

Democracy and Catholic Education

by Father Leon Hart, C.S.B. Principal of Aquinas Institute

(This is the second in a series of articles on education promoted by the Catholic Educational Congress. The series offers a forum for Catholics to express themselves on questions vital to Catholic education, in the pages of the Catholic Courier-Journal.)

The future of Catholic Education rests the convictions that Catholic Education has instilled in the men and women who are products of that education.

The rapid escalation in the cost of education, both private and public, has forced Catholics to consider seriously whether it is economically possible to maintain their independent school system.

It would seem that it was never more necessary. The benefit of individuals, families and society, itself, demands that we maintain and improve existing religious schools and even increase their number and influence.

Why? The basic work of primary and secondary schools is to give students a liberal education. Man is a person, and thereby has a right to an education for his own humanity. The education of man should not be for something other than himself.

Adjustment to society, social and vocational skills may be important, but they must always remain secondary. The task of freeing man so that he may become a man is the essential work of education.

Core of Catholic Education

The basic work of education is the communication of wisdom. Instruction in the various subjects is important, but a unified understanding of the meaning of reality is the fundamental goal of education.

For those of us who believe that God, the divine Educator, intervened in history to teach us truths of paramount importance, it would be ironic if we did not have schools which are permeated with the wisdom of God.

A naturalist may make social studies the integrating subject of the curriculum, but surely this will not be the case for a Christian. We believe that only Christian teachers can give a truly liberal education because only Christian teachers are in a position to communicate true wisdom. The necessity of fostering wisdom, a vision of the meaning of the totality of the universe, no matter what a particular subject is being taught has always been a central thesis of Christian education.

Wisdom is not the result of reasoning, but rather comes from the unconscious influences of environment, literature, liturgy, poetry, drama, art, architecture and the wisdom and the vision of teachers. If a student's education in the home and in the schools is not permeated by Christian wisdom, all the conscious reasoning in later years will normally have little real influence in regard to vision of life.

"The proper function of the Catholic School is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity, to help youth grow according to the new creature they were made through baptism as they develop their own personalities."

(Declaration on Christian Education, Paul VI)

Choice, Diversity are Essential
If America is to remain a democracy—the defender of freedom—then it must preserve

at all cost every institution within itself that symbolizes and promotes freedom. Catholic schools are such an institution. The recent Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965 recognizes the benefits to society of a diversity and choice within educational institutions.

Is there a man alive who will not admit that the common good of our country absolutely demands law-abiding citizens, conscious of their moral obligations, respectful of the rights of others, and jealous of their own rights?

The state (Federal and State governments) is in no position—in fact it has no competence—to dictate what is morally right or morally wrong. The moral fiber of a society, particularly a democratic society, completely depends upon subsidiary institutions such as the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish churches to furnish and propagate moral and spiritual directives. The strength and vigor of the civil society is in direct proportion to the strength and vigor of the religious groups within the state.

In regard to the preservation of democracy and the teaching of democracy, this can hardly be done unless parents and teachers are free to teach according to their beliefs.

The state is not by its nature an educator. If the state inhibits education—which is centered on God, it leaves only education that is centered on the state. And this education, not for democracy, but for statism.

Unless a free people is allowed to educate according to its basic beliefs, the very foundations of democracy are neglected, and, in time, democracy itself decays.

It, therefore, seems entirely consistent that the state, in a pluralistic society, would encourage and financially support all those educational institutions which have met the qualifications to receive charters to exist as schools. Such support should be looked upon as a matter of civic need and democratic right.

President Johnson in his fight on poverty, disease and crime has recommended large expenditures to eliminate these social evils by attacking their radical causes. Their elimination is certainly for the common good. Surely the religious training of students would equally contribute to the common good.

Role of the Catholic Layman
Catholic parents are in a very advantageous position in this matter. First and foremost, they are the ones primarily responsible for the education of their children, and the most effective educational influence in the lives of their children.

Besides being parents, they are members simultaneously of the Church and the State. Each of these institutions has fundamental rights and responsibilities relative to education.

This dual membership makes possible for Catholic parents to participate on school boards, on legislative committees, on public forums, in educational associations, as local, state and federal politicians strictly as citizens.

