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## CPA Meet: Brilliant, Bewildering

(Father Robert Kanka, associate editor of the Courier-Journal, recently attended the national convention of the Catholic Press Association. In the following article he sums up his impressions of this yearly meeting of American Catholic journalists.)

The Catholic Press Association convention, held recently in San Francisco (May 10-13) was, to this rookie journalist, brilliant, enlightening and a bit bewildering, in turn.

The brilliance was supplied

by a galaxy of top-flight speakers, who featured the 3-day meeting. Monsignor John Tracy Ellis, dean of Catholic historians in America, and Philip Scharper, Sheed and Ward's editor, would have been enough alone to guarantee the program's success. In addition, almost every panel offered well-known authorities in their field,

illuminating some topical area for the 500 Catholic press representatives gathered at the Fairmont Hotel.

Enlightenment came from several sources. First, the formal program itself, with such varied topics as "War, Peace and the Catholic Conscience"; "The Catholic Press"; and "Ecumenism

and the Press — After the Council." Each topic was explored by people competent in those areas, several of whom have authored respected books in the fields.

The workshops, in which participants could add their two cents, were valuable too. I was especially interested in one on "Community Relations — A Public Stance," which stressed the value of Catholic papers exploring local issues of social significance more deeply.

One of the panelists in this workshop was Robert Johnson, from Camden's spunky Star-Herald. This diocesan paper has dug deeply into such topics as legislative redistricting, local civil rights problems, local poverty situations and prospective tax increases.

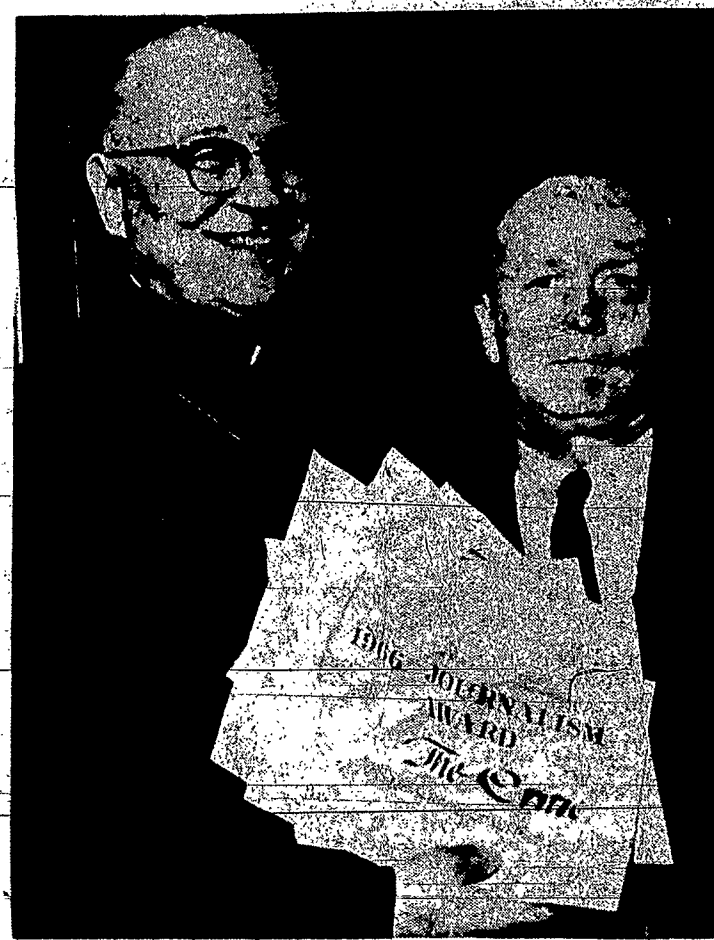
This session made me wonder if the Courier-Journal should not be delving more into these subjects. There are limitations as to how much a 4-man editorial staff can do, but the possibilities are intriguing.

As is usually the case at conventions, however, you learn much in between sessions, standing in the halls chatting with your neighbor at meal time.

The Catholic press people are in general, easy to meet, easy to talk to. I found this especially true of the C.P.A. officers and board members. They make themselves available, and with no special effort, I got acquainted with every one of them during the 3-day session. Jim Doyle, the executive director of the C.P.A. must not sleep much during conventions, for he is constantly on the scene from early to late.

With Father Atwell and Monsignor Randall in Paterson, N.J., to cover Bishop Casey's triumphant installation (May 12), I was the only Courier-Journal representative at San Francisco. One advantage about this—you make more of an effort to get acquainted, and that gives you more viewpoints to explore.

On two evenings, when we had no convention dinner scheduled, I ate with the Hartford Transcript and Newark Advocate people, respectively. Even breakfast was helpful — one morning I had a chat with John O'Connor, editor of the Delaware Dialog (Wilmington, Del.). His paper is new, outstanding in make-up, strong on national news, and is much dis-



Dan Herr of The Critic is too modest to display the five first prizes which his magazine won for the second consecutive year, so Bishop Clarence G. Isenmann, CPA honorary president, obliges the photographer. (RNS Photo)

cusssed by other editors.

