

# Priest in the World of 'High Achievers'

New York — (CFF) — When Father Arthur LeBlanc, C.S.P., received a Ph.D. in psychology from Ohio State University this past March, his mother—a long-time cripple—traveled all the way from Swampscott, Mass., to see her son get his degree. When he was ordained in 1956 by Boston's Archbishop Cushing, it was too much trouble for her to attend.

The 40-year-old Paulist priest relates the above to dramatize his theory on the fall-off of religious vocations and why young men and women leave the religious life.

"Cellucy is the least of our problems," the priest said of the issue currently making headlines. "Priests are not leaving over cellucy. It's the prestige. They're finding that to be a priest isn't a big deal anymore. My mom and dad are more

pleased with my Ph.D. than with my priesthood."

What the American Church and particularly, vocation directors must face up to, Father LeBlanc says, is that his age group—40, on down—"comes from an era when the stress is on achievement, high achievement."

"We're no longer drawing our vocations from the lower socioeconomic classes, where it was something to have a priest or a nun in the family. We're drawing from the middle and

upper-middle class, but those classes are plagued by a high need for achievement. We have to show the Catholic high school kids that he can compete with astronauts. You're not going to get these kids with the old appeals to humility and sacrifice."

Father LeBlanc's fast-growing reputation as a behavioral scientist received its most recent recognition with his appointment to the staff of the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry, an interfaith, non-profit corporation here, where he teaches pastoral counseling to priests, ministers and rabbis.

"I'm also doing research on what the religious dimension means to people who seek psychiatric treatment. Priests and ministers are the biggest referral people in the country."

He indicated that professional level counseling may become a major function of parish priests, and cited a training program begun by Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y.

A priest who "goes to work" in a business suit, the blond, cigar-smoking Father LeBlanc said Catholic by people must be prepared to be shook by a changing priesthood, to see him abandon his collar.

Also, he says, "Church organization must examine its people. We don't have enough good research. The last good study on people in the Church was back in the 1920s. What is the degree of need-for-achievement in our religious orders? Do those who leave show a higher degree of need than those who stay?"

Father LeBlanc is already helping to supply some of those answers in his role as the priest in charge of screening candidates for the Paulist Fathers. Even there, he is putting his professional background to work. A dozen Paulist seminarians are "in therapy."



FATHER LEBLANC

"Before, if you were a seminarian and you had a problem, you had to leave," Father LeBlanc said. "But we were losing people we'd like to keep."

But for after the ordination, and particularly for "the great many priests and nuns who are coming back to their old positions with Ph.D.'s," the Church must do experimental research on creating new positions and new responsibilities for young priests and nuns, especially on the parish level, Father LeBlanc said.

Having done chaplain work on the campuses of Brandeis, M.I.T., Tufts and Ohio State University, Father LeBlanc has been associated by students with the new breed of young men in politics.

"Priest Has 'Certain Magnetism,'" Reminds Listeners of Kennedy," said a five-column headline in the Ohio State

campus newspaper, over a feature story on Father LeBlanc. (He knew President Kennedy as a young politician in Boston, and led the rosary in the Ohio State Newman Club chapel the night of his assassination.)

A native of Lynn, Mass., he studied chemistry at Norwich University in Vermont, where he broke off an engagement in his senior year in favor of a decision to enter the Paulists.

His interest in psychology grew out of his work in screening candidates for the order, and he has since done intern work at UCLA Neuropsychiatric Hospital and at Columbus Psychiatric Hospital in Ohio.

His goal: "I want to tie back the scientific with the religious." —(Catholic Press Features)

# Where

By MONSIGNOR JOSEPH T. RYAN,  
National Secretary, Catholic Near East Welfare Assn.

We read in the Gospel of Christ wept over Jerusalem. That spot is marked today a tiny and very beautiful chapel called Dominus Fle. It is just beneath the crest the Mount of Olives, as it sends into the Cedron Valley. The altar is arranged so that the priest and people at the look through a wide window a panorama of the city with rejection of Him caused Jerusalem to weep.

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### Mr. and Mrs. HADEED Hadeed Couple Marks 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Peter M. Hadeed, 30 Foster Road, Greece, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a Solemn High Mass at Mother of Sorrows Church on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Father Wado Essa, pastor of St. Nicholas Church, Father George S. Wood, pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church, and Father George Gauthier celebrated the Mass.

Monsignor Cyril Anid of Paterson, New Jersey, officiated at the renewal of the marriage vows.

Following the Mass, a reception and luncheon at Monroe Golf Club was arranged by their children, with approximately 125 guests attending.

Mr. and Mrs. Hadeed have three sons, Kaleel P., Fred, and Victor P., and three daughters, Miss Helen Hadeed, Mrs. Margaret Cooley, and Mrs. Violet Peak, and sixteen grandchild.

### John Wigg Promoted By Xerox Corp.

John T. Wigg, general manager of industrial relations for conditioning operations of the Xerox Corp., has been appointed plant manager of the company's Conditioning Center in Oak Brook, Ill.

Announcement was made by L.C. Diekmann, vice president.

A native of Rochester, Wigg is a graduate of Aquinas Institute and Le Moyne College, Syracuse. He saw service with the U.S. Army in Japan.

Wigg, a member of Holy Cross Church, resides with his wife, Joan, and five children at 2936 Lake Ave. He is a former chairman of the Scout committee and Boy Scout camping committee, past chairman for the Rochester Jaycees and past president of the Rochester Chapter of Le Moyne Alumni. He is a member of Holy Cross School Board.

Wigg is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wigg of Melville Street.

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