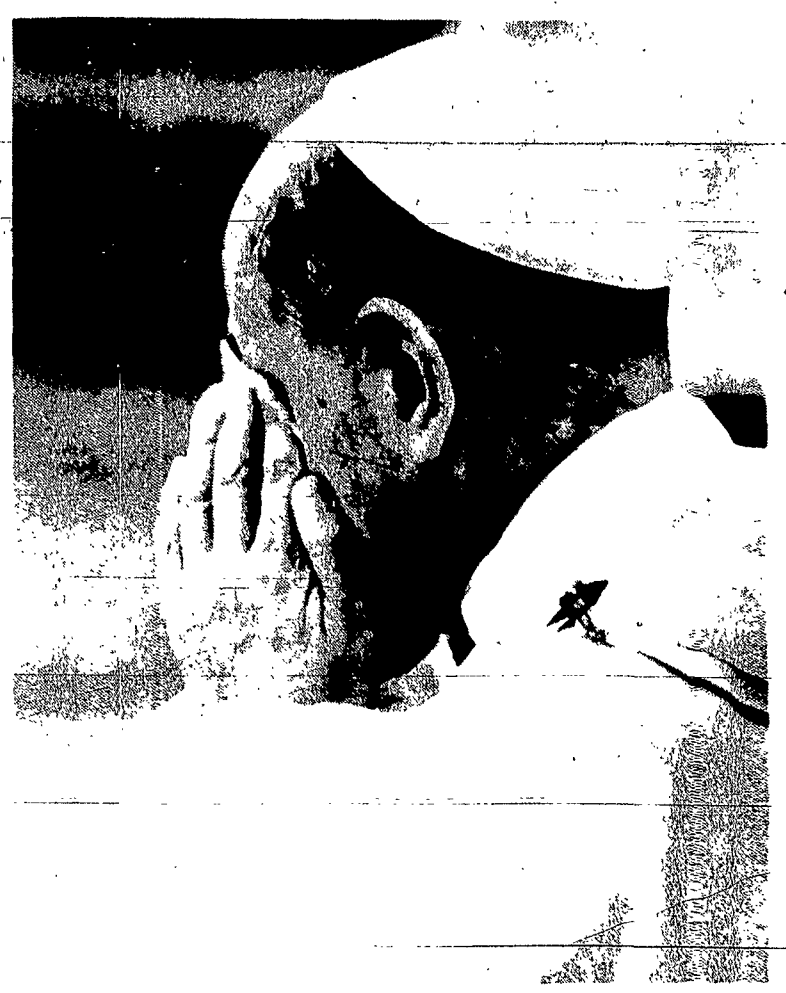


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How the Blaine Amendment Has Actually Hurt Catholic Pupils
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The Catholic COURIER

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You think you have troubles? How would you like to have the Pope's worries? This photo shows the weary, still ailing Pontiff at Mass for Bishops Synod meeting this month in Rome.

Proposed New York Constitution - It's Good

By GEORGE YAMIN

Albany — (NC)—New York State's new constitution has many more good points than bad.

And for that reason, it is expected to win acceptance when the state's voters decide the new constitution's fate Nov. 7.

The New York State Catholic Committee — the organization of the state's eight Catholic bishops — looks upon it with favor, and says it "unhesitatingly supports its adoption by the voters."

(Republican party leaders have announced that they will campaign against the constitution. Senate Majority Leader Earl W. Brydges and Assembly Minority Leader Perry B. Duryear, Jr., said that the "commendable sections" of the proposed document fail to offset its serious defects.)

Governor Nelson Rockefeller has yet to announce his stand. But Governor Rockefeller has publicly supported the constitution's repeal of the controversial Blaine Amendment, which has prohibited any state aid to church-related schools or other institutions for more than 70 years.

And since he was a major force in getting the convention in the first place, Governor Rockefeller may not want to oppose adopting its constitution. Nor is the presence — on the line next to that reserved for the new constitution — of a \$2.5 billion transportation bond issue strongly favored by the governor likely to encourage his opposition to the document. Any danger to one could mean danger to the other, thanks to the unpredictable manner in which many voters act when confronted with a machine.

Despite these favorable factors, passage of the new constitution will still require a concerted drive on the part of its supporters, since many groups — chief among them the Liberal party — feel their areas of concern have been badly handled. That kind of opposition, while fragmented, could threaten the document, although even many of these dissatisfied people agree that their own interests are not worth wrecking the entire charter.

