

The Church—Sign of the Times

The Lay Apostolate

By REV. ALBERT SHAMON
St. Patrick's, Victor
(Tenth in a series)

Cardinal Suenens in his Theology of the Apostolate said that the average Catholic is not the normal Catholic. The normal Catholic must engage in a certain minimum of apostolic activity. "This indispensable minimum which will be taken into account at the last judgment is not achieved by the mass of 'practicing' Catholics" (p. xi).

This is the tragedy and the fundamental misunderstanding too many think the average Catholic with his concern only for his own salvation is the normal Catholic.

Speaking of this average layman, Cardinal Urbani of Venice writes: "The false idea is still unfortunately too widespread among us that the salvation of the world is the concern only of priests and religious, while the simple faithful are objects of pastoral care, and are merely passive. For many of them, being a Christian consists in living in the Church as a deluxe passenger on a cruising ship, without any other concern than keeping well and getting the most benefit for their own health. Their Christianity becomes a comfortable income that is held... as a kind of inheritance from a sacred inheritance."

"A Christian," according to Father Plus, "is one to whom God has entrusted his fellowmen."

The layman share in the saving mission of the Church herself independently of the clergy. The hierarchy does not confer on the laity their vocation. Our Lord Himself does. And He leads us through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. These sacraments consecrate and dedicate the layman to apostolic activity—an activity in the world.

For the proper sphere of activity of the layman is in the world. The layman lives in the world and mixes with it. Therefore he, better than the clergy,

can act on the world. Leaven to purify must be mixed with the dough. Furthermore, by reason of his baptism, the layman can sanctify the world. Baptism opens up to the layman all the spiritual riches of the Church. The poor pagan's avenue to God may be only the world—through the visible elements reasoning back to his invisible Creator (Rom. 1:20).

The Christian layman is not so circumscribed. He has the Church. In the Church he encounters God, become so filled with God's love that he is driven to love His world. Because of his dialogue with God, he enters into dialogue with the world God so loved. In fact the function of the clergy is to make God so present in the life of the people of God that they can make Him present in the life of the world in which they move.

And how can they do this? By their daily work. One of the basic tensions for so many Christians is the one created by their work and their religion. Which is the more important: one's work or one's religion? Should religion get in the way of one's work, or should one's work get in the way of one's religion? Such is the struggle.

Its cause is the strange fact that Christians too often think of their daily work—even though it occupies a major part of their lives—as something entirely foreign to their being Christians; they think of their work as having nothing at all to do with their religion. By so thinking either their work or their religion suffers.

Either they will say, my work is the more important. I must work for I must live; and so they become so busy about their work that their religion suffers. It is crowded out. Or else they will say, the important thing is my religion, everything else is secondary, even my work. So their work suffers. The truth is both are absolutely important: religion, in order to sanctify one's work; and one's work, in order to practice one's religion. One's work can be a prayer; and one's prayer should be a communion with God to discover how to integrate one's work with one's life in God.



Third antique show will be held at Mother of Sorrows parish hall Wednesday and Thursday, April 12 and 13. Looking over some of the items are Mrs. Edward McMahon, Mrs. Neil White, Mrs. Jerome Grader, Mrs. Robert Boughton and Mrs. John Reardon.

Present it to your governor; see, if he will accept it" (Mal. 1:6-8). "Besides this apostolate which pertains to absolutely every Christian, the laity can be called in various ways to a more direct form of cooperation in the apostolate of the hierarchy" (On the Church, No. 33). We call this kind of collaboration with the hierarchy "Catholic Action." Catholic Action differs from the mission proper to laymen. The layman's mission as such moves in the sphere of the world and proceeds from the apostolic spirit of a Christian who is a member of the Church.

The layman, on the contrary, has only his life to produce grace in others. He cannot give what he does not possess. If he is not holy, he cannot consecrate the world to God; he cannot fulfill his vocation.