In their quest for public financial support of the education of their children, they do so as American citizens, and not as Catholics. In exercising this right, they promote the cause of democracy, and the moral strength of the American society just as much as they provide for the Christian education of their children. What is destructive of one is destructive of the other; what is beneficial to the individual is advantageous to American society.

Particularly important is the fact that the lay Catholic is acting in this endeavor. He is not a Bishop, or a member of a religious community of priests, brothers or sisters who may easily be accepted as representatives of the church. When a layman speaks he does so as an American citizen interested in his rights as a citizen.

If the reasoning and logic of this argumentation be correct, then Catholic parents in being true to the responsibilities of their citizenship, must actively struggle for public support of religious schools.

The future of Catholic education, and a free America, are at stake.

(Next article in this series will be "A Catholic School Board is Launched," by Urban H. Faubian of Auburn. He is a member of the Cayuga County Catholic School Board. This article will be in the April 15 Courier-Journal.)



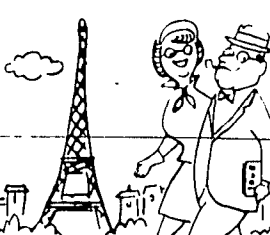
Polish Cardinal Coming

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński of Poland will visit the United States in 1966 as part of Poland's 1000th anniversary of its conversion to Christianity. Auxiliary Bishop Aloysius J. Wycisko of Chicago is one of the U.S. prelates arranging his tour to this country.

To Be Wed

Mr. and Mrs. William George Anne Voss, to Gerard Leon Voss of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Finks, son of Mr. Perry David announce the engagement of Finks and the late Mrs. Francis their daughter, Miss Barbara, ces Finks.

INDEPENDENT



OR "DEPENDENT"

It Depends On You!

Proper planning now can assure you of financial security when you need it. 45 years of personal service in all phases of life insurance programming has enabled me to help thousands of families. Why not yours? Call me today! There's no obligation.

ANGELO DINIERI

Life Member Million Dollar Round Table N.A.L.U.

Special Agent for John Hancock

1018 COMMERCIAL BLDG.

Phone 454-1860

CAMP COLUMBUS

OWASCO LAKE, AUBURN, N.Y.

A Catholic camp for boys and girls founded in 1933 by the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Straub. The boys are supervised by priests and seminarians; the girls by priests and Catholic girl college students. Boys and girls not of the Catholic faith are not obliged to follow the religious program. Camp Columbus is a "Waterfront Camp." Our waterfront is approved by the Red Cross and our personnel has been trained at special Red Cross Aquatic Schools. Each morning all our campers receive the benefit of swimming instructions and can merit Red Cross certificates. Expert swimming and water skiing instruction.

ENCAMPMENT DATES 1966

For Boys: June 26 - July 2 • July 3 - July 9 • July 10 - July 16 • July 17 - July 23 • July 24 - July 30 • July 31 - Aug. 6.

For Girls: Aug. 7 - Aug. 13 • Aug. 14 - Aug. 20 • Aug. 21 - Aug. 27.

MAIL TODAY

CAMP COLUMBUS
15 CHESTNUT ST.,
AUBURN, N.Y.

I am interested in Camp Columbus for my child. Please send brochure—application without obligation.
Name _____
Address _____
City _____

