. In our country, when their country needs them to a breach of the fourth commandment. Military service is a debt we owe our country under God. In serving our country, we serve God.

Yet, behold, the conscription papers come among us with their imane penalties over American youth being drafted into military service. Conduct like this is definitely unethical.

Our country happens to be a world power second to none. We did not achieve this prominence by accident. Our country is strong today because in the past young men willingly paid their debt of loyalty to the Armed Forces. Some of them even paid the highest price possible. They died for their flag. They make us ashamed of ourselves.

At this very moment the men of the Strategic Air Command are living beneath the wings of their great jet bombers. They are ready to go. Let there be a scramble and they are airborne in seven minutes. They are under paid for what they are putting out. Only duty with the force of dedication keeps them there.

They are the one factor that an aggressive communist might need fears most. And right now, while you sit warm and comfortable in your living room or eat beside your comfortable plate, somewhere high over the Atlantic Ocean or above the North Pole, men of SAC are fighting to keep peace between the elements.

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Faithful statue and icon of Christ symbolize hope in U.S. embassy at Moscow.

## Kremlin Watches Every Visitor

The writer of the following article, managing editor of the Catholic Review, newspaper of the Baltimore archdiocese, recently completed a 12-day fact-finding tour of the Soviet Union and other European countries.

By GERARD E. SHERRY  
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

One of the most depressing aspects of a visit to the Soviet Union is the Red regime's emphasis on internal security. No one, not even a casual visitor, can escape the "Big Brother" surveillance which pervades the Soviet Capital.

Before I visited Moscow, I had assumed that the effects of a police state were exaggerated by many reporters and writers. However, personal experiences have confirmed the official suspicion and mistrust of all foreigners that exist in the Soviet Union today.

Much has been said by Soviet leaders about the "Spirit of Camp David." Even more has been written and said about the Soviet Union's desire to ease tensions. Gift-bearing Red leaders have topped many parts of the world accompanied by "gangs of peace." However, there is no sign of peace or tranquility in the security arrangements of the Soviet Union.

One example will suffice to justify these remarks. You would expect it to come out of a fictional spy thriller. It actually happened in Moscow at a time when Premier Nikita Khrushchev was glibly making the West feel as fear the deeds of the Russian Bear.

On Thanksgiving Day I attended a special luncheon at the home of U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn Thompson. I was scheduled to have dinner later with the family of one of the American Embassy officials. Around mid-day we left by car for his home.

We had no sooner rounded the corner where the American Embassy is when a Russian car with two policemen in it drew up at a respectable distance behind and followed us all the way to the official's apartment. I was surprised that this had been going on since the official arrived in Moscow.

There were a couple of heavy bodies, dinner, and we decided to take a walk on a main boulevard near the apartment house. The official accompanied by his children along with me went back to my hotel. The security police had their car warmed up and waiting. The police followed us downtown.

When I got out of the car to cross the street through a subway passage to get to my hotel, I had an escort — at a reasonable distance behind me. My contact with an embassy official made me a suspicious character.

I later discovered that all Western embassy officials are harassed in a similar manner — with almost-the-constant police surveillance.

Another depressing example of this tight security setup concerns my first meeting with Father [Name].

When I arrived at his apartment, we talked together in the small living room. With almost-the-constant police surveillance.

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American officials' homes and he carried out the same procedure before conversing. He also said they had irrefutable evidence of Soviet wire-tapping, even in the Embassy. It's not hard for the Russians to do this, especially in diplomatic apartment houses. After all, they are maintained by Soviet citizens under the direction of a government agency.

Repairs cannot be made unless government permits are obtained. It appears that no Western embassy's personnel are free from the possibility of wire-tapping in their homes. The same goes for businessmen and business officials. There have been cases, where foreign tourists and businessmen's personal rooms have been tapped.

This fact of Westerner's balloons to ridiculous proportions. For example: At all the entrances to apartment houses occupied by Westerners there are always two Russians on duty. The Russians say that they are guarding the Western residences. However, their real purpose is to find out as much as they can, and to keep out Russian citizens. You can't even see a Western newspaperman in his home without first showing credentials to the policeman at the gate.

But young Russians who speak English fluently have no fear of talking to a Westerner, as older Russians have. I recall several personal experiences where older Soviet citizens looked around apprehensively as they spoke with me. They obviously were afraid that "Big Brother" might be watching them.