Many groups join with the

Howe Advises Voters OK Constitution

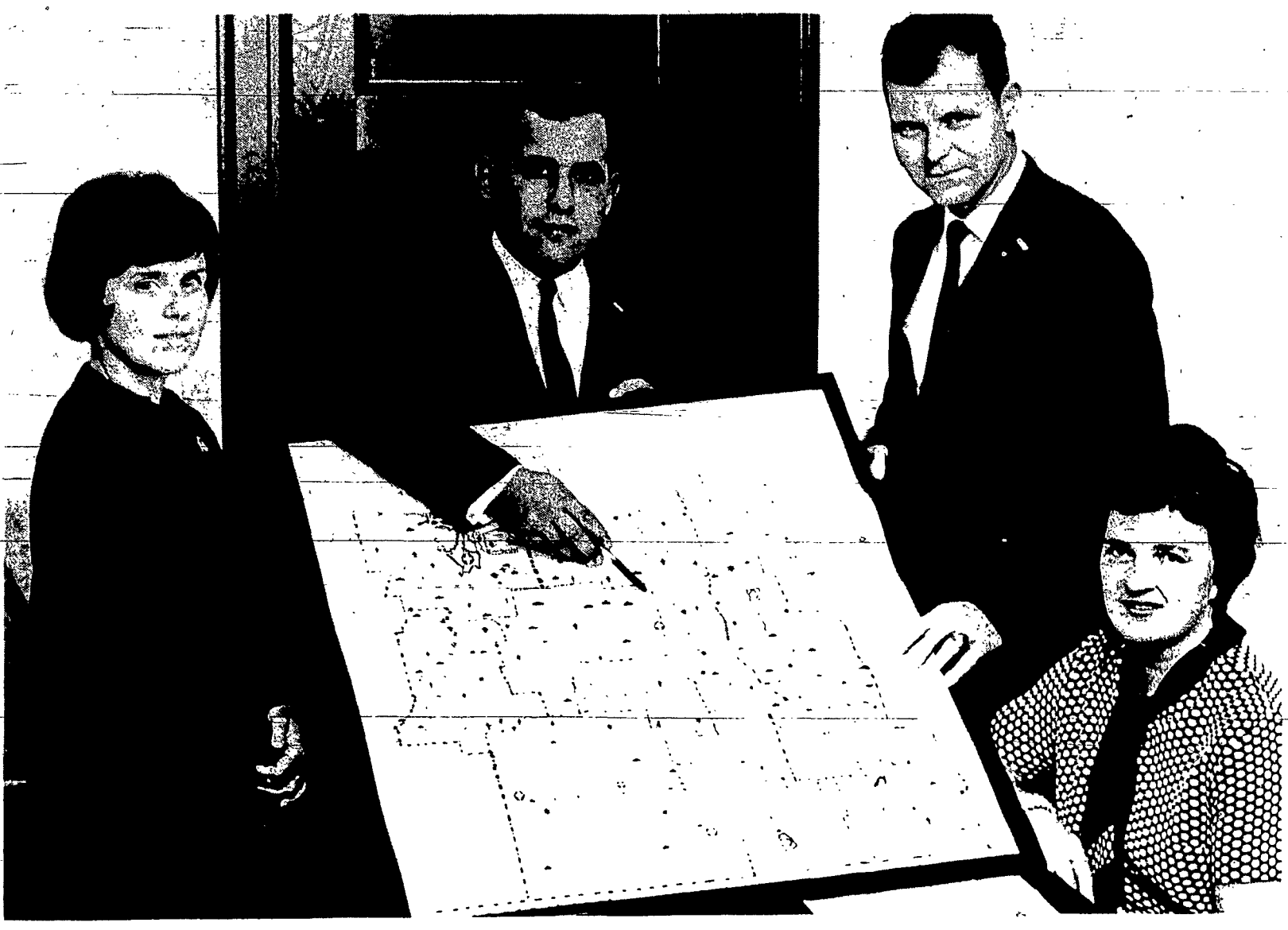
Gordon A. Howe, Monroe County Manager and a Republican, told a Fairness to Children forum at Holy Rosary parish this week, "I think that the good points (of the proposed new New York State Constitution) outweigh whatever bad points there might be, and I for one, as a personal situation, intend to support the Constitution."

He told the more than 125 people at the forum that he had taken an early stand for repeal of the Blaine Amendment "as a matter of justice" and that if voters turn down the Constitution package, he would "straightforwardly go to work to help prepare the legislation for the repeal of the Blaine Amendment... so that all children have an equal opportunity for education in this great and growing state of ours."

