



Pastor Fights for Church

St. Paul, Minn. —(RNS)— Msgr. Louis Pioletti, pastor of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, St. Paul, stands outside the 51-year-old red brick building he and his parishioners are fighting to save from a freeway ramp project. The 79-year-old priest is seeking to have the ramp located so that his church will not have to be torn down. He has won support from the St. Paul City Council in presenting his case before the State Highway Department.

God's World

Rationalization

By FATHER LEO J. TRESE

There is a species of blindness to which all of us humans are susceptible. It is an intellectual blindness, and the name of the disease is rationalization. Rationalization is a form of self-deception. We rationalize when we seek to excuse undesirable behavior by offering what we consider to be reasonable motives for that behavior.



For example, a young couple may justify (in their own minds) their premarital sexual relations by saying, "It can't be so very wrong. We do love each other and we're going to be married soon."

Similarly, a wife who refuses to speak to her husband may tell herself that she is trying to teach her husband a lesson, when in reality she is seeking plain, ugly revenge for some hurt.

Quite often we use rationalization as a cover-up for sloth or as an escape from duty. On the evening that we should attend that important parish meeting, we dawdle over some task at home until it is too late to go. "I'm so sorry," we assure ourselves insincerely, "I did want to be there." Or we refuse an alms to a beggar on the score that such charity will only encourage his shiftlessness.

Another use of rationalization is to enable what is basically a selfish action. "I really must help with that benefit party," we say; "it's such a good cause." We do not admit that our real reason is the hope of gaining a little lustre from our proximity to the socially prominent chairman.

Our purpose in rationalizing is, of course, to preserve an attractive self-image. It is painful to face that we may fall short of perfection. We have to live with ourselves, and we are reluctant to admit that we may be living with a scoundrel.

Unfortunately, rationalization is a self-destructive mechanism. No matter what lofty but specious motives we may impute to ourselves, the underlying self remains unchanged. The oftener and the longer we continue our self-deception, the less hope there is of genuine improvement. "Tell a lie often enough," it has been said, "and the lie will be believed." This is true even of the lies which we tell ourselves.

The remedy for our self-imposed blindness is a simple one. It begins with the acceptance of the fact that we are imperfect and in many ways ignoble. Proceeding from this basic premise, we seek to evaluate our motives honestly, however painful the truth may be.

This does not mean we consciously analyze every action. If we did that, we never would get anything done. But it is essential that when we catch ourselves making mental excuses for some act or omission, we bring ourselves up short and face the question, "Now what is the real reason why I want to do (or not to do) this?"

It is much healthier, both psychologically and spiritually,

New Hospital

Boston — (RNS) — Melkite Archbishop George Hakim of Akko, Israel, announced here that a hospital named after Cardinal Cushing of Boston will be built in Nazareth to serve Arabs and Jews.

He said the Cardinal Cushing Medical Center will stand as an "expression of the love and affection of the Jewish community."

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Poland Refuses Visas

Brooklyn — (NC) — Amerop Travel Inc., here, which in cooperation with Scandinavian Airlines System, has planned tours to Poland for that country's religious celebrations (May 3-8) of its millennium of Christianity, has released a list of 15 U.S. archbishops and bishops who have been denied visas to enter Poland for this purpose.

Joseph Pretite, general manager of Amerop, has been working on the arrangements for the pilgrimage since November, 1965. In a letter to Edward Dorzaniak, Polish Ambassador to the United States,

he narrated his several trips to Poland to consult with Orbis, the official Polish Travel Bureau, and with Stanislaw Ostrowski, director of the Tourist Traffic Department of the State Committee for Physical Education and Tourism, to whom he submitted the list of prelates desiring visas.

OTHER cooperating travel agencies in the United States submitted visa applications to the Polish consulates in Chicago and Washington. An itinerary had been worked out to visit ten cities in Poland, and housing accommodations had been secured.

On April 6 Vice Consul Edward Kocemba, of the Consular Division of the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic in Washington, informed Pretite of the refusal to grant visas to the clergymen.

Europe is now forwarding to hundreds of its applicants, alternate itineraries which will feature celebrations of the millennium, on May 8, in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris; and in Rome, May 12 to May 16, with a torchlight procession and solemn Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum, on May 13.

American prelates listed as being denied travel visas for the millennium celebrations in Poland are: Archbishops Cody of Chicago, Krol of Philadelphia, Darden of Detroit, Cousins of Milwaukee, Damiano of Camden, Bishops Weldon of Springfield, Zaleski of Lansing, Carroll of Miami; Auxiliary Bishops Sheen of New York, Atkielski of Milwaukee, Green of Lansing, Breitenbeck of Detroit, Wycislo of Chicago, McDevitt of Philadelphia and Swanstrom of New York.

