

Can We Censor Dirty Magazines? Prayers at Mass

Bishop Kearney's Appointments

NOVEMBER

- 2 Thursday — Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse — Low Mass — 6:30 a.m.
- Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse — Low Mass — 7:30 a.m.
- 3 Friday — St. Joseph's Church — St. Monica Sodality Mass — 9:00 a.m.
- St. Bernard's Seminary — Conference — 5:30 p.m.
- 4 Saturday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass, Eightieth Birthday of Pope John XXIII — 11:00 a.m.
- Manzer Hotel — St. Mary's Hospital Banquet — 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Sunday — St. Joseph's Church — Ceneale Guild Mass — 9:00 a.m.
- St. Philip Neri Church — Confirmation — 3:00 p.m.
- Christ the King Church — Confirmation — 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Monday — St. Joseph Church — Mass for Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus — 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Tuesday — St. Anthony's Church — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 8 Wednesday — St. Francis of Assisi Church — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Thursday — Buffalo, N.Y. — Opening, C.Y.O. Convention.
- 10 Friday — Buffalo, N.Y. — Low Mass, C.Y.O. Convention — 8:00 a.m.
- Buffalo, N.Y. — Preside, C.Y.O. Convention — 2:00 p.m.
- 13-17 Monday - Friday — Catholic University, Washington, D.C. — Annual Meeting of Bishops of the United States.
- 19 Sunday — St. Cecilia's Church, N.Y. City — Alumni Mass.
- 25 Saturday — St. Patrick's Cathedral, N.Y. City — Sermon, 75th Anniversary of Founding of Sisters of Divine Compassion — 9:30 a.m.
- 26 Sunday — St. Joseph's Church — Annual Communion-Breakfast, Employees of Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co. — 9:00 a.m.
- St. Theodore's Church — Confirmation — 3:00 p.m.
- Precious Blood Church — Confirmation — 4:30 p.m.
- St. Thomas More Church — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Monday — St. Mary's Hospital — Low Mass in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal — 8:30 a.m.
- 28 Tuesday — Aquinas Institute — Address, Honor Assembly — 9:00 a.m.
- St. Francis Xavier Church — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Thursday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass, Patronal Feast of St. Andrew's Seminary — 10:00 a.m.
- Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater, N.Y. — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.

New York — (RNS) — A group of prominent psychiatrists, lawyers, writers and Catholic priests met here for a unique conference on problems involved in obscenity censorship under the First Amendment.

Sponsored by The Catholic World, a Paulist Fathers monthly published here, the conference panelists exchanged such divergent views as pornographic material acts as a "safety valve" for maladjusted personalities to the opinion that suppression of obscene publications actually increases the "freedom" of persons from addiction to such material.

Entitled "Freedom of Speech and Obscenity Censorship," the symposium was the first in a projected series on the First Amendment under the auspices of The Catholic World, the oldest Catholic magazine in continuous publication in the U.S.

In discussing legal aspects of pornography censorship, Osmond K. Fraenkel, general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, called for a "workable compromise" between those favoring restraint of freedom of expression and those who want some controls "to protect the community against indecent exposure."

"We must realize," he maintained, "that highbrow class judgment of art" should not interfere with the freedom of publishing material for the masses which has "release value." He added there is a definite need for extensive study to determine the relationship of pornography to anti-social behavior.

Another view was taken by Father Robert F. Drinan, S.J., dean of the Boston College Law School, who maintained that restricting the freedom of pornography publishers is done "for the sake of a greater freedom — so that we might increase the freedom of people who have become addicted to pornography."

The priest-lawyer said that Catholics are regarded as "prigs" by the public in censorship matters because they are ineffective in getting across this traditional position of the Church.

"Catholics should not accept this argument of a 'safety valve' value" in allowing pornographic material to be distributed, he asserted, while noting that obscene publications are an offense to human dignity.

Conference chairman William B. Bail, a Harrisburg, Pa., attorney, outlined existing interpretations of laws governing pornographic material as set forth through Federal Supreme Court decisions. He noted that the high court had defined pornography as material which "to the average person, applying contemporary community standards, the dominant theme as a whole, appeals to prurient interests."

The subject of what the court meant by "contemporary community standards" was taken up by another priest-lawyer, Father John B. Sheerin, C.S.P., editor of The Catholic World and one of the program panelists.

Because of the spread of mass media, Father Sheerin said, the consensus of morality has leveled out over the country. "There is no cogent reason to believe that the court meant a local community," he contended.

Remarking that pornography has developed into a \$500,000,000 business in the U.S., the priest-editor main-

tained that legislative controls are not the answer in restricting the flow of obscene material.

