

## Racial, Religious Progress

# Growing Out Of Prejudice

Two newspapers at quite opposite ends of the status seekers' ladder this week commented on the still widespread wrangling about whether a Catholic in public office is free of Vatican control.

The Wall Street Journal noted that "one Protestant assembly after another has sounded off" on the alleged danger that if a Catholic became president "the hierarchy of the Catholic Church would get to meddling in politics."

"What we find most remarkable about this issue is that all of the politically busy clergymen we see are Non-Catholics. And if what they are doing isn't meddling in politics, what is it?" asks the Journal.

Echoing the famed financial newspaper was the Negro-published Washington Afro-American.

"Colonial people know how Catholics feel under this new outbreak of religious bigotry. Prejudice is familiar to us. We have suffered race prejudice too long to line up with people who have religious prejudice," the editorial stated.

The current wave of religious prejudice seeks to keep a Catholic out of the White House.

Prejudice against Negroes seeks to keep them out of any house in thus-far all white neighborhoods.

Racial prejudice is aimed at one man. Racial prejudice makes victims of thousands.

As Catholics we know the fears against a member of our faith in public office are groundless. But we too often share the equally groundless fears about Negroes moving into our neighborhood.

The most frequently expressed fear of a Negro for a neighbor is that property values in the area will collapse.

A just published University of California book reports 10,000 real estate transactions in San Francisco and Philadelphia.

Luigi Laurenti, research economist and author of the book "Property Values and Race," says, "The odds are about four to one that house prices in a neighborhood entered by non-whites will keep up with or exceed prices in a comparable all-white area."

Instead of relying on what people think about property values, Laurenti checked statistics from 1943 to 1955. He studied neighborhoods in the two cities which have remained all-white and those which have become mixed during the 12 year period.

In 41 per cent of the cases, he found little difference in the change of property values whether they stayed all-white or became interracial.

In 44 per cent of the cases, home prices in the interracial neighborhoods increased above those in the still white areas. Price increases ranged from 5 to 26 per cent.

In the remaining 15 per cent of the cases, prices in the interracial areas dropped below prices in the all-white neighborhoods.

Laurenti blamed "panic" selling of homes by whites for most of the dip in property values in this 15 per cent. He said in recent years, fewer cases of panic are reported and racial transition is a more peaceful process.

His statistics indicate white Americans, at least in the two cities he studied — and he quotes similar recent studies in Kansas City, Chicago and Detroit, are growing out of their fears about the economic hazards of having Negroes for neighbors.

A parallel growth in maturity is reflected in the reaction of more and more Americans against religious prejudice too.

The Wall Street Journal is not alone in voicing this reaction. Editorials in scores of newspapers across the country and statements by many leading members of other religious groups testify to the confidence Americans have for their Catholic fellow citizens.

Whether Vice President Nixon or Senator Kennedy is elected president in November, if the majority of Americans make their choice on a political basis rather than for or against a candidate's religion, then our nation will have taken a major step — a step in overcoming its religious prejudice even as it is gradually but persistently overcoming its racial prejudice.

## Readings At Random

# Dedication To Nation's Ideals Our Best Defense

The older morning I got up very early to attend a breakfast given for General Alfred M. Gunther, president of the American Red Cross. The General is a former commander of NATO and was a leading military figure in World War II.

General Gunther recently went to the Soviet Union and we swapped stories and impressions. Inasmuch as I was in the Soviet capital last December, it was surprising to find how lenient were many of our views in relation to the Soviet people and the probable course of world events as they affect the Soviets.

The General later on gave a public address in which he made the point, as often occurs in his election period, that the battle against the forces of Communism will not be won by military superiority alone but primarily on the psychological and economic fronts.

He said there must be a reawakening in the American people of a sense of dedication to the spiritual ideals of our country. If we don't have this, he said, all the military force in the world will not accomplish our aims.

Your Reaper has made this very point over and over again; and he has received his quota of letters denouncing him for it. The critics seem to believe that the waving of

sabers of the American Flag guarantees liberty and justice for all.

Alas, this is not so. The sense of dedication needed by our people goes beyond the mere term of "Americanism"; it goes beyond the clever clichés of the writers and orators; it goes beyond the double talk of the politicians. Indeed, it reaches out to permeate every level of society and every activity within that society.

We are a well-disciplined lot. Despite ourselves, we are geared to the pursuit of happiness and its material sense. They view everything in black and white terms of Communism or Anti-Communism. They see citizens of other countries as people, not persons endowed with a divine dignity and eternal destiny.

They view hardship and suffering as punishments meted out by an angry God. They never view them as avenues towards liberation and salvation.

The image of America is certainly one of frenzied, bustling industries. Our huge farms, and our towering skyscrapers are symbols of our vast activity. But beneath it

all we have waved fat. We have come to believe that we are the chosen people. However, if we are the chosen ones, we do not act like it.

We have come to look upon the Beautiful God as our partner instead of our Master. We thank him occasionally (perhaps) for the many benefits He has bestowed upon us, but we approach it all as if it were our right instead of our privilege.

We have waved fat. Despite ourselves, we have lived up to many of our responsibilities throughout the world. We have assumed a position of leadership not by desire — only by accident. That leadership is yet to be tested.

In the coming years we may have to swallow our pride as a member of the world community. We will have to face the fact that we will suffer reverses which cannot all be attributed to the Communist menace. We will find new nations viewing us with distrust; on some world issues we will find them aligning themselves with the Communist world; and we will have to accept the fact that they are not necessarily anti-American in doing so.

Many of us seem to have the idea that anyone who disapproves of the actions of the United States or its allies is immediately pro-Communist and anti-West.

