



Getting Ready for Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday will be observed in the Rochester Diocese on October 11. Preparing publicity for the day are Father John Duffy, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and his staff aides Miss Josephine Bartolomeo and Mrs. James Goble. Posters will be displayed in parish churches asking prayers and alms for the missions.

Not Just Age of the Laity Era of 'Community' Ahead

Milwaukee — (RNS) — The theory that this is the age of the layman in the Roman Catholic Church was questioned by a theologian in an address before the National Newman congress here.

Father Bernard J. Cooke, S.J., chairman of the theology department at Marquette University, said:

"It seems to me much more accurate to say that the years ahead will be the age of the Christian community, an age when we will be less and less conscious of the division between clergy and laity, and increasingly aware of being one people of God."

Press Founder Dies
New York — (NC) — Stephen W. Johnson, a founder of the Catholic Institute of the Press here, died (Sept. 17) in St. Elizabeth's hospital; he was 79 years of age.

Johnson, who helped form the local institute for Catholics in the mass media, served 10 years as the institute's treasurer. He served for 20 years on the research staff of the National Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Father Cooke said that for centuries the role of the laity in the Mass had been obscured, that even the architecture of the churches had contributed to the effort by raising the clergy on a high altar and consigning the congregation to a lower place — in effect, "the pit."

He suggested that the Church in those circumstances consisted of the professionally paid "redeemers" on the one hand and "those who paid for redemption" on the other.

"The priest at the altar has exercised not only a special role in this act of worship, but for practical purposes the exclusive role," Father Cooke asserted. "Now, this is being radically changed; the layman is recovering his rightful role as a Christian, his rightful role in the Eucharist is being restored to him. This is the import of the decree of Vatican II on the liturgy."

"Without the layman and his activity in the world, the Church is unable to achieve fully the mission entrusted to it. Only the layman — who is involved in business affairs, who holds political office and shapes the patterns of society, who is caught up in the complexities of family life — can translate Christianity into the innumerable expressions it is meant to take in the lives of men."

Father Cooke said the mission of Christianity demanded that Christians involve themselves in the world of men. He added:

"A Christianity that refused a basic identification with mankind is unfaithful to the message and example of Jesus of Nazareth. He sought identity with men of every class and kind; those who call themselves Christians cannot do less."

"Educated Catholics cannot be content with uneducated faith. Something as radical as genuine faith must permeate the entire consciousness of a person. For a well educated Catholic to have faith that does not touch upon and transform all his vision of life means that the integration which should mark an adult is missing. Yet, all too many of our college educated Catholics are leading this kind of schizophrenic existence: self-aware and mature in their inner areas of knowing, they remain quite adolescent or even infantile in their faith."

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God's Road Company is the 42 minute, 16 millimeter, full-color film that was described in the July-August issue of MISSION. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen is the narrator.

Write or Call:
Society for the Propagation of the Faith
50 Chestnut Street — HA 6-1466

Miller Scored For Stand on Immigration

Endorsed by Rep. William E. Miller, Republican Vice Presidential nominee, on proposed immigration law revisions have been sharply challenged in a letter signed by some 40 religious, welfare, labor and other organizations interested in immigration and refugee matters.

The letter, sent to Mr. Miller by the American Immigration and Citizenship Conference, to which the signatory groups belong, also expressed regret "that immigration is being made a partisan issue."

Fourteen religiously-affiliated agencies signed the letter.

The campaigning New York Congressman's speech of Sept. 7 at South Bend, Ind., where he claimed the proposed revised law would "open the floodgates for virtually any and all who would wish to come and find work in this country" drew a denial from the voluntary groups.

The proposed law would not "completely abolish our selective system," as the GOP candidate claimed, the letter said, but would "in fact" increase selectivity.

"Immigrants to be admitted would still have to pass the rigid selective admission requirements as to mental and physical health, good moral character, literacy, that they are not likely to become a public charge and that they are not a security risk," the nominee was told.

Groups signing the letter included the Department of Immigration of the National Catholic Welfare Service, Church World Service, overseas aid arm of the National Council of Churches; Lutheran Immigration Service; American Baptist Home Mission Societies; National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief; Action of the United Church Council for Christian Social Action; and several other agencies.



Nazareth Alumnae Plan Open House

Sisters Jamesetta, principal at Nazareth Academy, Mrs. Robert Hussey, alumnae association president, and Mrs. William Columbe, chairman of an "open house" program are ready to welcome Academy graduates Sunday, Sept. 27, 2 to 5 p.m. Program will include the Peruvian Choir, readings by Miss Francesca Gull from her soon-to-be-published book "I Sing of Summer" and refreshments served by Mrs. Eugene Steger.

Young Catholics Drifting From Church, Says Novak

Milwaukee — (RNS) — The Catholic Church is losing a high percentage of its promising and talented young members, a noted layman charged here.

That report was made to the 49th National Newman Congress here by Michael Novak, Harvard teaching fellow, editor of Current, a Catholic quarterly, and frequent contributor to Catholic magazines.

Novak gave these as his reasons why young Catholics left the Church:

1. They neglect the natural tendency to question their beliefs until it becomes too late.
2. They do not know what they personally believe. "They learned early in life that the way to do well in catechism class was to memorize," he said.
3. There is too much emphasis in the Church on authority
4. The intellectual standards of the Catholic Church too often are below the best standards.
5. There are too many sermons about the peace of mind derived from being a Catholic. At the same time, young Catholics frequently hear the accusation, "religion is a crutch," according to Novak.

"Many of our parents lived by a style of faith that is no longer possible," he remarked. "It's now a question of being a different kind of Catholic."

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE
Journal
Vol. 75 No. 51 Thursday, September 17, 1964
MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President
MAIN OFFICE 44 E. 26th St. — Baker 5-6118 — Rochester, N.Y. 14604
ALBANY OFFICE 317 Robinson Bldg., Lake St. — RE 3-4228 or RE 3-4118
AUBURN OFFICE 101 E. Geneva St. AL 3-4118
Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.
As required under the Act of October 3, 1917.
Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscriptions in U.S., \$4.00
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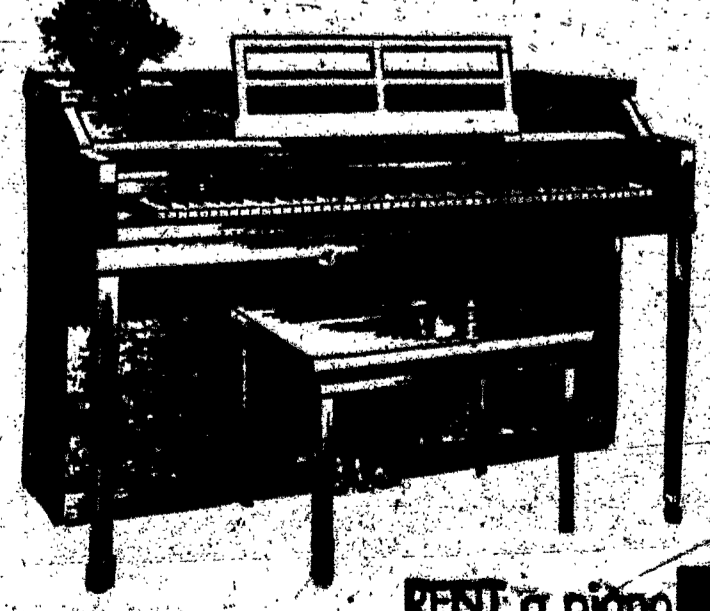
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