



Teenagers gather to watch a disk jockey broadcast from a shopping-center window. A priest's book insists that DJ's spin a "gospel" that is definitely Christian.

'Kingdom of Downtown'

A priest who has studied closely the world of teenagers and their music has concluded that the "top 40" radio stations are providing teenagers with "an excellent grounding for Christian living."

This is the surprising theme of a book written by the Rev. Louis M. Savary, Jr., a 31-year-old Jesuit who was a professional musician at the age of 12 and who interviewed dozens of disk jockeys and hundreds of teenagers during his research.

The drive toward a universal Christian community "pulses in the beat of teen music" and "is hidden in the yearning of the song lyrics," writes Father Savary. "Many of the attitudes and important ideas that these songs encourage — trust, fidelity, personal fulfillment, social concern — have a place in Christian experience."

Titled "The Kingdom of Downtown" and to be published in paperback by the Paulist Press, the book is directed to both teenagers and adults and is intended to show that the kingdom of God (the Christian community) "have much in common," Father Savary notes.

Work In World
Because of the recent emphasis by the church on working in the secular world rather than running away from it, the young Jesuit observes, young people "for perhaps the first time in human history are really free to accept the invitation to grow into full Christian life within the community of men in process with Christ toward the perfect society."

He describes the teenage audience for disk-jockey programs as being "like a mystical body, with one soul," cutting across all social and racial boundaries and every day listening to a "gospel" that resembles the Christian gospel. Most song lyrics popular with teenagers, he writes, deal with loneliness and sadness, discovery of interpersonal sharing, the need for trust, the awakening of social awareness, the search for personal fulfillment and a preoccupation with youth, life, recklessness and death.

Illustrating his thesis with lyrics from songs such as "Our World" (about teenage hopes to build a better world) and "Sounds of Silence" (about lack of real communication between people), the priest writes that it should not be too difficult to show teenagers that their concerns are shared by adult Christians.

"Social awareness is one of the richest and most varied themes in the song lyrics of teen music today," Father Savary notes. "Songs of social awareness never appeared in the top-tune lists and hit parades of the past. They are a new breed of song in the pop bag, quite influential little animals in the everyday life of a teenager in the sixties."

"It is a Christian privilege and responsibility to bring such social awareness to young people to emotional maturity and translate it into personal action for the benefit of the community."

His book, filled with teenage-age, dozens of lyrics and constant references to popular singers like The Supremes, Sonny and Cher, Boy Dylan, The Lovin' Spoonful and Paul Revere and the Raiders, is intended to tell teenagers as much about the kingdom of God as it tells adults about the kingdom of downtown.

Missing the Significance
"If many adults miss the meaning and significance of the kingdom of Downtown, many young people miss the meaning and significance of the kingdom of God," Father Savary writes.

Thus, after treating the theme of loneliness in teen songs such as Simon & Garfunkel's "I Am a Rock" and in "Paint It Black," Father Savary observes:

"Nobody invites loneliness into his life. Certainly not the teenager on the cement sidewalk in urban America today. Neither did Christ as he walked the rocky paths of Galilee. Both Christ and the teenager know that the deepest human hurt comes when a person freely offers friendship to another and finds it rejected, cast aside, forgotten."

Even a song with apparent

romantic leanings like The Supremes' "You Can't Hurry Love" is cited to illustrate Christ's patience with man's indifference to Him.

Songs of faith and of trust, like "I Can Make It With You" and "Call Me" are also used as illustrations for Christian life, despite what adults often regard as sexual overtones ("grownups inhale the messages of love in teen songs through the filters of their own attitudes and experiences and often read sex into teen songs which contain little or no reference to it").

But in their discovery of another human person, Father Savary stresses, lies "the firmest groundings for a Christian life." As children, he writes, "they lived in a merry-go-round of toys, television, games and parties. But now, as young people, they break through the frosting of this cake and let cream world into something new and fascinating, the discovery of 'another,' a person, someone whose worth can't be measured in money and pleasures."

"But the kingdom of Downtown is not the only community that stresses the importance of the person. The Downtown message is only an echo from the pages of the New Testament where Christ made the person an over-all value. 'I am the way,' he said. 'To accept the person of Christ is to enter his community. The kingdom of God, like the kingdom of Downtown, is dependent on persons.'" — (Catholic Press)

sons." (Catholic Press Feature)



Heads Bank Branch

David M. Murphy has been appointed manager of the new Greece office of Columbia Banking, Savings and Loan Association. The office, another Bank in-the-Round opened on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 2750 Ridge Road West in Greece. Murphy is a director of the Catholic Youth Organization.

Let's Communicate

Father Hohman.

After reading many articles in journals and magazines concerning the question of priestly celibacy I find myself asking how a priest can love a whole community in place of the direct love of a family.

Sue.

Human beings have been created in such a way that they need to love in order to become complete. This love takes the form of total dedication of self to another person or persons. Ordinarily this love manifests itself in the family. However, it becomes possible for a priest to extend his love to an entire community from and through his love of Christ. In the sacrament of Ordination the priest receives the grace through which he is capable of loving men as Christ loves men. This love is the love of a father.