What is all this leading up to? Obviously, if we wish to continue to be a leader in the world, then a sense of dedication in our way of life, in our spiritual heritage, has to be awakened in the minds and hearts of individuals. This sense of dedication cannot be merely at the top level of government. It has to spread to families and individuals.

All this will require effort and sacrifice. After all, dedication to an ideal implies sacrifice and service. Last but not least comes the spiritual dedication in which we view communism and secularism as inimical to our way of life; in which we improve ourselves spiritually to the extent that we will be wise in the ways of God and all this for one purpose — being prepared.

When the time of testing comes — as it surely will — we and our children must not sell out to the enemy merely to conserve our material abundance. This is the real issue — and let the critics rave.

Are we dedicated to our country enough spiritually to sacrifice our comforts in its interests? This is the question which plagues us now and will continue to plague us until we look beyond creature comforts to the better life in which all men are free; in which we see Christ in every color, every person, and every nation.

—GEORGE K. BREWERY

## What More Can We Say

# Favored Religion Role Not Wanted

Washington — A Catholic theologian this week declared unfounded fears that a Catholic legislator or executive might "decrease" free Catholic moral precepts in National law.

Father Gustave Weigel, S.J., said the fear was based on a confusion of the salesman's private life and his role as a civil servant.

"In his public role," the priest said, "he is a means of the law which is framed for practical purposes and canonics as philosophy or theology."

The Jesuit, a professor at Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland, spoke on "A Theological Consideration of the Relations between Church and State" at the start of the Most Blessed Sacrament here.

Father Weigel said "some Non-Catholic Americans feel quite assured that American Catholics do not want us, and what is more important, cannot change our American freedom of religion."

"They do not want," he said, "the religious freedom

of American Non-Catholics to be curtailed in any way. They sincerely want the present First Amendment to be retained and become ever more effective.

With a note of desperation, P. said, "what more can we say?"

The priest concluded the talk with what he called a "personal testimony."

"I have been working in theology over thirty years. I have always admired and loved my country with its institutions and history. I can sincerely say that there is absolutely nothing in Catholic theology which would prevent a Catholic from holding public office on any level according to the spirit and letter of our American laws."

## Then Wall, Big Heart

# Crosby Film Rome Reality

By JAMES O'NEILL

Rome — (NC) — A very thin wall and a very big heart separate the two boys' clubs here. One belongs to the communists, the other to a white-haired priest with an infectious grin and a will to win.

Father Guido Galli needs to the wall and the will-power to keep the wall standing which separates the first of his four teenagers' clubs in Rome from his neighbor.

In fact the wall is almost a symbol. "Communist propaganda," he said, "is specifically aimed today at teenagers. To attract youth to a Christian outlook, to help them meet the tremendous pressures brought to bear by communists it is necessary to build youth centers and recreational and cultural spots where they are at home and in which they find the outlets for their talents and interests."

FATHER GALLI, working almost entirely with teenagers, has opened four centers in Rome which now have a membership of about 550 and a staff of 15 workers. Among his volunteer workers are Natalie Coors of San Francisco, secretary to U.S. Ambassador James D. Zellerbach, and several American priests studying in Rome.

Ambassador Zellerbach has visited the first of the four centers, which is located near the Church of St. Peter in Chains.

Father Galli's closest collaborator, however, is his 87-year-old mother. They come to talk with her in our house everyday, the girls particularly. She is very smiling and always very patient," he said.

The Bologna-born priest credits his idea for the teen-agers' club to the inspiration he got from seeing Bing Crosby in "Going My Way."

"I first saw the picture in 1944," he said. "The communists were very strong in Bologna and many people didn't like priests. Then along came this picture. Everyone was impressed with the humaneness in the priest portrayed by Bing. The movie house was jammed and I suggested that through singing we could reach these teenagers."

Father Galli started with a broken chair and a nail for a nail-puller. Despite three floods which practically destroyed his premises in 1955, 1956 and 1957, the club grew with it grew. Father Galli's dream is to build other clubs and training centers both for boys and girls and even children. The only cost of membership is a charge of 100 lire (16 cents) monthly to meet government taxes.

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Father Galli joined the United States a couple of years ago to expert on youth problems. As the great of the Cleveland International Youth Exchange Program and later of the State Department, the Italian priest has nothing but praise for American youth programs.

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SENATOR KENNEDY

FATHER MALONEY

## Service Of Our Great Country

Senator Joseph Maloney of our Lady of Lourdes parish, Rochester, gave a prayer of blessing at the Community War Memorial when Senator John F. Kennedy visited the city Wednesday. An estimated 50,000 packed city streets to cheer the Democratic presidential candidate. Father Maloney's prayer asked: "Allmighty and eternal God we earnestly beseech Thy blessing on us. May we be ever mindful that in serving our fellowmen we are in truth serving Thee. Bless O Lord, all who labor in the service of our great country, Amer."

—Courtesy of the Courier Journal photo by Chuck Mantell.

to know some of the thousands of the boys who just hung around public parks and squares doing nothing.

"I went down to the Circus Maximus," the priest explained, "with some candy and a soccer ball. I got them playing soccer and in a short time I suggested that they might like to sing in a glee club with me."

The suggestion, he says, was taken up with delight but it left the problem of where to sing. Through some friends he was allowed to use some basement rooms in a club belonging to Rome's street-sweeper union.

"The first time in there it was impossible to stay," he recalled. "It smelled bad and there was mud, no light and a nightmarish quality about the place. I looked out of the room but the boys pushed me back in and we stayed," he recalled.

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## Bishop Kearney's Appointments

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