"We must turn to self and voluntary control," he commented, urging that civic and church groups join in forming citizens committees to discuss the problems of obscenity censorship.

As an example of his suggestion, he cited the results of a "cooperative effort" between civic leaders in the Bronx, N.Y., and newsmen in a neighborhood area in getting offensive material off newsstands.

Taking issue with the view that people concerned with restricting the distribution of pornography are "neurotic," Father Sheerin said: "The American idea is that we the people are the watchdogs of public morality — therefore there are 180,000,000 watchdogs in America."

This comment was directed at a remark by Father George Hagmaier, C.S.P., a psychologist and associate director of the Paulist Institute for Religious Research here, who maintained that self-appointed "watchdogs," prompted by their neuroses, sometimes are the driving forces behind anti-obscenity campaigns.

Father Hagmaier had told the conference that "any public legislation of private morality must be avoided" because it invades the sanctity of private conscience. He assailed the "often fanatic devotion of dedicated self-appointed watchdogs in the community who delight in censoring the written and spoken word."

Another panelist, William H. Dempsey Jr., a member of a Washington, D.C. law firm, discussed the so-called "effects" controversy between what the censors demand and what the First Amendment demands.

Literature and motion pictures, he explained, cannot be subjected to censorship unless they "result in some evil that the state should control." But, he added, the Supreme Court decisions on obscenity censorship have not given adequate answers to the question of "What is obscenity?"

Norman St. John-Stevan, political correspondent of The Economist, a London journal, traced the history of censorship versus freedom of literary expression in England and the U.S.

The 30-year-old Britisher, who once was a Conservative Party candidate for Parliament, said the transformation from the "robust and masculine taste" of 18th century English literature "into Victorian prudery and squeamishness" was due, at least in part, to the introduction of compulsory education which resulted in "a new semi-literate public" in the 19th century.

He pointed out that despite prevailing attitudes of the Victorian age, pornography was widely disseminated during the period and that

prostitution was a grave social evil. "It was an age of continuing revolution with a definite underworld," he added.

Other speakers included Dr. Frederic Wertham, New York psychiatrist; Dr. Carl J. Hoffman, a psychiatrist connected with the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Medical School; and Dr. Ralph S. Banay, a penal psychiatrist.

Also Father Charles M. Whelan, S.J., adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.; Philip J. Scharper, editor of Sheed & Ward, Inc., Catholic book publishers; Richard A. Duprey, drama professor at Villanova (Pa.) University; and Joseph E. Cuneen, an editor of Cross Currents magazines.

Lectors Aid Rome Laity

By LUCIANO CASIMIRRI

Rome — (NC) — The ancient post of lector is being restored in Rome in an organized way and with new dignity to encourage the laity to participate actively at Mass.

Teenage boys have been organized into teams or lectors, or commentators, to aid the Holy See in its goal of fuller congregational participation in the liturgy. The project is the work of Msgr. Dante Balboni, director of the liturgical section of the Vatican Library.

Actually, the office of lector is the oldest of the minor orders. It was established in the early Church as a lesser order than those of bishop, priest and deacon and it constituted ordained ministers whose primary duty was to read the Scriptures at public assemblies of Christians. In practice, the responsibilities of the lectors were gradually taken over by the subdeacons and deacons, and the office of lector in effect became merely a titular order and a stepping-stone to the priesthood.

The office of lector was revived, however, in the major "instruction" of Sacred Music and the Liturgy issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in September, 1958. The decree provided for a lector to read the Epistle and Gospel in the vernacular while the priest at low Mass reads them in Latin.

Combined with the post of lector was the function of "commentator" — the first mention of such a post in a pontifical document.

The decree stated: "The active participation of the faithful, especially at Holy Mass . . . can be more easily accomplished with the use of a commentator. At the proper moment and in a few words, he interprets the rites themselves and the prayers or lessons of the celebrant of his sacred minister, and directs the external participation of the faithful, namely their response, prayers and songs."

Msgr. Balboni had been trying to revive the office of lector long before the 1958 decree. He first conceived of the idea when he was ecclesiastical assistant to the young people's section of Catholic Action in his native diocese of Ferrara in northern Italy.

It was in Rome that the priest was first able to try out his idea. After several years of preparation, the first lectors were blessed on December 8, 1957, in the Church of the Nativity here.

This group consisted of 12 boys of 13 or older. In succeeding years, 10 groups have been formed in Rome, as well as others in Ferrara, Naples and Comacchio. Other groups are in the process of formation in Cremona, Treviso and Nardo. The concept naturally gained impetus through the 1958 decree and it has also been spread by pamphlets sent to all the bishops of Italy.

