

Give Youngsters Sense of Mission

Cambridge, Mass. — (NC) — United States and Canadian guidance counselors heard Bishop Sheen give his prescription for bridging the gap between youths of today and their elders.

"Give the kids a chance to serve humanity—a sense of mission," Bishop Sheen told the annual institute of guidance counselors at the Harvard University's graduate school of education.

"There's such a craving among young people for a place to serve and to be of use. That explains the success of the Peace Corps," the bishop said.

"The void between the present and earlier generations marks the first time in history that we have skip-

ped a couple of rungs in the ladder of evolution," he said.

He attributed this gulf to the failure of adults to provide "what everyone needs for happiness—an opportunity to be of service and feel useful."

"Let these young people get their feet wet in the service of humanity, give them a taste of working among the poor, the delinquents and the troubled mothers waiting for justice in our courts and they'll be all right," the prelate declared.

The bishop added: "There will be nothing to bridge—the gap between generations will vanish—if only we give the young a chance to identify with their fellow-man and help meet his tremendous needs."

Fairness to Children Campaign Its Goal: Equality

A statewide "Fairness to Children Campaign" got underway in the Rochester Diocese at a meeting in Geneva this past week.

Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, diocesan coordinator, met with priests, nuns and lay people from the various areas of the Diocese to launch the project.

Monsignor William M. Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools, described the campaign as an effort "in behalf of the nearly one million children who attend the non-public schools in the state."

To achieve "the same educational opportunities" for pupils in both public and parochial schools, he said repeal of the controversial Blaine Amendment of the New York State Constitution is necessary.

"Then the Legislature will be free to enact whatever legislation it may from time to time see fit to pass which will benefit all the children who need a quality education regardless of the school they attend," Monsignor Roche explained.

The Blaine law prohibits state funds to be given "directly or indirectly" to aid pupils in church-related schools.

Father Steinkirchner will develop "a triple structure" of information and action campaign at the diocesan, area and parish level each to include a priest, nun and lay couple team.

Reports from Albany where the state constitutional convention is in session indicate that the crucial showdown vote on the fate of the 74-year-old Blaine Amendment is likely to be made by citizens in the November elections rather than by the convention delegates.

Catholic school officials and officials of other non-public schools are, therefore, guarding their strength for an intensive pre-election campaign against the restrictive amendment.

The first of several steps to remove the amendment from the state constitution was taken by a subcommittee of the Committee on the Bill of Rights and Suffrage. The subcommittee voted 6 to 1 to strike it from the proposed new constitution.

The full committee is expected to take up the issue later.

this summer and hear proposals that the first amendment of the U.S. Federal constitution should instead be incorporated in the state text to replace the Blaine law.

An articulate organization called the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) claims its 10,000,000 members want the Blaine law kept because the first federal amendment is too vague.

Those who favor repeal, however, found strong, if indirect, support in a statement by six university presidents—including Dr. W. Allen Wallis of the University of Rochester.

The university presidents ask that other provisions of the state constitution be left intact which permit aid to private and church-related educational institutions.

The plea was made in a 2500-word letter to Assemblyman Anthony J. Travia, president of the constitutional convention,

from Allan J. Carter, chancellor of New York University.

Although not citing the Blaine issue, the letter stated:

"We cannot avoid viewing with grave alarm any suggested modifications in Article 16, Section 1, of the present Constitution, and we urge retention of such provision."

The section makes government funds available to private and religious schools for library costs and other administrative costs.

Carter said the six university heads believe that the Constitution "should state as a goal the guarantee that no young man or woman of ability should be denied access to an institution of higher education because of financial limitations."

The educators, Carter said, also called for convention delegates to endorse the State Board of Regents as "the most appropriate vehicle" to direct the state's educational policy.

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Who Cares When You Get Old?

Berlin — While more and more films are being made for and about the "turned on" generation, two highly praised films have treated the "turned away" generation — the unwanted elderly.

The first is "The Whisperers," a dramatic study of loneliness in old age, which has just won the International Catholic Film Office prize at the Berlin Film Festival.

The second is "The Shameless Old Lady," the story of a sprightly old widow who surprises her friends and family by deciding to live life to the fullest in her remaining years.