Polish Prelate's Visit Doubted

Berlin — (NC) — It is unlikely that Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, will be allowed to make a planned trip to the U.S. and Canada this summer, it was indicated by Alexander Skarzynski, director of the Office of Religious Affairs of Poland's communist government.

"There are more reasons to think that he won't go than that he will go," the official said. "The government must have some assurance that the cardinal will confine himself to religious matters if he goes abroad."

The cardinal had planned to visit the U.S. for celebrations marking the 1,000th anniversary of the Christianization of Poland.

The government official also said that the bishops of Germany will be barred from entering Poland in May for the opening millennium celebrations. Skarzynski said that the government still had not requested government permission to start

the international type celebration it is planning for May 3 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

He left open the possibility that U.S. churchmen would be admitted later in the year.

Plans of thousands of American Catholics to visit the country for the special millennium celebrations were shattered when applications for visas, including a number of U.S. bishops, were refused. Adolph Kita, Polish general consul in Chicago, said that "our people in Poland feel it would not be good to have so many churchmen in Warsaw at the same time."

Skarzynski also confirmed reports from Rome that the government considers it inappropriate for Pope Paul VI to visit Poland in such a climate.

Our Lady of Czestochowa To Have New U.S. Shrine

Doyletown, Pa. — More than 60,000 faithful will be able to attend Mass at one time when the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa is completed by mid-October, it has been disclosed by Father Michael M. Zembruski, founder and director of the Shrine here.

Father Zembruski, who is also Vicar General of the Pauline Fathers, said more than 3,000 persons will be able to participate in the Mass being celebrated on an outside altar in front of the church edifice.

The Shrine is surrounded by 55 acres of land. Provisions are being made for large parking areas.

"This is a far cry from our present chapel seating only a few hundred," Father Zembruski said, "yet our new Shrine and surrounding grounds will not compare in size with the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa on Jasna Gora, Poland, where hundreds of thousands can take part in open air services at one time."

The same Pauline Fathers who have been custodians of the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa and her Shrine in Czestochowa, Poland, since 1382, founded the Shrine here more than ten years ago.

Dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa, "Queen of Peace," the new Doyletown Shrine is being erected as a lasting monument to the Millennium of Polish Christianity being observed this year by Polish Catholics throughout the world.

Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski,

Primate of Poland, has agreed to dedicate the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa on October 16. On the same day he will conclude his visit to this country, scheduled to start early in September.

The American Czestochowa here, a focal point of Marian activities, has also served as the place where Catholics of all ethnic backgrounds come to pray for the Church of Silence, the oppressed Catholics behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains.

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COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, April 15, 1966

Late Show

Upsets Irish

Bubla — (RNS) — Indignant protests poured into Dublin newspaper offices all over Ireland following "offensive" references to two Roman Catholic prelates—Archbishop John C. McQuaid of Dublin and Bishop Michael Browne of Galway — on what has become Ireland's most controversial TV program, the Saturday night "Late Late Show."

The references were made by Dublin University student and playwright Brian Treviskis, who called Galway City's new cathedral a "ghastly monstrosity" and characterized Bishop Browne as "a moron."

Treviskis also spoke in critical terms of Archbishop McQuaid, accusing him of having dismissed author-teacher John McGahern, whose book, "The Dark," has been banned by the Irish Censorship of Publications Board. A panelist on the program, Treviskis also castigated the Irish-Christian-Brothers.

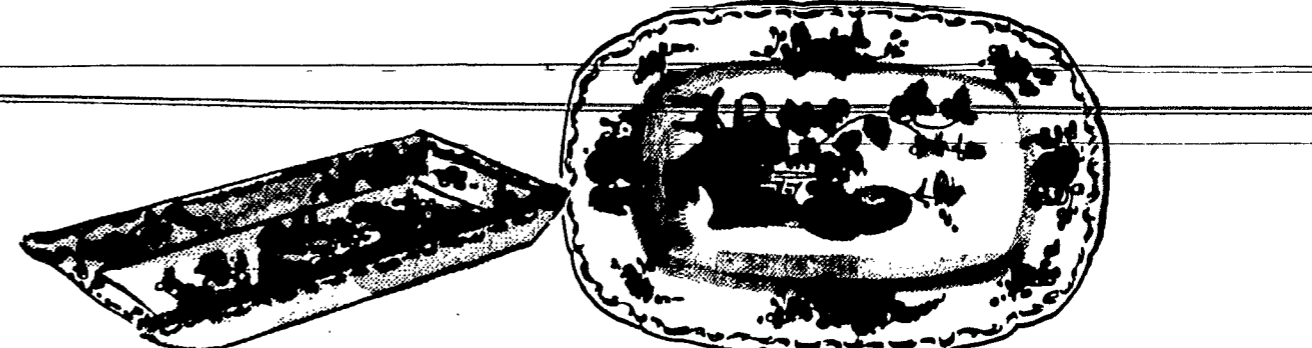


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