

# The Textbook Turmoil Blessing in Disguise?

The textbook turmoil is turning classrooms into chaos.

There are scores of pupils still without books, some with books but in different editions, and — in a few cases — bright new books but no pupil to claim them.

The books are supposed to be provided pupils in Catholic schools in grades 7 through 12 from the public school district in which they live.

Schools like Aquinas Institute, Nazareth Academy and other Rochester high schools have pupils from up to 20 different public school districts — each with their own different regulations and arrangements.

Complicating the confusion is the fact that the books had to be on order by last May 16.

Since then, some pupils flunked their June exams and have to repeat their course — or dropped out of the school — and don't need the books ordered for them. Some with a dismal scholastic record, who didn't have next term's books ordered for them, went to summer school and passed their tests after all — and now don't have their needed books.

Despite the May 16th deadline for orders from Catholic schools, some public school districts still forward the orders to publishers until as late as Sept. 3rd.

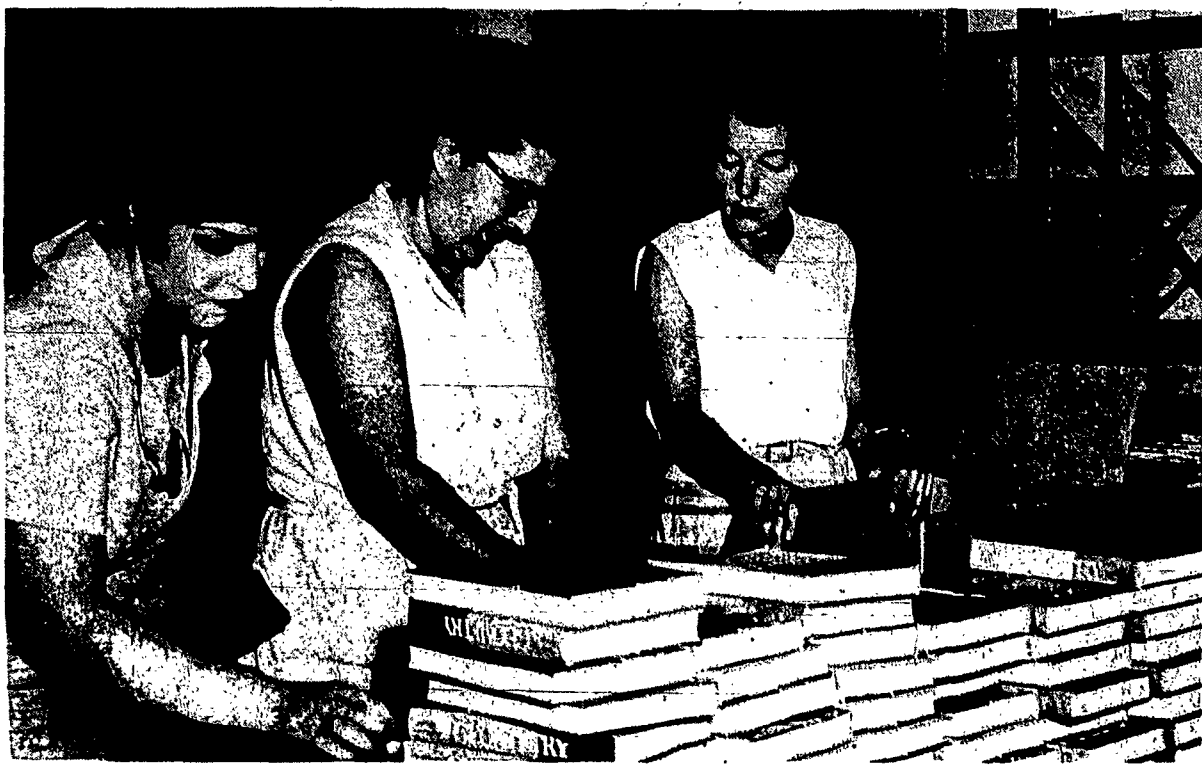
What are the teachers doing while they wait for the pupils to get their books?

They're using overhead projectors, film projectors, any and every device available — "to the limit," as one school official described it.

Mix-ups were to be expected as the tax-paid textbook program was inaugurated this year but the "first on—then off—and then on again" way it got underway produced a bad dream come to life.

The turmoil may turn out to be, however, a blessing in disguise — "totally disguised just now," commented one teacher.