At Berlin, "The Whisperers," directed by Britain's Bryan Forbes, was selected by the International Catholic Film Office jury as a film "which by its inspiration and quality contributes to the spiritual progress and development of human values."

The international jury, which included one American — film critic Philip Hartung of "The Commonwealth"—said in awarding its prize to "The Whisperers."

"This unusual film, about loneliness of old people, upholds human dignity in the face of adversity. In its realistic manner it shows that even good social assistance is not good enough to fulfill the need of love of the human heart. Presented in a style devoid of melodramatic concessions, the film profits greatly by the outstanding performance of its leading actress, Dame Edith Evans."

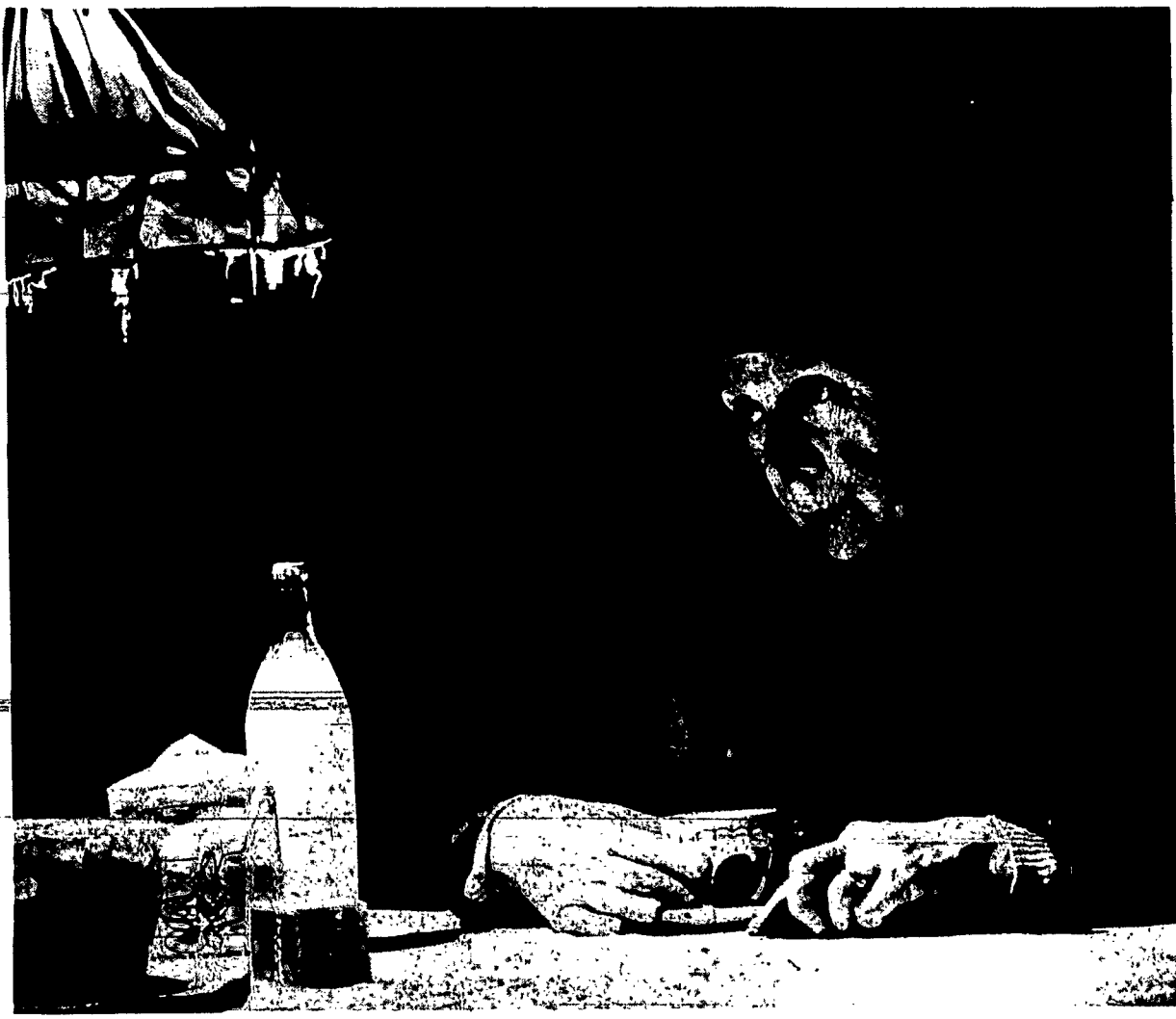
Dame Edith, who is nearing 80, also received the Berlin Film Festival prize as best actress "for the faultless subtlety of her portrayal of a woman whose loneliness drives her into an imaginary world."

