

Douglas Hyde's View

English Catholicism: Right and Left Wings Are Far, Far Apart

The Catholic Church in England has a greater dichotomy between its "liberal" and "conservative" wings than the American Catholic Church.

This is the view of England's Douglas Hyde who is currently a visiting professor at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester.

The liberals are further to the left and the conservatives are further to the right in English Catholicism than their American counterparts Hyde feels.

Far left English Catholics are represented in the "Slant" group, the English writer noted. Its bi-monthly magazine, also entitled "Slant," has attempted to embrace Marxist ideas while remaining in the Catholic fold.

An anthology of Slant views was published by Sheed and Ward last year under the title, "Catholics and the Left: The Slant Manifesto."

The Slant group's influence is "real but narrow," Douglas Hyde commented in an interview with the Courier-Journal. Slant supporters tend to be mainly university people and other intellectuals, he said.

Starting as a study group, the Slant people were first interested in the role of literature in modern life, soon moved into political philosophy.

"There is no great experience of political involvement" in the group, and their views tend to be more theoretical than practical, Hyde noted.

Douglas Hyde has more than

a passing interest in the progress of the Slant movement, for it encompasses two diverging philosophies that have played a major part in his own life — Communism and Catholicism.

Hyde became a Communist at 17, devoted his energies to the party for 20 years in England, and was editor of the Daily Worker in London for several years. He became a Catholic in 1948. He has been just as indefatigable since then in proposing Christian solutions to modern social problems as he once was in promoting the party line.

There are striking parallels between Hyde and Neil Middleton, considered the most influential member of Slant. Both are former Communists who have become Catholics, and who write and speak from the vantage point of this unusual background.

The 35-year old Middleton, however, was a "born" Communist, the child of two dedicated English party members. ("They were good friends of mine in my Communist days," Hyde reminisces today.)

Young Middleton was weaned on a diet of hard-line party pabulum, rejected it in his late teens, eventually became a Catholic. He later married Rosemary Sheed, daughter of Frank Sheed and Maisie Ward Sheed, both well known Catholic writers.

For the past several years, the 35-year old Middleton has been managing director of the London branch of Sheed and Ward.



DOUGLAS HYDE

Visiting Professor at St. Bernard's Seminary

The Slant group, Hyde explained, has seen the Marxist revolution expand, feels it has much to commend it, looks for the points of rapport between its view and that of Catholicism.

"They take a selective view of Marxism," he continued, and tend to dwell on the writings of "the young Karl Marx." Marx' early writings, not as well known as "Das Capital" and later works, strike a note which is tuned to young intel-

lectuals today, Hyde said.

Marx' use of the idea of "alienation" puts him in tune with many modern thinkers, he went on. Some of the Slant group equate this notion with the Christian view of sin. Marx' socialist hope of "emancipation" is likened to the Christian idea of salvation.

Hyde himself is in favor of a Christian-Communist dialog. The current book he's working on deals with the possibility.

He knows Communism too well to have any wishful thoughts about overnight change. He does think that many Marxists feel that they could drop their dogmatic atheism while still holding to socialist political and economic views.

Douglas Hyde is pleased that the English Catholic hierarchy has been inclined to tolerance of the Slant Catholics' left wing ideology.

"I feel that if there's room in the Church for an extreme right, there's room for an extreme left, too," he says with twinkling eyes.

The Catholic conservative viewpoint in England has been articulated by several gifted intellectuals who have battled for a traditional stance. The late Evelyn Waugh was such a man; the current unofficial leader is the redoubtable Sir Arnold Lunn, veteran of a thousandologist's duels and still a formidable foe in public debate.

One of Lunn's recent verbal thrusts was a shaft aimed at the British Quakers' report on sex and morality. Quipped Lunn of the Quakers' open-ended view of sexual behavior: "What is left of Christ and St. Paul by the time these people have sown their Quaker oats?"

Main problem for the English traditionalists at the moment, Douglas Hyde commented, is their lack of specific goals.

They campaigned vigorously last year for at least one Latin Mass on Sunday in parish churches. The British bishops

pondered the request, granted it, and have now left the conservatives with a victory and no current campaign to fight.

The Davis Affair

Asked about the reaction of British Catholics to the dramatic defection of famed theologian Father Charles Davis last year, Hyde said:

"It was a shock, especially to the clergy, who were more familiar with his writings." Davis' departure did not result in any sympathetic wave of

Catholics leaving the Church, however, he added.

Douglas Hyde disagreed with those who thought it had form for Charles Davis to herald his departure from the Church with a press conference. He has reminded several friends, "if it was fair for Douglas Hyde to publicly announce his joining the Church, it was equally fair for Davis to give his reasons for leaving."