Meanwhile, Msgr. Balboni, now 44, has prepared a handbook outlining the duties and training of the boys. He is now preparing a more complete edition, and is awaiting approval of special ceremonies for the liturgical blessing of a lector.

Msgr. Balboni's manual describes the functions of the lector as follows:

- 1) He reads the Proper of the Mass in Italian.
- 2) He briefly explains the rites, prayers or readings.
- 3) He directs the responses, prayers and singing of the congregation.

The pamphlet suggests that two lectors be used during the Mass. One leads the collective prayers and singing while the other reads the Epistle and Gospel and other parts of the Proper.

Cultural preparation includes a course on the Mass and general liturgy. The boys also receive voice and diction instruction from radio broadcasters.

When he has completed his studies, the lector is vested and blessed. His uniform is a white Roman tunic reaching to the ground. It is marked with two red stripes down the front and stripes of red on the full sleeves.

The young men are now well known and many people prefer to attend Mass where there is a lector to guide them.

Rome's lectors are expected to play an important part in the international congress of assistants to the Mass which will be held in September, 1962, in Rome. This congress will bring together altar boys, choir boys and lectors from the world over.



Saints of Unity

ST. NONNA . . . converted her pagan husband, who is now known as St. Gregory Nazianzen the Elder. They were the parents of the young saint of that name, of St. Gorgonia and of St. Casarius, the last two of whom pre-deceased her. Her feastday is August 5.

Afternoon Communion OK'd For Shut-ins

Vatican City — (NC) — Sick persons who are unable to leave their homes may now receive Holy Communion in the afternoon or evening even if they are not bedridden or in danger of death, the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office has ruled.

The October 21 decree contains three provisions which seek to forestall excessive use of the new privilege and the creation of difficulties for parish priests.

The Holy Office stipulated:

- 1) The new concession is available only to people who have not been able to leave their homes for a week because of illness.
- 2) In making use of the privilege, consideration must be given to what local priests are able to do. Local priests will judge each case whether the request of a sick person is reasonable and will also set the time for taking Communion to him.
- 3) The Eucharistic fast for sick persons must be observed. This means that they must abstain from solid food and alcoholic drinks for three hours before Communion, although they may drink non-alcoholic liquids and take any medicines — in liquid or solid form — without any restriction of time limit.

L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, commented on the Holy Office ruling, noting that it gives all Catholics the most ample opportunity to receive Communion.

Daily Mass Calendar

- Sunday, Oct. 29 — Christ the King (white), Gloria, Creed, special preface.
 - Monday, Oct. 30 — Mass of 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (green), 1918 — Rev. Otto Geiger.
 - Tuesday, Oct. 31 — Mass as yesterday, 1959 — Monsignor Joseph Balcerak.
 - Wednesday, Nov. 1 — All Saints (white), Gloria, Creed, Holyday.
 - Thursday, Nov. 2 — All Souls (black), Three Masses as in missal.
 - First Friday, Nov. 3 — Mass as Monday or Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (white).
 - First Saturday, Nov. 4 — St. Charles Borromeo (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer for Pope, anniversary of his coronation, 3rd prayer of SS. Vitalis and Agricola, or Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Priests listed above died on the date indicated. Please pray for them.

Reapings at Random

Next Tuesday is Halloween and the family will prepare for disrupted scenes as children vie for the best costumes to display in the neighborhood.

There will be fairy queens, gypsies, rabbits, angels, devils, brides, grooms, and a host of other characters running around the neighborhood. Not to be forgotten will be the witches who traditionally oil their brooms and take off for the never-never land of candy and cookies.

It is all great fun except for the fact that there are also a awful lot of tummy aches through an excessive enjoyment of the goodies which are available from door to door. This is truly a night when youngsters have their fling and enjoy themselves. Regular bedtimes are delayed, and for once television sets get a little rest.

In recent years Halloween in this country has taken on an added significance. It is a night of laughter and gaiety on the part of youngsters and a night of neighborliness. More important, however, it is now a night of remembrance.

This is because while our kids have plenty there are millions of other children around the world who have nothing. And it is to these needy children that we have all been asked

to give some thought. This can be accomplished by welcoming the Halloween collector for the United Nations Children's Fund.

The UNICEF collection has taken on an official character inasmuch as it enjoys the support of the United States Government, and has had such support in its decade of existence.

In a message of congratulations and support to UNICEF, President Kennedy said "the world's children offer our greatest promise for the future." He said the fund "has worked tirelessly and effectively across national boundaries to help children escape the threat of hunger and disease." This program, he said, "has already had a real impact upon today's children, and its benefits will be felt even more keenly by the millions of children to come." UNICEF "has caught the imagination of our people — especially our nation's children whose Halloween collections have become a symbol of concern and an expression of tangible aid."