Father Hohman.

I recall hearing that the Pope has given permission for the Canon of the Mass to be said in English. In my parish parties of the Mass are still being said in Latin. When does our diocese intend to make this change from Latin to English?

Paul.

The Diocese of Rochester has set the first Sunday in Advent (Sunday, December third) as the date on which it shall begin to have the entire Mass in the vernacular. You may be interested in knowing that as of this month Canada began celebrating the Mass in the vernacular.

Father Hohman.

What is the reasoning behind the establishing of King's Preparatory?

John M.

King's Preparatory was founded to replace St. Andrew's Seminary in order to establish a wide base for fostering vocations to the service of God and men. It has become "a seminary plus." Boys who aspire to the priesthood are thus given a normal high school life together with the best intellectual and spiritual training. Others who aspire to service vocations, girls included, are given the opportunity to share this superior training and have the added advantage of being educated with those who share similar lofty goals in life. Boys who do aspire to the priesthood in their high school years should be encouraged to attend King's Prep as the best possible way of nourishing the delicate seed of vocation while maintaining a normal and healthy Christian environment.

To qualify for entrance to King's Prep, however, it is not necessary for the applicant to have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life but merely to aspire to service in the lay apostolate.

"Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eyes fixed on the horizon will find his right road." — Dag Hammarskjöld in Markings.

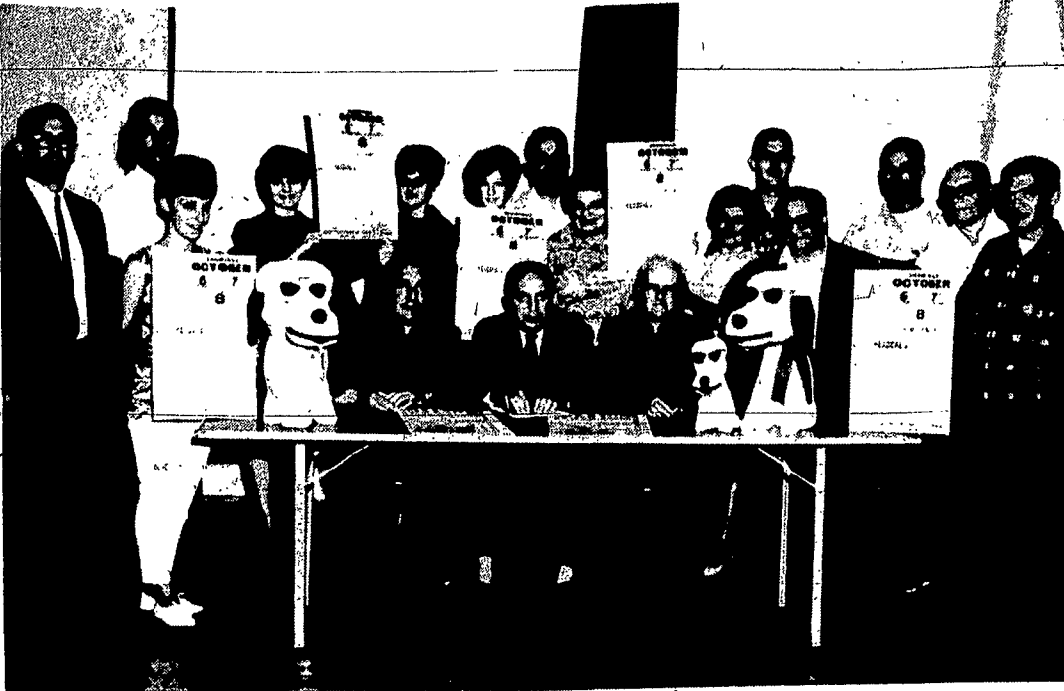
Address questions and comments to: Father Louis Hohman, "Let's Communicate," Box 60, 75 Fairport Rd., E. Rochester, N.Y. 14445.

Seneca Falls Business Changes Hands

E. H. Backus Jr. of Waterloo announces the sale of Backus & Company to Royce Rosenkrans, Inc. of Seneca Falls. The change in ownership becomes effective Oct. 1.

Roy Schaumloeffel of Royce & Rosenkrans, a resident of Waterloo for 13 years, will manage the new Waterloo insurance organization. Schaumloeffel, who has a wide acquaintance in the Finger Lakes area, has a broad experience in the insurance field over the past 21 years in Waterloo, as well as during his previous residence in Rochester.

Mr. and Mrs. Schaumloeffel and their family are members of St. Mary's Church of Waterloo.



Fall Festival
Monsignor Dennis Hickey, pastor of St. Theodore's, Father John Steger and chairman Herbert Zimmer are surrounded by eager workers for the parish's annual Fall Festival, Oct. 6, 7, 8. Special features of this year's gathering involve a Roast Beef Dinner on Fri. and a Spaghetti Supper on Sat. and Sun. nights.

Sgt. Culhane Funeral

Paul R.

Funeral services for Army Staff Sgt. Gerard A. Culhane, formerly of Rochester, were conducted in St. Bridget's Church, Louisville, Ky., Sept. 16. Sgt. Culhane, 44, of Radcliffe, Ky., died unexpectedly of a heart attack in camp near Saigon, South Vietnam, Sept. 12, 1967.