This is Douglas Hyde's first experience as a resident lecturer at a seminary, although he has spoken at many seminaries

in his globe-trotting life. He is rather excited about his course in Christian leadership ("I don't know if there is anything quite like this being done") and leaves his door open so that the seminarians can drop in anytime for a chat.

"I try to stimulate their thinking about the social problems of the day, and I believe its working. The boys are coming up with all sorts of questions, in and out of class," he concluded happily.

—Father Robert Kanka

Vocations Head Named



FR. CHRISTOPHER RUGGERI

Franciscan Father Christopher F. Ruggeri, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ruggeri, of 91 Hillview Dr., Rochester, has recently assumed the responsibilities of Director of Vocations for the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province.

Fr. Christopher Ruggeri graduated from St. Bonaventure University in 1952, at which time he entered the Franciscans in Paterson, N.J. He professed his Solemn Vows in 1956 and was ordained in 1958.

The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province are located throughout many dioceses in the Eastern United States and maintain missions in Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Jamaica, Japan and Puerto Rico. They are presently entering upon experimental Apostolates in "inner-city" work.

Anxious to See Snow Panama City Girl At St. James Hospital

"I see the sun, but I just can't feel it — it's so cold here. I'm anxious to see real snow, but hope by the time it comes I'm a bit more used to your weather," commented Miss Gloria Reed, as she spoke of her reactions and experiences of the past two weeks in Hornell.

Miss Reed, a native of Panama City, Panama, is a freshman student at the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. It's her first visit to the U.S. She arrived two weeks late for the start of school, because of red tape and a mix up in her visa. Obtaining a thirty day tourist visa, she arrived by plane at Kennedy airport, N.Y.C., and traveled by bus to Hornell. She told that her visa problems were being straightened out so that she can remain here until the completion of her education.

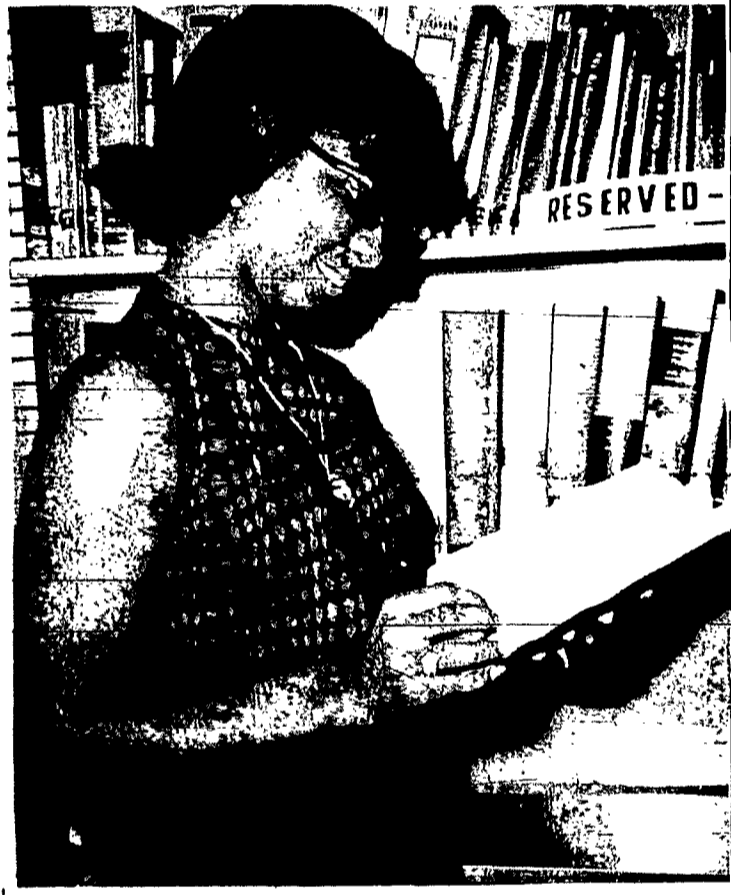
She is now on the road to realization of her dreams — to become a nurse. Her desire was sparked by membership in a Sodality of Alpha Academy, Convent of Mercy School, which she attended in Jamaica. Fulfilling a sodality requirement, she served as a volunteer in a Jamaica hospital, where several times weekly she visited the sick, helped feed patients and looked after children. Her experiences in the hospital helped her decide that a career in nursing was her ultimate goal. Wanting to attend school in the U.S.A., she found information about schools of nursing from the National League of Nursing.

"I applied to ten schools and was fortunate to be accepted by all," she said, "but, chose St. James because of one thing — a letter of acceptance started 'Dear Miss Reed,' the letter from Sister Mary Thomas, director of the school, said, 'Dear Gloria.' This letter gave me a different feeling — it was just so friendly and warm."