Another great supporter of UNICEF is the Holy See. Ever since the fund started the late lamented Pope Pius XII gave an annual contribution from the Vatican. This has been continued by the present Holy Father, Pope John XXIII. Indeed, this is just one further piece of evidence of Vatican support for worthy projects of the United Nations.

UNICEF Sends 'Treats' to Children of World

By GERARD E. SHERRY

Editor, Central California Register

There are some people in this country, alas, who refuse to give any support to UNICEF. Indeed, they spend their time at taking it. Their reasoning is not only that it is an agency of the "godless United Nations," but, more important, UNICEF helps children in Communist lands. This, according to its critics, means that UNICEF is aiding and abetting the Communist conspiracy and as such cannot be properly supported by true, patriotic Americans.

Frankly, this is a lot of balderdash. I am quite willing for my small contribution to UNICEF to go to help some needy child in a Communist country. In the same way as I would not object to it to going to a needy child in the neutral countries or the countries of our Allies. If we are going to ask a starving youngster what are his politics before we will feed him, we have come to a sorry state in our evaluation of Christian charity.

You can be sure that Pope John did not ask whether the Vatican's contribution was going to help a needy child in Poland, Yugoslavia, Albania or Greece or Ghana or India. The humanitarian conscience of the Holy See is unfettered by such irrelevances.

One more thought in this regard. The mere fact that we have such a division of viewpoints in the United Nations makes it

impossible to guarantee that all the UNICEF money collected here will be used only for the children of those countries friendly to us. No child is responsible for the politics of his parents, or even the possible despotic rule of the leaders of his country. Hence, we should look upon the UNICEF collection at Halloween as something which is above the Cold War; above the so-called debate between the liberals and conservatives; above the idea that the ultra-patriot must oppose UNICEF because some of its money goes to Communist countries.

This writer has traveled in many parts of the world. He has seen poverty and despair, which one cannot find even in the worst slums of this country. He has seen youngsters rummaging through the garbage cans of Hong Kong, Bombay, Accra, Cairo and many other foreign cities. I haven't the heart to look at the face of a child suffering from gross malnutrition and not share my bread with him. Maybe I'm too soft hearted.

Maybe I should demand to know his political affiliation. Before I give him my pityance maybe I should ask him whether he knows anything about the Constitution of the United States. Perhaps I should give him a test in the meaning of democracy; and if he passes it with flying colors, maybe I should double my contribution. How stupid can we get?

Perhaps the fact that the church, large or small, would be a ready unit.

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Bishop Casey's Appointments

NOVEMBER

- 2 Thursday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass for the deceased priests, nuns and parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish — 7:45 p.m.
- 3 Friday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass for Children, Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Parish — 10:30 a.m.
- 4 Saturday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass, Eightieth Birthday of Pope John XXIII, Bishop Kearney, Celebrant — 11:00 a.m.
- Notre Dame Retreat House — Supper, Weekend Retreat of Sacred Heart men — 8:00 p.m.
- 5 Sunday — Holy Cross — Confirmation — 4:30 p.m.
- Sacred Heart Hall — Rochester Comitium, Legion of Mary Annual Dinner — 8:00 p.m.
- St. Charles — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Monday — Sacred Heart Hall — Boy Scout Court of Honor — 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Wednesday — St. Monica — Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
- 8 Thursday — St. Boniface — Confirmation — 7:45 p.m.
- 12 Sunday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Confirmation — 4:00 p.m.
- Holy Rosary — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Monday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Reception of New Rosary Guild members — 7:45 p.m.
- 15 Wednesday — National Shrine, Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. — Pontifical Mass for Pope John XXIII — 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Wednesday - Friday — Catholic University, Washington, D.C. — Annual meeting of Bishops.
- 23 Thursday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving — 8:00 a.m.
- 26 Sunday — Blessed Sacrament — Confirmation — 4:30 p.m.
- St. Andrew — Confirmation — 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Thursday — Sacred Heart Cathedral — Solemn Pontifical Mass, Patronal Feast of St. Andrew's Seminary — Bishop Kearney, Celebrant — 10:00 a.m.

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Cool Trip

Hong Kong — West Berlin has no monopoly on refugees. Hong Kong, too, receives more than its share of people trying to escape from a "Communist Paradise." It was a short trip.

"Everyday hundreds of refugees from Red China filter into the tiny British Crown Colony here," says Maryknoll Father Eugene A. Thaiman, of Wilmette, Ill.

"They come by every conceivable route and method. Recently I heard of a unique but successful entry. A couple of ingenious Chinese locked themselves in a refrigerator train bound for the Colony. Fortunately for them,