Another morning, my fellow-breakfasters were priest-editors from the Philadelphia Standard and Times and the Ligurian magazine.

The convention also brought a reunion with an old friend from St. Bernard's Seminary days, Father Ray Whelan, who edits the Wichita Advance-Register. (His editorials, incidentally, are as hard-hitting and candid as any around.)

Father Whelan and I had a special treat the last night of the convention, when, standing outside the banquet room, we (along with several others) were included in an invitation to "come on up" to William Holub's room. He is president of the C.P.A. and general manager of America.

Bill Holub and his wife, Mary, are two pleasant, cordial people, and the little gathering was relaxed and enjoyable. I met Dan Herr, editor of the Critic, there. He was a surprise. His writing is frequently barbed, satiric and sharp. In person, he's rather quiet, almost shy.

One of my best "shop-talk" opportunities came at the Holub's open house, too. Don Fokett, news editor of the Hartford Transcript, found ourselves in adjoining chairs and got into such questions as "What do you do with weddings? How much in-depth local stories do you try for? How much space for sports?"

I mentioned before that the Catholic Press convention was also somewhat bewildering, but that may be inevitable. For one thing, the C.P.A. includes all segments of the Catholic press: newspapers, magazines, book publishers. The attempt to serve them all at a convention means a wide variety of offerings.

Then too, and this is true of most conventions, there is a lot to absorb. These were top-notch speakers, and with 500 Catholic press people before them, they seized the occasion to stress what they felt the Catholic press should emphasize.

Fine — we can always use good ideas! But it gets a little overwhelming as Philip Scharper tells us to have your publication more theologically-oriented; Monsignor John Tracy Ellis points out that we can't appreciate the present state of lay-clerical relations without a solid knowledge of American Church history; and Bishop Robert J. Dwyer, of Reno,

Nevada, says that we need a "fresh eye."

Bishop Dwyer added that the Catholic journalist must not only be a theologian, "architect of the future," but also have "the makings of a saint." No small order!

At times I felt a bit dismayed that ordinary human beings, clerical and lay, were editing the Catholic press of the country! But if the new ideas were not offered, and the high ideals not recommended, there would be no improvement. So I'm sure we were grateful for the suggestions even if a bit inundated with them.

So we returned to our various parts of the country, with new ideas on the potential of the Catholic press and its role in implementing the hopes of the post-Conciliar Church. As we packed up our notes and faced the job of being Catholic journalists in an age of renewal, probably more than a few of us murmured:

"Come, Holy Spirit!"

—Father Robert J. Kanka

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AT CPA CONVENTION, Philip J. Sharper, editor-in-chief of Sheed & Ward, chats with Father Edward Flannery of the Providence (R.I.) Visitor between sessions of the Catholic Press Association's annual meeting in San Francisco. (RNS Photo)

The West End Brewing Co. of Utica, N.Y. © 1966

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**Churches' Role**  
James Lake, N.Y. — (NC) — New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller said churches, can be the crucial factor in our efforts to educate, motivate and lift up those who "too often in the past have been left behind."

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## First from R Two M

Two priests of the Diocese were assigned to these missions in South America.

They are Father Peter Thomas More Church, at Thomas M. O'Brien, pastor of St. Lawrence

The two young priests ordained in 1964, were thirty in the Diocese sponsored to Bishop F recent plea for voluntary Latin American missions.

Fathers Deckman and will leave the United States from Maryknoll, N.Y., 28. They will be accompanied by several Maryknoll aries en route to South America.

On August 12 they port to a training school Cochabamba, Bolivia, they will undertake a program of language for seven months.

They will then be to work in a parish under the direction of the Maryknollers in Bolivia.

It is hoped that priests will be ready full charge of a diocese in two years. The Diocese plans to send priests to join the two sionaries in three years.

## Bishop Kearney To First

Bishop Kearney guest at the First Fr 3 in Hotel Sheraton chairman of the Knights lumbus sponsoring com

The Bishop will be ed by Father William berton, club moderator chaplain of Rochester K. of C. at the luncheon at 12:10 p.m.

The First Friday c started in December, 19 the encouragement of Kearney, then state cha the Knights. The Bis



AT C.C.D. GRAD and Monsignors' course.

## Catechists

## Trust

Newly trained catechists reminded that the Holy would be working with in a colorful graduation money held at Sacred E thedral last Sunday aft

Comparing the 277 of the Confraternity of tian Doctrine teachers course to the Apostles for the Holy Spirit, James Russell said:

"We too are the Church Apostles" and can our guidance of the Holy S ther Russell gave the h a solemn concelebrated

Monsignor Albert H. ky Diocesan director C.C.D. was principal c assisted by five other who instruct teachers in gram.

## Spring C By Merc

A formal dinner Spring Cotillion of at the Auburn Golf today by Mr. and Mrs. Corning, co-chairmen o fair.

The dinner will open reception: smorgasbord midnight buffet.

Members of this year lion committee include: richard D. Althouse, Dr Richard Buffington, Mrs. Carmen Cosentino Mrs. James G. Cuddy, Magr. James D. Cuffn Senator Theodore D. I