Gloria, is convinced that her decision was the right one, for she has only praise for the reception she received from her fellow students and faculty. Classmates and Sister Mary Andre, member of the faculty, worked "overtime" to help her catch up on the two weeks of missed work.

Food here is noted and plentiful she said. "We eat rice at home every day," she said, "I missed it at first, but I'm getting used to your food." Caserole dishes are new to her and she particularly likes pumpkin pie.

Houses with basements are a novelty — "they're a bit frightening," she commented, "because they take you below the earth. In Panama, because of the many earthquakes, all buildings are ground level. Earth tremors are commonplace." She went on to say that when the earth starts to "shiver," you immediately run and stand in the safest spot — a doorway. "We're taught to do this as soon as we're old enough



Panama native Gloria Reed in St. James Mercy Hospital library.

to understand," she said. Color T.V., abundance of stores and products, supermarkets and "so many" cars are a big difference in the American and Panamanian ways of life. She found little similarity between the game of football in her country and ours — it's rougher here she thinks.

Gloria's mother is a seamstress and her father an accounting technician in Panama City. Her brother Dunstan is studying at the University of Panama to become an architect and Roland is a machinist.

Gloria is not sure about returning home for holidays or vacation, for the cost of travel is high, but she has a promise from her dad. "Just do your very best, and we'll be there on your graduation day — everybody will come. Mother, Dunston, Roland and me!"

Fisher Scholarships Listed for Freshmen

Twenty-four graduates of high schools located within the Diocese of Rochester are among forty-seven St. John Fisher College freshmen who were awarded Admissions Scholarships totaling \$18,000 this year. Fifteen awards were made to other New York State residents and eight to out-of-state students. The value of the awards ranged from \$100 to full tuition.

The scholarship winners from the Diocese of Rochester are:

- Aquinas Institute — Michael W. Frankenberger, Patrick M. Gleason and John H. Mallin.
- Bishop Kearney High School — Thomas G. Bisky, Lance E. Demasi and Robert C. Doell.
- Clifton Springs High School — Charles E. Morphy.
- Dansville High School — John C. Hoffman.
- DeSales High School, Geneva — Thomas P. Mull.
- Geneva High School — Thomas J. Geary.
- Jefferson High School — Stephen M. Sciam.
- McQuaid Jesuit High School — Mark A. Scipioni.
- Cardinal Mooney High School — John F. Shirley.
- Mount Carmel High School, Auburn — Francis Mamusela.
- Notre Dame High School, Elmira — Terrence J. Kirkpatrick.
- R. L. Thomas High School, Webster — Vincent F. Gugino and John B. Hickey.

St. Andrew's Seminary High School — Patrick T. Morphy, Gregory A. Morey, William F. Nealon, Robert E. Riley and William C. Schreiber.

Sodus High School — Robert W. VanDevelde.

West High School, Auburn — James J. Adarno.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier, Oct. 15, 1942)

Appointment by Bishop Kearney, Catholic Courier president, of Father John S. Randall to managing editor of the diocesan paper succeeding Father Leo C. Mooney, was announced. Father Randall was to continue as diocesan director, Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The cause of the United States in the war was declared "noble" by Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen opening the Christian Culture Lecture Series at Aquinas Institute.

Dedication of a 63-star Service Flag honoring Elmira Council, Knights of Columbus in the armed forces marked special Columbus Day celebration in Elmira's Columbus Center.



Chaplains Map Strategy

Father (Lt. Col.) Frank Wallace, U.S. Army 2nd Corps chaplain, spoke at a Reserve chaplains meeting at Trenholm East Motel last week. Among 25 chaplains who attended were Father (Major) Robert McNamara of Buffalo, Father (Lt. Col.) Elmer Heindl, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Cato, and St. Thomas Church, Red Creek, and Rev. Fred Leach, a deacon of the Episcopal Church in Buffalo. Father Wallace then spoke to students at St. Bernard's Seminary about pre-ordination affiliation with the chaplains corps.

A GREAT WAY TO ENJOY SUNDAY
with the
ENTIRE FAMILY
A FALL RIDE
THEN
A DELICIOUS DINNER
at
RUNDS

ROAST 1/2 LONG ISLAND DUCKLING
Slowly Roasted, Butter Basted 'til Golden Brown and Crisp. Cherry Sauce, Herb Stuffing, Potatoes and Fresh Garden Salad Rolls and Butter. **2.65** SERVED SUNDAY ONLY

For Your Listening and Dancing Pleasure
JOE CADY'S
7-PIECE ORCHESTRA
Playing Nitely
9:30 p.m. 'til 1:30 a.m.
AL VINO DUO
In Our Cocktail Lounge
Sunday thru Friday
9 P.M. 'til 2 a.m.

The House of Good Food
Rund's
2851 W. HENRIETTA RD. 473-3891
CLOSED MONDAYS