After my own experience in Moscow, and after listening to the experiences of American residents there, it is difficult to take Soviet "peace" plans seriously. One obvious step towards the easing of tensions would be for the Soviets to relax their stringent security setup. There can be no genuine mutual understanding and trust until Westerners are allowed to mix freely with the Russians.

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## Roman Synod To Open Jan. 25

By MSGR. JAMES I. TUCEK

Rome — (NC) — The Rome synod, which opens on January 25, is expected to produce a code of 800 statutes for the government of the diocese of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.

About a quarter of these statutes will deal with the rights and duties of clergyman and laymen. It was learned that the site of the synod is not yet definitely settled, but the program and agenda it will follow are now fairly well outlined.

THE BARRICADE of St. John Lateran, the Pope's cathedral, which was originally neglected as the site of the assembly, is thought to be too cold for the three or four days work which the synod will require.

The synod will open with a religious service attended by the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Rome at which the assistance of the Holy Spirit will be called down on those taking part. At the conclusion of the service, the ceremonial cry "Extra omnia" — (beyond all things) — will be pronounced and all persons not qualified will have to leave the place of assembly. The work of the synod will then begin.

Though nothing has been officially announced to that effect, it is believed that Pope John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, will officiate at some part of the synod. The Pope announced last Jan. 25 that he would convene a diocesan synod. At the same time he revealed that he plans to convene an ecumenical council.

WHOEVER PRESIDES at the synod — either Pope John or his vicar for Rome, Clement Cardinal Miceli — will give the instruction for the reading of the statutes which have been prepared for proposal to the synod. In the days that follow, the individual articles will be examined in detail and those participants having an active voice, chiefly the officials and pastors of the diocese of Rome — will be asked for their views.

At the conclusion of the synod, it is expected, there will be a closing ceremony in which the findings of the synod will be published, and at which the energy and loyalty of the diocese will again come together in an act of thanksgiving.

The agenda of the synod are the work of 25 experts, among whom have been theologians, canon law scholars, officials of the diocesan curia and a select group of parish priests.

Their work began with a poll of opinions, very much like the preparatory work for the ecumenical council in miniature. Pastors and laymen were consulted. Chapters of various high schools, colleges, and universities were analyzed and synthesized and then were voted on for entry into the agenda.

The most often repeated suggestion that came from the polls of the diocese concerned the liturgy and preaching. Lay people asked for simplification of liturgical ceremonies so that they would be an aid, not a distraction, to devotion.

They asked also for sermons dealing with essential and practical matters, rather than high-flown oratory.

A primary motive for holding the synod, according to the Pope, has been the phenomenal growth of Rome in recent years. Since 1921, the population of Rome quadrupled. During the same period, however, the number of Roman parishes has only doubled.

The problem of vocations to the priesthood has also been a sore one for Rome. Authorities now estimate that the diocese needs 1500 priests a year. Last year there were only 15 priests ordained, while in preceding years, the number was often less than 10. Rome's major and minor seminaries now count a total of only 251 students.

From Kodak To Catechism  
Olas, Japan — When Maryknoll priests here built a replica of the famous Lourdes shrine, they never thought it would become a favorite picture-taking spot.

But every week hundreds of Japanese pilgrims flock to the shrine at Lourdes, the shrine to Our Lady of the Grotto in its native setting.

The missionaries now hope that the photographic interests of the people will draw them to a further interest in the Church.

## My Mother Says We Shouldn't Have More Than Four Children

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.

Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Louis University

I have a wonderful mother except for one. She was married late (29 years old) and after one child, she started a campaign against having any more. Now that we have four and want at least one more, if possible, her objections have increased. At first she stressed my health, but recently she's been saying that my husband will kill himself trying to support so many. He laughs at her, yet this last approach has me worried.

Some day, Betty, I hope that a psychiatrist or psychologist will demonstrate that to the masses, women of the strange women's condition by neighbors, friends, and relatives, your mother's children's health, health to have.

As a rule, others pay most attention to what you eat, how you dress, your manner, where you go on a vacation, the type of car you buy, where you choose to work or live, and so forth, but by some curious type of logic they feel called upon to pass judgment upon your mother's health.

If my question should be entirely yours, it is this: do you really want to have a bleeding heart child and you also must accept the long years of service and responsibility that are necessarily involved?

Another characteristic of this strange campaign is the fact that my mother's objections are based on the moral implications of their advice to limit the family.

They are old enough to know the meaning of the word "law" and the moral law that governs the people of the world. They are old enough to know that they have a responsibility that are necessarily involved.

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