The blessing is the publicity given the New York



Tax-paid textbooks are processed by Auburn public school workers for pupils at Mount Carmel High School. The calm attitude of Miss Laura Blank, Mrs. Joseph Malinowski and Mrs. Donald Chapin is quite different from the chaos in many classrooms — particularly in Rochester where Catholic high schools had to meet regulations of as many as 20 different public school districts.

State Constitution's Blaine Amendment. Passed in 1894 at a time of great hostility to Catholics, it outlaws tax-paid aid "directly or indirectly" to church-related institutions.

A constitutional convention scheduled for next spring will provide delegates a chance to erase that remnant of a biased and by-gone era from the record.

Delegates will be elected at this November's election and Citizens for Educational Freedom, an organization which seeks equality for children regardless of the schools they attend, plans to poll the delegates for their stand for or against the Blaine amendment.

GORDON A. HOWE, one of the Republican candidates for the convention, said this week, the State's revised constitution "should make it clear and unequivocal that textbooks purchased with public funds should be available to all secondary students on the same

basis as long as their schools meet established educational standards of the State of New York."

"Because the law on this matter is being challenged," Howe said, "we face the possibility that some schools, which are doing an excellent job of educating might be discriminated against. The parochial school system, for example, carries a tremendous load which is financed outside of the tax structure and these schools meet all educational standards of this State yet an unclear law could prevent the students in these schools from receiving standard textbooks purchased for the

benefit of the young people of the State.

"To withhold textbooks from students in parochial schools, which meet our educational standards, would be about the same as denying the use of public libraries to parochial school students whose parents pay the same taxes as public school students' parents," Howe stated.

Last week, Andrew G. Celli, a Democratic candidate for the convention, went on record also as opposing the Blaine Amendment and pledged he'd work to eliminate the "discriminatory" status from the New York constitution.

—Father Henry A. Aswell

## 'No Barriers' for Women

Rosslyn, Va. — (RNS) — Christ encountered "horrified disciples" when he preached the equality of women, a Catholic women author said in addressing a conference of 300 Catholic laymen here. "But the implications of that teaching still have not been fully realized," she said.

Speaking before the Congress of the Lay Apostolate of the National Federation of Sodalties in this suburb of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Sidney C. Callahan emphasized that thorough biblical teaching the stress is on "personhood" — not the sex of the believer. "There is neither male nor female in the sight of God," Mrs. Callahan observed.

Why then, after 20 centuries and in a culture which is conducive to accepting the leadership of women, is the Catholic Church not allowing women to

become priests: Mrs. Callahan asked.

The mother of five children is author of the much-discussed book, "The Illusion of Eve."

She said American society and the government of the Church are guilty of "misguided prejudice" and must rethink their long-held views of the "inferiority of women."

Mrs. Callahan told the delegates from 16 states:

"There is no theological reason why women can't be priests any more than there is any reason why men can't change diapers."

She bolstered her argument that Christ's choosing only men is inadequate by saying, "He also chose only Jews and we don't make being Jewish a condition of the priesthood."



## Pope Cheered on Pilgrimage

Rome — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI acknowledges greetings of the faithful as he makes a pilgrimage to the Castle of Mount Fumone, south of Rome, to pay homage to the memory of Pope St. Celestine V, first pontiff in history to resign his papacy. St. Celestine spent the last nine months of his life at the castle and died at the age of 91 on May 19, 1296. He had abdicated his papal throne in December, 1294, after serving only five months. The Benedictine monk was devoted to a life of prayer and solitude and started a number of monasteries. He became a saint 17 years after his death. At Fumone Castle, Pope Paul was presented with relics of St. Celestine who was born Pietro Morone.

## Pope Sees Plus and Minus Results of Council

### Fervor, Doubts in Church Life

Castel Gandolfo — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI hailed what he said were "the new outbursts of religious fervor" that have characterized the post-Vatican II period.

At the same time, he noted with "sorrow" the rise of doubts concerning the faith among some members of the Church in the wake of the Second Vatican Council.

The occasion was his customary midweek general audience at the papal summer villa during which he exhorted all the faithful to strengthen their faith, "because faith is a fundamental principle not only for the elevation of every soul to supernatural life, but for the vitality of the Church."

"All the Church is in a ferment," the Pope said, as he enumerated the evidences of new religious fervor. Among the evidences he listed were:

1. The study of the conciliar decrees is being actively promoted.
2. The reform of the Liturgy has slowly started and is overcoming the first difficulties. It is beginning to be applied with the growing comprehension and understanding on the part of the faithful, and, as a result, with better celebrations of the sacred rite.
3. The hierarchy is soliciting the institution of new structures for the better understanding of the spirit of the Council.
4. The religious orders are

changing their constitutions in accordance with the new teachings of the Vatican Council.