Family Rosary Radio Leaders

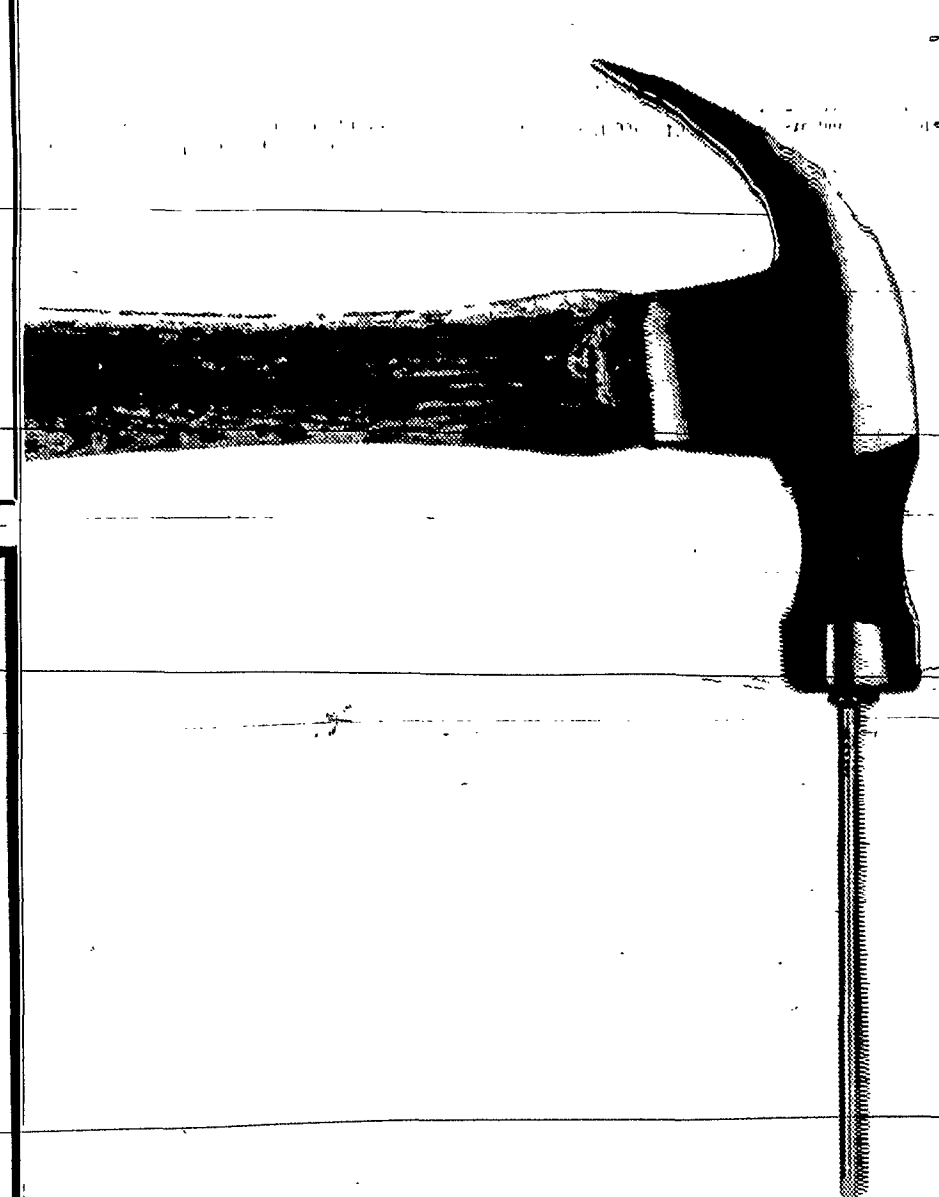
The Family Rosary for Peace is broadcast nightly at 7 p.m. by Rochester's radio station W.S.A.Y. A uburn's W.M.B.O.-F.M. and through the facilities of the TV cable companies in the following cities: Elmira (Channel 8), Hornell (Channel 5) and Corning at 88.75 M.C.
Good Friday, April 8—Bishop Kearney, accompanied by the Rochester Catholic Adult Club.
Holy Saturday, April 9—Clifford Joslin, Holy Cross, accompanied by St. Patrick's Fraternity, 3rd Order of St. Francis.
Easter Sunday, April 10—Joseph A. Murphy, St. Augustine's, accompanied by Council No. 178, Knights of Columbus.
Monday, April 11—Charles Bayer, St. Joseph, accompanied by Holy Name Society.
Tuesday, April 12—Bernard Hasenauer, St. Philip Neri, accompanied by Holy Name Society.
Wednesday, April 13—Representative of Holy Ghost Men's Club.
Thursday, April 14—Representative of St. George's Holy Name Society.

