

An End to Worry

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

Are you worried? You see some threatening event or experience looming in your future and are torn with anxiety as to the possible consequences? Or you find yourself in a situation in which you feel helplessly trapped, with no way out?



Those of us who have to answer "Yes" to such questions, convict ourselves of having failed to make life's most important decision—the choice of God over all that is not God.

If God were capable of impatience, He surely would be in a state of perpetual annoyance at us worriers. He has presented us with a formula for confident living that is plain, simple and infallible. God rightly could expect us to adopt His formula eagerly. But we do not.

TO COMMIT ourselves completely and irrevocably to God is what we are made for. A life built upon any other basis is an unnatural life, foredoomed to uncertainty and worry.

Once we have said unreservedly, "I am all Yours, God. Take me, work Your will in me, do what You want with me," all the bits and pieces of life, even the disasters, fall into place and begin to make sense. If I am confident that I am in God's hands, that He is acting freely in me without hindrance on my part, how can I be uneasy? What God wants for me has to be best for me. If that is not so, then there is no God.

"But," we may object, "I already have given myself to God. I already have consented in advance to whatever God may want to do in me and with me. The trouble is that I still have to make my own decisions—and so often my decisions seem to be the wrong ones."

First of all, let us be very sure that we are not deceiving ourselves. We may think that we have made a complete commitment, but when actually we are offering Him a divided heart. We do not specifically relegate God to second place as we would do by sin. But we make God share first place with some lesser goal, such as money or success or status.

The most common way of performing this spiritual balancing act between God and not-God, is to convince ourselves that what we want is also what God wants.

We do not deliberately reject God's will. Instead we evade making a thoroughly honest examination of our motives and a realistic application of God's standards to our contemplated actions. We tell ourselves that we are "not ready" to see His questioning crown.

However, assuming that we are not fooling ourselves when we say, "I want what God

wants," let us examine this problem of having to make our own decisions.

FIRST OF ALL we must remember that growth in grace is an organic growth, a growth with progressive stages. Even with the best of intentions, our responsiveness to God's will may be initially a sluggish response. With practice, with perseverance, with unrevoked willingness, we gain greater facility in detecting and doing God's will.

ANOTHER consideration is the fact that, once we have thrown ourselves wide open to God, "my own decision" is likely to be much less my own decision than I think. God will honor my free will, but His wisdom will be at work in me. If I could view my own thought processes as I waver between alternatives, I might be startled to see what a narrow margin of self-determination God leaves to me.

To a person who really seeks to make God's will supreme in his life, there can be no such thing as a "wrong" decision. When we have done our honest and unselfish best to fix upon the preferable course of action, then our choice is the right choice, no matter how unfortunate the immediate consequences may seem to be. Over the long haul, what now seems to have been an error will flow into a blessing.

"I know all this," you may say, "and I do try to do God's will, but still I worry. And I am ashamed that I do not have more trust in God."

There is no need to feel ashamed. It may be that you are afflicted with an anxiety neurosis which, like any other illness, is a cross to be borne with patience, unless and until a cure can be effected.

Meanwhile God sees your sinfulness and your distress. His love still enfolds you.

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Bishop Kearney reviews list of individual memorials available to Joint College Fund contributors with leaders of the campaign at Region I (Rochester Area) Special Gifts Kickoff dinner at St. John Fisher College Monday night. Shown (left to right) are Anthony Cashette, Annunciation Parish, Rochester, District C special gifts chairman; William G. O'Brien, St. Patrick's, Victor, District E special gifts chairman; and A. Michael Piehler, Sacred Heart Cathedral, District A special gifts chairman.

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Vietnam Decision By February 1st

Chicago — (NC) — Father Patrick O'Connor, Far East correspondent for N.C.W.C. News Service, said here there is a good chance the war in Vietnam may reach a decisive point around Feb. 1.

During an interview here, the lean 66-year-old Columbian priest was asked if there was a remote chance that the escalating war would come to a halt.

Father O'Connor, who has been covering the Vietnam conflict since 1952, replied: "Let me put it this way. The communists' great hope is that the people of the United States will grow weary and impatient with the fighting and force their government to withdraw its support of South Vietnam."

"It is quite possible—but this is certainly not a prediction on my part—that the communists are now making their maximum effort during this current rainy season. They probably have the hope, buoyed up and strengthened by reports of U.S. student protests, teach-ins and the like, that American determination will weaken soon."

"We could reach a decisive point around the Vietnamese festival of Tet (the lunar new year around Feb. 1)."

"If the communists realize, however slowly the U.S. may commit its forces, that there is a dogged determination in the American people to see this thing through, then they may listen to reason."

"But the U.S. must continue the big thrust. We must make it absolutely clear that we are not going to back down and bow out. I cannot emphasize this too strongly. If South Vietnam is to be defended it is vital that the communists be made aware that we are not going to lose heart or throw in the sponge in a hurry."

They Don't Want Any Dialogue

Geneva — (RNS) — An official of the ultra-fundamentalist International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) lashed out here with sharp criticism of the new World Council of Churches-Vatican joint working group, charging that the arrangement "places two-thirds of world Protestantism under the supervision and control of the Vatican."

The Rev. J. C. Maris of Amsterdam, Holland, ICCC secretary for Europe, made the charge at opening sessions of the organization's Sixth Plenary Congress. Some 800 delegates from 40 countries were expected at the meeting.

Parish

St. Patrick's Miss Savannah

St. Francis Solanus Our-Lady of the L

All Saints' Church lowville

St. Michael's, Mont

St. John's (Missi

St. Patrick's, Morv

Holy Cross, Ovid

Sacred Heart (Miss

St. Bernard's, Scipio

St. Hilary, Genoa

St. Isaac Jogues's

St. Patrick's, Senec

St. Mary's, Waterloo

St. Joseph's, Weeds

St. Mary Magdalen,

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Parish

St. Francis de Sales,

St. Stephen's, Genev

St. Mary's, Cananda

St. Felix, Clifton Sp

St. Dominic's, Short

St. Theresa's, Stanl

St. Mary's, Rushvi

St. Patrick, Macedon

St. Gregory's, Mario

St. Michael's, Newar

St. Mary's of the La

St. Anne's, Palmyra

St. Michael's, Penn

St. Andrew's, Dun

St. Francis, Phelps

St. Michael's, Lyons

Epiphany, Sodus

St. Rose of Lima

Point

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Parish

Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Anthony, Elmira

St. Casimir, Elmira

St. Cecilia, Elmira

St. Mary's, Elmira

St. John the Baptist,

St. Patrick's, Elmira

SS. Peter and Paul, E

Immaculate Concepti

St. Catherine of Sien

St. Margaret Mary, A

St. Charles Borromeo,

Holy Cross, Dryden

St. Anthony, Groton

St. Mary Our Mother

St. John, Evangelist,

St. Francis, Cator

St. Patrick's, Owego

St. James the Apost

St. Pius X, Van Ette

St. James, Waverly

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Rock