5. Laymen have answered the call for a closer, more active adhesion to the Church of God.

6. All the people of God have awakened and are fully understanding their role in life and aspiring to live more intimately the mystery of grace established by Christ. They are also looking at the present world with a more Christian outlook.

After expressing his pleasure over the new religious fervor in the Church, the Pope went on to note, however, that there was also, another not so encouraging side to the picture. Specifically, he deplored an apparent diminution of spiritual faith among some members of the Church.

"Some trends of mind that are present in classes of Christians would seem to indicate a lesser enthusiasm in being Catholics," he said, adding:

"A certain weariness and doubts are arising in the hearts of these Catholics. This happens because by faith we do not mean just a simple religious feeling, but a firm adhesion to those truths which the church tells us to believe.

"What has happened, and why? Maybe the doubts have been caused by the consideration of the personal liberties of the acts of faith which has prevailed over the strength that such an act should create in the heart of the faithful.

"Maybe the doubts have arisen by not understanding that the faith does not change with time and does not follow the evolution of human science, but remains the same even when we explore it with ever new meditations, when we examine it with better understanding, or when we adapt it to the modern language.

"Maybe the ease with which some people adapt their mentality to the words of Our Lord has tempted some to prefer their own views to the dogmatic ones of the Church. Maybe the choir of hostile voices raised up against the teaching authority of the Church has shaken the faith of some of the faithful.

"What we are ascertaining with great sorrow is that many souls do not look at the Church of the living God with the same faith as before, and that some people with inadmissible thoughtlessness raise doubts regarding the intangible truths of our faith.



Just about anything that you'd like to know about Scripture, you should be able to learn from one or the other of this foursome of biblical scholars — Jesuit Father Francis J. McCool of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome; Rev. Elmer McNamara, Scripture professor at St. Bernard's Seminary for

nearly 30 years; Rev. Joseph Brennan, Seminary rector, a graduate of the Rome biblical school, and Rev. Edward Dillon, also a graduate of the Rome Institute and assigned this year to the Seminary Scripture faculty. Father McCool recently visited the Seminary to speak to priests of the Diocese.

## Bishop Casey to Have A Paterson Courier

Bishop Casey of Paterson, former Auxiliary Bishop of the Rochester Diocese, announced this week he's going to have a weekly diocesan newspaper "to spread the Word, the good tidings of the Gospel."

It doesn't have a name as yet but its first issue is scheduled for this coming January.

Paterson has been taken care of by the Newark Advocate paper but it's time now, said Bishop Casey, for his diocese "to stand on its own two feet and have an identity of its own."

## The Jews Will Stay

### 'That Fellow' is Leaving

Catholics ruffled by the new Scripture translation used at Mass can calm down now.

It will be softened up before it comes out in its final version in a year or two.

Chief bone of contention was Peter's calling Christ "that fellow" during the Savior's trial before His crucifixion.

"That fellow" will presumably be replaced with the gentler term "the man" used in former Catholic translations of the Bible.

"The Jews" however, will stay — in St. John's gospel — despite the fact that this phrase has fed anti-Semitic fires for centuries and despite the fact that the other three gospels identify St. John's Jews as the chief priests, the scribes, the

elders — the ruling clique collaborating with the Roman overlords.

The translating team had wanted to keep "that fellow" reference to Christ and add an explanatory word or phrase to "the Jews" to avoid any latent bias but the team was overruled by the U.S. Catholic bishops' commission for the new biblical translation.

The commission decided to get rid of "that fellow" after receiving numerous complaints from priests and lay people who thought it was irreverent to speak of our Lord that way. Others objected to what they thought was overt effort to get with a modern style.

There is also a strong hint in the complaints that he should

be nice to anybody on our side but we can waive the rule when others are involved.

Those making such complaints obviously want their religion in the grand style — elaborate rituals and eloquent words — like Naaman, the Syrian general, who had leprosy.

He went to see the Jewish prophet Elisha. Elisha wouldn't let him in but sent out a messenger to tell him to wash in the Jordan River seven times — a river that's not much more than a muddy creek.

Naaman objected, "I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place of the leprosy and heal me," and then he stalked away.

Fortunately one of his aides pointed out that if the prophet had told him to do something difficult he'd have done it, so why not try the Jordan bath. He did and he was cured. The story is (Continued on Page 2)

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