State Assemblyman Charles Stockmeister, a Democrat, also recommended voter approval of the new Constitution listing its elimination of the Blaine Amendment as "our last chance" to do so or else parochial schools will be "strangled" and citizens will end with "state monopoly in education."

Monroe County Conservative Party chairman Leo J. Kesselring, however, said he and his party will campaign against the proposed Constitution. He said the Blaine repeal bid "should not be used as the criterion" for voters to approve or reject the Charter but "resolve their differences" on that subject later.

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Four weeks to go to muster their forces to scuttle the 1894 bias of the Blaine Amendment — that's the task confronting Mr. and Mrs. Michael Tomaino of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, diocesan coordinators of the Fair-

ness to Children campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shannon of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish are campaign coordinators for Monroe County. Similar couple teams are at work on drive in other major areas of the Diocese.

New York Catholic Committee favoring the constitution because a major asset recommending its approval is the special mention it makes of "voluntarism."

This basic principle — cooperation between government and non-governmental organizations in order to meet human needs — is clearly outlined not once, but throughout the whole of the new constitution, a quality which sets it apart, in the words of a constitutional expert, as an "enlightened, up-to-date document."

The principle of voluntarism is old to the United States, but recognition of its worth in the basic charter of a state is what makes the New York document unique. It's never been done before.

Among the ideas incorporated into the 22,000-word constitution will be found each and every one of the 10 basic positions taken by the New York Catholic Committee in testimony and background papers before and during the convention.

But in no case did the Catholic Committee stand alone. Many interested groups and interested citizens supported these positions.

Here is how the convention decided and the positions taken by the Catholic Committee in its presentations to the delegates:

● **Health and welfare:**
 The Catholic Committee urged the state to make it a matter of constitutional concern

that the health and well-being of its citizens be a basic aim of government.

The new preamble clearly states the purpose of the new constitution is to provide for health and welfare. The bill of rights also states that government policy include economic security for the people of the state.

The Catholic Committee had urged that the state implement this new policy with provisions including a general freedom for the state to join with non-public groups in taking action to meet human needs. The new

constitution includes a broad authority for the state to make grants and loans for any public purpose.

● **Education:**
 The Catholic Committee urged the state to take the Blaine Amendment restriction out and substitute the Federal Constitution's First Amendment guaranteeing separation of church and state. It also asked for a guarantee of the right of citizens to sue the state if they believed any church-state separation provision was being violated.

In the new constitution Blaine is out; the federal first amend-

ment is in; citizens' suits for unconstitutionality are in.

The new education article is remarkable since it sets as basic constitutional law the cooperation of public and non-public education under the Board of Regents to meet the state's educational needs.

● **Citizens boards:**

The committee urged retention of citizens' boards (education and social welfare), since they provide constitutional protection for citizens from unreasonable acts of state administrators and an opportunity for all viewpoints to be represented at the highest level of government.

The Board of Regents (education) remains charged with the overall supervision of education in the state. The Board of Social Welfare retains its position and is included in the state department.

● **Housing and urban development:**

The committee urged the state to eliminate the restrictive language of the old constitution and commit itself to a program of renewal.

The new constitution contains a broad authorization for economic and community development including renewal, rebuilding of cities, housing and related needs.

● **Protection of religious faith:**

The committee urged reten-

(Continued on Page 2A)

Clothing Drive for Needy During Thanksgiving Week

Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester will be asked to search their closets for clothes for the needy during the annual Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign set for November 12 to 18.

Father Chester M. Klocek will coordinate the diocesan drive. The annual appeal is made in all 17,500 of the nation's Catholic parishes.

Father Klocek said, "Every Catholic church in Bishop Sheen's diocese will serve as a center for receiving bundles of serviceable used clothing and arrange for distribution to those in dire need in underdeveloped and impoverished lands."

Further details, he said, would be announced as the date of the campaign nears.

First Deacons For Brazil

Bogota — (NC)—Latin America's first permanent deacons, two Brazilians, will be ordained in 1968. They are the products of the continent's largest system for training deacons—Brazil's—with special seminaries in Salvador, Goyania, Barra do Pirai and Porto Alegre.

Latin American bishops are seeking married men, over 35 years old, with a stable family relationship. They are also accepting young unmarried men.

Two Sections For You to Read

- An Englishman at St. Bernard's Seminary describes the Church in his homeland, page 1B.
- St. Bernard's parish in Scipio Center Celebrates its centenary, page 2B.
- Editorial 4A
- Entertainment 13A
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Servants of God Still in Business

The newly launched Servant of God community encountered some turbulent waters on the ecumenical sea recently, but by last Sunday it was sailing in calm water again.