In "The Whisperers," she is a pathetic old woman, separated from her husband who ran out on her years ago, who lives in a dingy two-room flat outside London. Her life consists of daily puttering about her rooms, visits to the public library, where she reads the papers, and regular visits to the local pension office for financial assistance.

She has a delusion that a relative has left her a great deal of money and that it will be delivered to her shortly: a delusion which is pathetically realized when her son leaves with her a bundle of money that in turn is stolen from her.

The "whisperers" of the title are really sounds that she hears — from the radio, the walls, the water pipes, everywhere. She finds them both worrying and comforting — worrying because she is convinced the "voices" are whispering about her and comforting because she can rely on them to be ever-present and thus an integral part of her daily life.

There is a brief hope that her daily life will be filled again when a welfare officer persuades her husband (Eric Portman) to rejoin her. But later, recovering a briefcase full of money from a slain bookie, she hops a train and deserts her, muttering to her in his mind, "You're on your own again."



Dame Edith Evans as a lonely old woman in "The Whisperers."

At fadeout, she is once again back at the pension office, alone.

"The Shameless Old Lady," which went into release earlier but which is still in distribution throughout the country, is, by contrast, an upbeat film, starring an actress Sylvie, who is in her eighties. She is "shameless" because, upon the death of her husband, she refuses to live the quiet, passive role assigned to a widowed grandmother by convention.

Instead, she starts going to movies, browsing in department stores, eating ice-cream sodas and riding cabs. She even picks

up a new set of young friends and buys a second-hand car to go vacationing with them. Her family is scandalized—not so much by her behavior but because they had planned to make other use of the money she is now using to finance what they regard as senile whims.

But for her, these actions represent the beginning of a new life, after years as a dutiful wife and mother.

The National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures noted that "this first feature film by young French director Rene Allio has been awarded a number of international prizes and those who

get to see it will understand why it deserves them."

"Madame Berthe as played by Sylvie is a delight as she samples her strange freedom with a shy smile and a look of wonder in her eyes while trying out an escalator, sampling perfume or inquiring about some new kitchen gadget. But her performance is not limited to the whimsical. She creates a definite portrait of the old-fashioned grandmother whose experience and strength of character are unmatched by that of any of her 'more educated' children." — (Catholic Press Features)

Housing, Jobs-Still Core of Discontent

It is unfair to expect the police to fulfill a role that the whole community should be playing, Rochester's Vicar for Urban Ministry stated this week.

Commenting on the turbulent disorders which rocked the city's third and seventh wards this week, Father P. David Finks continued:

"The police are expected to handle the whole revolution of rising expectations by a containment policy," and then added, "that's expecting too much of anybody."

Two men were killed, nearly 40 arrests were made and most of Rochester's police force was out on two nights marred by unruly gatherings, small fires and scattered looting.

Conditions for the American Negro have been unbelievably bad for the past 100 years, and it is only in the past few years that hope has risen, Father Finks stated.

While reforms in racial justice have begun, they have not kept pace with the expectations and the results are widespread frustration among many Negroes, he said.

Crash programs and short-lived efforts are not the answer, the Rochester priest insisted.

"There has to be a year-round effort to improve the housing and job problems, which are the core of discontent," he stressed.

Rochester has made some significant steps, even in recent months, he noted, "but these efforts haven't yet touched the man in the street."

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What's happening in our cities? Page 4.

The Church in the Inner City — 'East Side' Story in Elmira. Page 5.

FIGHT has been "a very helpful influence" in the city "FIGHT" has had men on the streets all summer long, and they've often headed off incidents which might have become dangerous," he pointed out.

When the Courier-Journal went to press, the youthful inner-city priest was hopeful that "the worst is over," but added somberly, "nobody can predict these things."

—Father Robert Kanke

Egypt Thanks Pope for Aid

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Egyptian foreign ministry has expressed gratitude for the "speed" with which Vatican relief supplies were made available to refugees and other civilian victims of the Middle East war.