A winner of two Purple Hearts during World War II and veteran of the Korean War, he was serving his second tour of duty in Vietnam at the time of his death.

He joined the Army in December, 1942 and served in the First Cavalry Division under General George Patton in the European Theater.

He was to have retired two years ago but signed for further duty at the Army's request. He left Ft. Rucker, Ala. in July for a second tour in Vietnam and was reassigned to the 1st Cavalry.

At Ft. Rucker he was a helicopter pilot.

He was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Culhane, 84 Latham St. He was a graduate of Sacred Heart School and John Marshall High.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Marion Lepping Culhane of 712 Crescent Way, Radcliffe, Ky.; six sisters, Miss Margaret Culhane, Miss Rose A. Culhane, Mrs. Vernon (Mollie) Haloran, Mrs. Peter (Annie) Yantz, Mrs. Lorna (Dominica) Stringer, all of Rochester; Mrs. Clyde (Jane) Eddinger of Springfield, Va.; five brothers, Joseph, Denis, Daniel, Leo, Alexander (Mike), and Francis Culhane, all of Rochester.

Burial was in St. Michael Cemetery, Louisville, Ky. Arrangements by Joseph Funeral Home, Inc., Louisville, Ky. and (local) Henry D. Halloran Son, Arnett Blvd., Rochester, N.Y.

Mt. Morris Native Named Monsignor

Mt. Morris — Word has been received here that the Rev. William Thomas Larkin of Jacksonville, Fla. has been appointed a Domestic Prelate with the title of Rt. Rev. Monsignor in the Diocese of Florida. Monsignor Larkin is a native of Mt. Morris and is the son of the late William T. Larkin and Mrs. Julia Larkin of Jacksonville. Father Larkin is the founder of Christ the King parish in Arlington, a suburb of Jacksonville.

Twin Circle Launched

New York — (RNS) — Archbishop Robert J. Dwyer of Portland, Ore., will be chairman of the editorial board of a new national Catholic weekly.

The publication, to be called Twin Circle — The National Catholic Press, has been founded by two members of the editorial staffs of the nation's two largest Roman Catholic weekly newspapers: Father Daniel Lyons, S.J., current affairs columnist for Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Ind., and Frank Morriss, former news editor and columnist for The Register of Denver.

Stressing that the new publication will be news-oriented, Mr. Morriss said that Twin Circle will be a positive antidote to modern secularism and what he called "the rebirth of the error of modernism in certain Catholic circles." It will also oppose consensus morality and a lack of absolutes in matters of faith and morals, he declared.

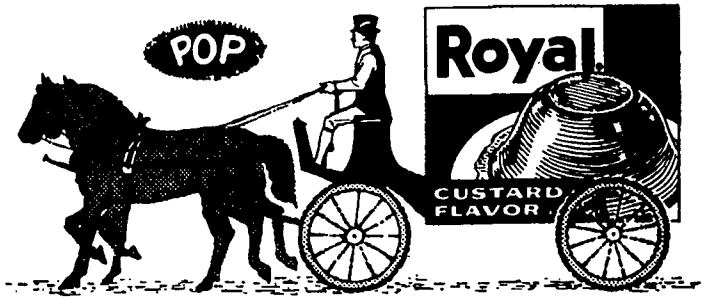
Alberta Names Fr. Pendergast Full Professor

Father Russell A. Pendergast, former economics professor and treasurer of St. John Fisher College, has just been made a full professor of Economics at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. The promotion for the Basilian priest marks the first time that a Catholic priest has been given full tenure by the Edmonton university.

Father Pendergast has been on the Alberta faculty for the past four years.

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Vatican Court Sued For Nullity Delay

Trapani, Italy — (NC) — Melchiorre Palermo, 57, has begun a suit against the Roman Rota — high Church court — asking compensation for "material and moral damages" resulting from a 20-year delay in declaring his marriage null.

The local court hearing the case could find no precedent and has asked for an opinion from Italy's Constitutional Court. If the suit continues it may involve an interpretation of the concordat between Italy and the Holy See which governs relations between the two sovereignities' legal establishments.

The Roman Rota, which deals with marriage cases, handed down a decision Dec. 16, 1966, holding that Palermo's marriage to Rosa Conforto 20 years before was null. The grounds, according to Palermo's description were the lack of proper consent on his part.

In 1944, according to ANSA, Italian news agency, Palermo was surprised in Rosa Conforto's home by her relatives and three policemen. The girl was then 18.

He was arrested for presumed rape, but the charge was dropped automatically according to Italian law practice when he accepted the proposal of the girl's family and married her in the jail's chapel. As soon as he was freed, Palermo immediately challenged his marriage before a Church court, claiming he had simulated his consent to the marriage, presumably to escape prison.

Palermo's suit against the Rota's delay in handling the case claims material and moral damages from Church authorities who, ANSA quoted him as saying, "have kept me committed to a marriage whose deficiency of consent appeared clear from the beginning, thus impeding me from building a family on the moral and civil foundations guaranteed by the constitution to all Italian citizens."

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