ED Blanchard

SAYS
We have the finest selection of Easter flowers, beautifully decorated, properly delivered and sensibly priced.
Open 'til 9 P.M. This Week
Blanchard Florist
58 Lake Ave. 232-2255
PARK FREE ON PREMISES

After hunting Easter baskets, Easter eggs and attending church
Make it a completely joyous day by treating the family to a delightful dinner at
Crescent Beach Hotel
For Reservations. CALL NO 3-5775
KENNY UNWIN'S POPULAR BAND
Playing Every Friday & Saturday Night

You Hit The Nail On The Head When You Come To Security For A Home Repair Loan!



You Can Borrow For Any Type Of Home Improvement!

Cash you receive	24 Month Plan		36 Month Plan		48 Month Plan		60 Month Plan	
	Amount of Note	Monthly Payment	Amount of Note	Monthly Payment	Amount of Note	Monthly Payment	Amount of Note	Monthly Payment
\$ 500	550.61	22.95	574.90	15.97				
1000	880.97	36.71	919.84	25.56	1198.38	24.97		
1500	1101.22	45.89	1149.80	31.94	1791.12	37.44	1870.20	31.17
2000	1651.68	68.82	1724.40	47.90	2396.64	49.83	2493.60	41.56
2500	2753.04	114.71	2874.24	79.84	2995.68	62.41	3117.00	51.95

There's one important point we'd like to drive home! Our business is loaning money for worthwhile purposes. And the modernization or repair of your home qualifies for any amount you need.

Loans are arranged quickly, with no red tape... in strict privacy! In most cases, the cash you need will be available within 24 hours. If you prefer to have your dealer or contractor arrange the loan, ask him to finance it through Security Trust.

Remember, too, if you're planning to build or buy, Security offers home mortgages at the lowest possible interest rates, with payments to fit your individual needs.

SECURITY TRUST CO.

You Can Get A Home Repair Loan At Any Security Office

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, April 8, 1966
Award for Book
Dayton, (NC) — Father Cyril O'Valert, S.J., St. Mary's (Kan.) College theologian, has been awarded the annual Marian Library Medal of the Society of Mary (Marianists) at the University of Dayton for his book, "The Theology of Mary."

Enhance Linens

Birds, butterflies, flowers, all ready to enhance your linens. Takes little stitching.
These motifs are lovely, too on lingerie, motifs done in white or color. Pattern 839, transfer of 14 motifs 3 1/2 x 9 to 3 x 6 1/2 inches.
Thirty-five cents (coins) for each pattern—add 15 cents for each pattern for first-class mailing and special handling. Send to: Catholic Courier Journal, Needlecraft Dept., Box 182, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N. Y. 10011. Print Name, Address, Zip, Pattern Number.
See knit, crochet styles in 1966 Needlecraft Catalog—210 designs, 3 free patterns printed in catalog. Send 25c.
New! 12 rare, antique museum quilt patterns in color plus quilting motifs. To order our Museum Quilt Book #1, send 50c today.
Deluxe Quilt Book #1—16 complete patterns. 50c.
Decorate with Needlecraft—25 complete patterns. 50c.

Swing into Summer

Printed Pattern

9372
SIZES
10-18

Cruise into a colorful seascape—see a swifty style in tropical flower colors of line shantung or pique. Note flaring waist detail, pleats—new feminine shaping.
Printed Pattern 9372 Misses' Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18. 15c. 16c. 17c. 18c. 19c. 20c.
Fifty Patterns in coins for each pattern—add 15 cents for each pattern for first-class mailing and special handling. Send to: Catholic Courier Journal, Needlecraft Dept., Box 182, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N. Y. 10011. Print Name, Address, Zip, Pattern Number and STYLE NUMBER.
Order 1966 Spring-Summer "FASHIONS TO SEW" catalog featuring 350 design ideas includes 16 certificates for FREE patterns—any one you choose from Catalog. Send 50c.
See 57 exclusive top-near Originals in 1966 Couture Pattern Collection. Plus 5 free coupons—apply to any pattern in Book. Send 50c for Couture Collection.

For A
Professional Mover
Call the
Moving Man
George M. Clancy Jr.

Geo. M. Clancy Carting Co., Inc.
8 Circle Street GR 2-3120
Agent for NORTH AMERICAN WIN LINES