"The attention given to the problem of humanity, helped by a sufficient moral understanding, will in the end see to the needs of the populations affected by all this and to the assistance of the prisoners and wounded," declared the Egyptian ministry.

The Vatican airlift from Rome in June was led by Msgr. John G. Nolan of New York, who is president of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. Both agencies have headquarters in New York.

Another Nudge Toward Unity

Pope Paul and Patriarch Athanasios nudged the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches another step toward unity this week.

The two prelates head churches with a combined membership of 725,000,000 — well over three fifths of the world's Christians.

The frail Pope and the tall Patriarch met in Istanbul, historic city on the Bosphorus where Europe and Asia meet.

The meeting included prayers and private talks for eventual reunion of the two churches separated from each other for over 900 years.

A more detailed report of the meeting will be published in next week's Courier.

Pope Names New Bishops

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul has made the following appointments in the hierarchy of the United States:

Bishop George J. Bishop of Des Moines is named titular archbishop of Tamaluma and coadjutor with right of succession to Archbishop Paul Schulte of Indianapolis.

Bishop William J. McDonald, rector of the Catholic University of America here, is named an auxiliary to Archbishop Joseph T. McGuiken of San Francisco.

New Pastors, at Phelps, Stanley

Father Simpson Resigns Pastorate

A member of St. Francis parish, Phelps, wrote the Courier in 1965 about his pastor, Father Edward B. Simpson — "No one has worked longer and harder for the people of our parish and he has done much to make our church a thing of beauty to any beholder, and he has done much alone. I wonder if any of us really appreciate what he has done for us over the years?"

Many other parishioners had similar thoughts as they walked from church Sunday morning.

They had just heard Father Simpson announce that he had decided to resign his active pastoral responsibilities after close to half a century as spiritual shepherd of his little flock at Phelps.

Bishop Sheen announced at the Pastoral Office that Father William J. Reifer would be the new pastor at Phelps and that Father T. Paul Murley would replace him as pastor of St. Theresa's Church, Stanley, and St. Mary's Church, Rushville. Father Murley, ordained in 1945, has devoted most of his priestly career to teaching at St. Andrew's Seminary.

FATHER SIMPSON'S retirement marks the end of an ecclesiastical era in the Catholic life of the historic village of Phelps. He began his pastorate there in 1919, ten years after his ordination. Prior to his pastorate he taught Latin and other subjects at St. Andrew's Seminary.

The standing monument of his spiritual apostolate is the



FATHER SIMPSON a pastor since 1919

parish church of St. Francis built under his supervision in 1931. Architects recognize it as a masterpiece of classic Roman basilica type structure.

During the early 1920s he had a brush with the Ku Klux Klan. Invited to give the dedicatory talk for the public school, he waited at a corner for the parade to march to the new school.

Striding behind the scheduled parade units was a contingent of disgruntled citizens angered that a Catholic priest was to give the principal address. Some



FATHER MURLEY Stanley, Rushville

were known to be Klan members.

Not suspecting their purpose, Father Simpson recognized them simply as fellow townsmen and walked the rest of the way with them to the school.

They were so surprised by the turn of events that they applauded as loud as anyone else at the conclusion of his talk which stressed the need for discipline and good education for children and that also marked the end of Klan activity in the area.

At the ninth charter and ladies' night dinner of the



FATHER REIFER Phelps

Phelps Lions Club at the Clifton Springs Country Club, in 1965 Father Simpson was named "Citizen of the Year."

The award climaxed his many years as one of Phelps' best known and deeply respected citizens.

Born Oct. 15, 1885, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Simpson, Rochester, he attended Holy Apostles School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, June 12, 1909 by Bishop John Grimes of Syracuse.

Baptism Rites Recognized

Utrecht — (RNS) — The Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed Churches in the Netherlands announced officially that they will recognize as valid baptisms performed in each other's churches.

Making the announcement at a press conference were Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht and Primate of Holland, and Dr. Gerit de Ru, president of the General Synod of the Netherlands Reformed Church.

A report that the mutual recognition of baptism had been arrived at following prolonged discussions by representatives of both Churches had been published in June by the St. Willibrord Society, a Catholic ecumenical agency here.

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