"Servant of God" is the title chosen by some 50 Rochester area Catholics who have founded an apostolic group on an extra-parochial basis.

The infant organization made headlines last week when they scheduled a home and home ecumenical service with Christ Claron Presbyterian Church in Pittsford. The focal points of the story were the relocation of a Mass, originally set for the Presbyterian church, to a Catholic chapel, and a reported inter-Communion participation.

The ensuing publicity brought to the diocesan pastoral office: 1) a flurry of questioning phone calls and letters and 2) by mid-week, a Servant of God delegation which requested a clarifying conference with Monsignor Dennis W. Hickey, vicar general of the Diocese.

The meeting described as "most pleasant" by the vicar general did help clear the air. (Continued on Page 2A)



Let the little children come to me, said the Lord. The youngsters have altar-edge place at Mass for Servants of God, new community which made headlines after recent inter-faith ceremonies.

Uphill Journey

By Faber Robert A. Graham, S.J., Special Correspondent

Vatican City — (RNS) — Nearly everyone connected with the work of the Synod of Bishops seems satisfied thus far except the press.

Dramatic episodes and open divisions so dear to us journalists have not developed on the floor and nothing has really been decided. Yet the quiet conviction evident in Synod circles is that the "aggiornamento" of Vatican II continues steadily on its long uphill road.

The most persuasive sign of this is the complacency of the French hierarchy over the trend of discussions on the thorny matter of the crisis of faith. Months ago, in their widely publicized reply to a questionnaire sent from Rome, the French bishops laid their reputations on the line by deprecating the pessimistic and negative tone of the query.

At the Synod and faced with working papers couched in almost the same line of thought and had the consolation of finding their views widely echoed by other episcopal spokesmen.

Another basis for optimism was the support gained for a proposal to create an international theological commission or academy. First suggested by Leo-Joseph Cardinal Suenens of Belgium, it was seconded by others and apparently even by Cardinal Ottaviani, titular head of the "Conservatives". The proposed new papal organ would keep current theological trends under continuing review.

The right-wing press in Rome, such as *The Tempo* which is the self-appointed watchdog of orthodoxy and the keen-eyed defender against crypto-Communist trends in the Catholic Church, saw sinister purposes in the project.

It is a maneuver, they suspect, for further emasculating the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and ultimately to undermine the authority of the Pope.

Actually the new body is envisaged as a mechanism that would guarantee more ample and mature judgment on crucial theological writings and problems without prejudging later formal papal decision or condemnation.

As an advisory body, the Synod does not take any vote in the usual sense and this precludes any possibility of clearly ascertaining the mind of the group. It is getting, in fact, difficult to tell the difference now

All Men Search For Serenity

Bishop Sheen, the articulate Bishop of Rochester, has not been silent at the Synod meeting in Rome.

And he has spoken, as he has so often spoken at home in favor of pushing the family of mankind closer to one another.

Reports from Rome say he was the fourth American prelate to speak at the Synod and he asked for a new approach to contemporary atheism.

Instead of merely repeating old arguments against atheism, the Bishop suggested, "It is more timely to seek what is common to believers and atheists. After the example of Christ and St. Paul."

Christians and atheists may be searching for the same things, using different language, he said, although he noted that in some quarters there "has been talk of a 'Christological atheism.'"

"In the present existential anguish, all men are searching for serenity, and while some carry on their search under the light of God, others feel that they will achieve this serenity through the clarity of atheism."

between so-called Liberal and Conservative trends in Church leadership. Both groups seem tacitly to have taken a close look at their respective positions and are ready to compromise.

The debates on the revision of Canon Law which took up the first days of work were marked by a variety of candid and contrasting opinions, but nothing that would be considered unusual in any self-respecting gathering of intelligent men in responsible positions asked for their opinions. The discussion on the problem of faith in contemporary conditions followed the same pattern. If Conservative and Liberal ever had any clear meaning they need redefining now that the former Council Fathers confront the realities of post-Communist life.

With winds blowing softly but steadily in the direction of Johannine reform, what is it that annoys the journalists reporting the Synod?

The daily official bulletins, for instance, merely paraphrase remarks made in the morning session without any revelation of which prelates spoke, much less what each said to prevent guessing.

There are still hopes that the initial restrictions will be lightened. They are unrealistic and also tend to produce more of the kind of confusion and distortions the regulations are apparently aimed to prevent. Inevitably a "black market" on the news has developed and the risky game of pinning quotes on various speakers is going on furiously.