The second point is this: let the layman steer clear of laicism and clericalism. Laicism means to become so absorbed in secular involvement as to forget to dialogue with God—all work, no pray. Clericalism means to emancipate oneself from the hierarchy. Because the layman's mission to the world and in the world comes directly from his baptism and confirmation, it would be wrong to conclude "I do not need the hierarchy." The hands cannot say to the head, I do not need you. On the contrary, the Council calls for greater dialogue between the laity and their pastors (No. 37).

In the Irish Te Deum one of the blessings for which thanks is given is for the unity between priest and people. "Thanks be to God that the priest and the people are ever united in danger and trial." It is good for brethren to dwell as one.

It is important to keep these two spheres of activity clear. When the layman is in his own field, he may make his own decisions. He is not free to violate the moral teachings of the Church, but otherwise he is free to act as he judges best. He may join whatever political party he desires, become a member of a union, run for Congress, fight for racial justice—without instruction or direction from the clergy, though he may seek their advice.

In Catholic Action, however, the situation is different. In Catholic Action the layman is in the sphere of activity of the hierarchy, he acts on their mandate; therefore, the power of decision in Catholic Action activities rests ultimately with the clergy. If a priest tells a layman what to teach in a parish school of religion, for example, then the layman must conform unless he wishes to exercise his right to leave the particular organization.

Regarding the lay vocation, two points are worth noting. First, the apostolate of the laity calls for greater sanctity than that of the priest. Of course, the priest is called to pursue the highest possible holiness because of the dignity of his

priesthood. But his holiness does not affect the sacraments he administers. Thanks to the mercy of God, the sacraments produce their effects independently of the holiness of the priest. If he is holy, so much the better—he will add something to the effect of the sacraments. But the validity and the efficacy of the sacrament as such—is not conditioned by his holiness.

Joe Deane heads Cancer Crusade

WBFF Radio personality Joe Deane has been named chairman of special events for the Rochester Unit of the American Cancer Society, according to President John J. Petrossi. As chairman, Deane will coordinate various activities throughout the year designed to disseminate information and raise funds for research projects of the national organization.

Deadline for News Monday Noon

Grace E. Murphy

Blessing for Mrs. Grace E. Murphy was offered Thursday, March 23 and Requiem Mass, Monday, March 27 by Father Robert J. Fox in St. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester.

To Honor Faculty

Annual Dinner Dance to honor the faculty of Guardian Angels School, Henrietta, will take place on April 8. Shown in photo with Sister Jamesine, principal, are chairmen Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reid and Mr. and Mrs. Truxton Head.

Monroe Auto Sales

Young Chee

Football Coach

Nichol

Geneva Nurses Offer Grant

Geneva — Geneva Chapter, Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses will offer the Bishop Kearney Nursing Scholarship for the year 1967.

Eleven scholarships have been awarded since the fund was started.

Graduates of Geneva High School and DeSales High School, who are residents of Geneva, are eligible to apply for this grant. In addition the student applying must have been accepted in St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, Rochester; St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Elmira; or St. James Hospital School of Nursing in Hornell.

Young women interested in applying for this scholarship may contact the Scholarship Chairman, Mrs. Maurice Buckley, 39 Elmwood Ave., Geneva, N.Y.

Prior to Visit U.S. Geneva — (NC) — Pastor Roger Schutz, Swiss prior of the Protestant monastic community of Taizé in France, will travel to the United States in November.

