

Guidelines for Catholics

How to Understand the Jews

Philadelphia — (RNS) — A new set of guidelines on Jewish-Catholic relations in which Roman Catholics will be advised "to take the initiative" in fostering better understanding has been prepared for distribution to U.S. Catholic bishops.

The guidelines will strongly urge Catholics not to permit proselytizing to enter the Jewish-Catholic dialogue and will recommend that Catholic textbooks of the future be less offensive to Jewish sensibilities in teaching Church history and dogma.

According to Msgr. George G. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the guidelines were prepared by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs.

Msgr. Higgins presented a preview of the guidelines March 5 at a gathering of 150 Catholics and Jews at the first annual Institute on Catholic-Jewish Relations at St. Joseph's College here. It was sponsored jointly by the American Jewish Committee, the college, and the Archbishop's Commission on Human Relations.

Under the Guidelines, according to Msgr. Higgins, Catholics will be urged to organize meetings at which Catholics and Jews can exchange ideas.

"The guidelines will caution that proselytizing is to be carefully avoided in the dialogue," Msgr. Higgins said, "and any form of religious observance held is to be planned carefully so as not to offend the sensibilities of the Jewish participants."

An important aspect of Jewish-Catholic relations mentioned in the guidelines will be Catholic textbooks, Msgr. Higgins said. Many aspects of Church history and dogma will be taught of Catholics in a manner less offensive to Jewish sensibilities, he said.

Catholic textbooks of the future will include "a frank and honest treatment of the history of anti-Semitism" in the Church, he said.

Study of the life of Jesus will be presented within the context of Jewish life in the First Century, and the Judaism of Christ's day no longer will be portrayed as "decadent formalism and hypocrisy."

The presentation of the Crucifixion, Msgr. Higgins said, will no longer "implicate the Jews in its decision."

"The guidelines are not going to change the world overnight," he said, but they represent a long step in the right direction, he added.

Representing the American Jewish Committee at the institute was Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of its Interreligious Affairs Department. (He and Bishop Sheen recently spoke at end of a day-long colloquium on Catholics, Jews in Rochester.)

At a press conference, Rabbi Tanenbaum hailed the guidelines as set forth by Msgr. Higgins as representing in themselves "both a symbol of the significant growth in Jewish-Catholic understanding" as well as constituting "a major contribution to strengthening Jewish-Catholic friendship and cooperation."

"The specific repudiation of proselytizing," the rabbi said, "as either a covert or overt objective of the Jewish-Catholic dialogue is a highly important clarification that should help many Jews to overcome their

caution and anxiety as to the purposes of the dialogue."

Rabbi Tanenbaum also called the proposed guidelines "reassuring because they demonstrate an unparalleled sensitivity to Jewish feelings and traditions in a way that would simply have been unthinkable a decade ago."

"I am confident that when the full text of the guidelines is published and when they begin to be implemented around the country that the national atmosphere of Jewish-Catholic relations will be substantially improved," Rabbi Tanenbaum concluded.

KC Oratorical Run-off Sunday

Oratorical winners from the area Knights of Columbus districts will compete in a run-off on Sunday, March 19, at Cardinal Mooney High School Auditorium, at 2:30 p.m.

Contestants are: from the 88th District, John B. Maloney, Notre Dame H.S., Elmira Council winner; 92nd District, Diane Marie Alongi, Mount Carmel H. S., Auburn Council winner; 93rd District, Gregory Conderach, Bishop Kearney H. S., Trinity Council of Webster; and 94th District, Kathleen Owens, Cardinal Mooney H. S., Our Lady of the Cenacle Council, Greece.

Contest will be conducted by area chairman Paul G. Rombaut, who is also State chairman for the Knights of Columbus Oratoricals.

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Nazareth Grad Info Director
Mary-Rita Tasketta, a graduate of Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College has been named director of the Peace Corps Career Information Service, first woman to hold that post.

She has established and supervised a school in Brazil and was one of the counseling staff at Chatham College, Pittsburgh, prior to her Peace Corps appointment in Washington.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tasketta, 65 Canterbury Rd., Rochester.

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Participants in the recent administrators conference on slow learning held at Rochester Institute of Technology included Sister M. Helen, Principal of Immaculate Conception; Sister Mary David, principal of Corpus Christi, and Sister Michaels, principal of St. Bridget's. The 117 elementary and secondary school administrators who attended the day-long conference discussed the need for expanded and new programs for the slow learner.

Priests Voice Sought To Nominate Bishops

New York — (RNS) — A "more representative" method of selecting U.S. Roman Catholic bishops has been advocated by a noted Catholic historian.

Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, writing in the March 10 issue of Commonweal, said the present selection system installs conservative-minded clergy in the highest offices of the American Church.

"Obviously," Msgr. Ellis wrote, "the Catholic Church finds herself today in the midst of the gravest crisis she has experienced since the Protestant revolt."

In such circumstances, he said, "it is imperative" that those priests named bishops should be representative of those they serve.

He urged that priests of each diocese be given the opportunity to voice their preference for bishop.

Msgr. Ellis said he was not challenging the final right of the Pope to decide who shall be bishop, but was disagreeing with the methods by which potential candidates are brought to the Pope's attention.

Bishops in the U.S. have an advisory role now in selecting their new colleagues.

Msgr. Ellis argued that the greatest influence in the American Catholic Church in this century has been wielded by the Apostolic Delegate in Washington, D.C., and a few American prelates who have close friends in the Curia.

Law Firm Grows

Harold M. Yanowitch and Bernard A. Frank have added to their partnership John R. Garrity, former corporation counsel. The new firm name is Yanowitch, Frank & Garrity.

Garrity has a A.B. from St. John's College and a LL.B. from St. John's Law School. He was admitted to practice in 1948. He was co-founder, in 1957, with the late May Crowley, of the Rochester International Friendship Council, Inc. and a trustee of the Council's Helen Jewett and May Crowley Memorial Funds. He is also past Commander Slager Band Post, American Legion.

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CDA Poetry Awards Given
Winners in the annual poetry contest sponsored by Court St. Rita 137, Catholic Daughters of America, Elmira have been announced by chairmen Mrs. Harry D. Fean and Mrs. Lynn Coleman.

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Receiving awards were Robert Egger, Linda Polidori, William Sullivan, Kathleen Ramich, Ann Gleason, Marilyn Solometo, Marie Burke, Kathleen McHenry, Linda Weaver and Patricia Ryan.

Judges were the chairmen and also Miss Marian McInerney, Miss Anastasia Rosinski and Mrs. Percy Dayton.

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