Specializing in Kitchen Equipment and Supplies FOR CHURCH & SCHOOL CAFETERIAS SHANNON SUPPLY CO. 760 GENESEE ST. 434-5151

SALVAGGIO'S LIQUOR STORE 155 STATE ST. "AI will be pleased to serve you" Quality Wines, Liquors WE DELIVER Phone 454-7536

LIONEL COURTEMANCHE 8 Circle St. is where your Moving Begins! Agent for NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES GEO. M. CLANCY CARTING CO. INC. 8 Circle St. 473-3120

Cougar! Mercury's Finest Full Factory Equipment 5 Year 50,000 Mile Warranty! SALE PRICED... \$2596 Will always save you that extra \$50 to \$250! MONROE AUTO SALES LINCOLN - MERCURY 2452 W. HENRIETTA RD. 473-4743

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A BETTER MOVE LET BLANCHARD MOVING & STORAGE DO THE WORK AND WORRYING FOR YOU! Call LEWIS NEARY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE



Father Vincent Emond, curate at Holy Cross Church, Rochester, congratulates winning cheerleader teams of the parish in CYO tournament. Top picture shows high school pupils of parish and junior high school pupils in lower photo who won CYO championship in competition in mid-March.

Nicholas Teta, for the past five years football coach and athletic director at Notre Dame High School in Elmira, has accepted a position as guidance counselor and football coach at Hornell High School for the coming school year.

Mary Kaiser Receives Award

Bloodmobile Day Sponsored by Women

66 COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, April 7, 1967

CLIP and SAVE

Current Film Ratings

National Catholic Office For Motion Pictures

CLASS A, Section 1 — Unobjectionable for General Patronage

A Man For All Seasons	Frankenstein Conquers the World	Name the King
Alvin Karpis	Frontier Heretic	Pie in the Sky
Alvin Karpis	Gambit	Reluctant Astronaut
Alvin Karpis	Goat	Return of the Gunfighter
Alvin Karpis	Goat	Return of the Gunfighter
Alvin Karpis	Goat	Return of the Gunfighter

CLASS A, Section 2 — Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents

After the Fall	Fort Utah	Secret Agent Fireball
Alvin Karpis	Gunfight in Abilene	Smallest Good Lady
Alvin Karpis	Gypsy Girl	The (Fr.)
Alvin Karpis	Hostile Takeover	Sweet Light in the Dawn
Alvin Karpis	It Happened Here	The (Fr.)
Alvin Karpis	Jokers	The (Fr.)

CLASS A, Section 3 — Unobjectionable for Adults

Amateur Boy	Harper	Return of the Seven
Any Wednesday	Hotel Paradise	Return of the Seven
Avengers Kelly	Hotel Paradise	Return of the Seven
Avengers Kelly	Hotel Paradise	Return of the Seven
Avengers Kelly	Hotel Paradise	Return of the Seven

CLASS B, Section 1 — Unobjectionable in part for all

Arrivederci, Baby	Night Must Fall	Small World of Sammy
Arrivederci, Baby	Night Must Fall	Small World of Sammy
Arrivederci, Baby	Night Must Fall	Small World of Sammy
Arrivederci, Baby	Night Must Fall	Small World of Sammy
Arrivederci, Baby	Night Must Fall	Small World of Sammy

For Better Living Maynard's ELECTRIC SUPPLY INC. Lamp and Fixture Gallery 546-2640 428 STATE ST.



Academy Card Party

Alumnae Association of Nazareth Academy will hold a card party on Friday, April 28 at 8 p.m. at the school on Lake Ave. Tickets can be purchased at door or by calling FI 2-0944. Chairmen in photo are Virginia Hussey, Helen Schantz, and Bonnie Bauerschmidt.



To Honor Faculty

Annual Dinner Dance to honor the faculty of Guardian Angels School, Henrietta, will take place on April 8. Shown in photo with Sister Jamesine, principal, are chairmen Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reid and Mr. and Mrs. Truxton Head.

INCOME FOR LIFE! Your investment in the Society of the Divine Word Annuity Plan will provide generous interest payments for life, with regular checks coming to you every six months. You will also share in spiritual benefits and gain personal satisfaction in the knowledge that your money is helping the cause of Christ all over the world. Certain tax advantages also combine to improve the financial return of an S.V.D. Annuity Contract

ALLIED VAN LINES BLANCHARD MOVING & STORAGE 320 BROAD ST. 454-7690