

# Missioner Suggests New Look At Polygamy



Father Eugene Hillman, C.S. Sp. (center), a missionary among the Masai in Tanzania for nearly 15 years, who calls for a re-study of polygamy in the February issue of Jubilee. (RNS Photo)

New York — (RNS)—Father Eugene Hillman, C.S. Sp., a missionary who has spent nearly 15 years among the Masai people in Tanzania, suggested that Roman Catholic theologians re-examine traditional views on polygamy.

Writing in the February issue of Jubilee, Catholic monthly magazine, Father Hillman said that a Western ethnocentrism may be influencing the present teaching on polygamy and implied that the practice may be considered morally acceptable under certain cultural and socio-economic conditions.

In mission conversions, he noted, monogamy is "a condition, on the level of importance with faith, for admission into the Christian community."

Instead, he suggested, missionaries might tolerate "at least" the continuation of previously contracted and socially accepted polygamous marriages.

"Catholic theologians and churchmen," Father Hillman said, "with all their concern about 'the pill,' have hardly begun to think about such a specifically non-Western question as the possible compatibility of

Christianity and polygamy where this is a socially integrated, and economically determined, system of permanent marriage.

"The New Testament contains no identification of the Gospel leaven with an immediate and practical prohibition against simultaneous polygamy. Theologians and missionaries have simply taken for granted that the prevailing institutions of their own particular societies represent the most appropriate norm of human practices. These were uncritically regarded as properly Christian institutions, so missionary activity has been very much a matter of transplanting them throughout the world, while generally ignoring or condemning indigenous cultural forms and social systems."

Although polygamy is "rather obviously consigned to the same category as the plague of divorce, so-called free love, and other disfigurements of marriage and family life," in the Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, he said, it is in many places "a common practice and a cultural ideal," a way of controlling "male promiscuity (with all its social implications)" and a system which maintains a relationship between population increase and availability of food.

Mumps happens so frequently that it is accepted as one of the "routine" illnesses of childhood. Physicians know that there are sufficient serious complications of mumps to warrant the protection of every child against it.

Adults who have never had mumps frequently acquire it after exposure and are then threatened by the possibility of complications. True, this does not happen in all cases, but if a single catastrophic case is avoided then vaccination against mumps should be universal and in all ages.

A vaccine works by stimulating the body's natural defenses and by producing antibodies sufficient to act as a protection if ever the person is exposed or in contact with this viral infection.

As with many vaccines, "booster shots" are necessary to keep up the level of the antibodies. Each vaccine may need a booster at different intervals, depending on the age of the patient and the character of the vaccine.

**Speaking of Your Health** — Persistent hoarseness is the urgent "cry" for recognition of disease of the larynx.

Dr. Coleman welcomes letters from readers, and, while he cannot undertake to answer each one, he will use questions in his column whenever possible and when they are of general interest. Address your letters to Dr. Coleman in care of this newspaper.

## Speaking of YOUR HEALTH...

By LESTER L. COLEMAN, M.D.

### Readers Are Asking

HOW CAN one choose the proper tranquilizer when there are so many on the market?

The choice of a tranquilizer, or a mood elevator drug, must never be the decision of the patient. Unfortunately, these drugs are purchased contrary to rigid laws, in stores that illegally peddle them. Reliable pharmacists know the dangers of tranquilizers, psychomotor energizers and other false stimulating or depressing

Dr. Coleman drugs and never prescribe them without the specific direction of a doctor.

These drugs are used today with such frequency and borrowed and loaned by well-meaning friends that their real danger is overlooked. This is not an uncommon phenomenon in any pattern of life's behavior. When a dangerous "weapon" is used frequently its real hazards are overlooked.

Drugs that may be perfectly benign and safe for one person may turn out to be exceedingly dangerous for another. Comparing your tranquilizer with another person's does not also include the judgment of the doctor who carefully made the decision to use them.

One of the great dangers of "treating" among friends is the possibility of developing a real dependence on them. Some people are known to be addictive, which means that they actually become dependent upon almost any drug, and certainly on these drugs which can definitely affect the personality of the user.

The use of any of these drugs should be limited only to the time of greatest need and not be continued beyond it. Let your doctor, and only your doctor, make the choice.

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## Priests Rap Latin American Economics

Santiago, Chile — (NC) — A "vicious" economic system grips the people of South America in "progressive desperation," a group of native priests declared here.

Those who speak out against the "international imperialism of money" are branded communists, they said.

The statement was prepared at a seminar on Pope Paul's encyclical, The Development of Peoples. The 39 signers had been brought together by the Bishops' Council and the Latin American Institute of Social Studies.

## Family Rosary Radio Leaders

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAW, WMBO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 6 in Auburn, Channel 8 in Elmira and 88.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week will be:

Friday, Feb. 9 — (Mass will be celebrated) — Father Eugene Sweeney, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, and the Marian Award girls of the parish.

Saturday, Feb. 10 — Bishop Kearney will lead the Rosary.

Sunday, Feb. 11 — A representative of K. of C. Council 178.

Monday, Feb. 12 — A representative of St. Joseph's Holy Name Society.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 — Vincent Melito of Holy Ghost.

Thursday, Feb. 15 — Alvin Chapas of St. George and Holy Name Society.

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This photo of a young goatherd of the Masai people of Tanzania illustrates the Jubilee article. (RNS Photo).

### Unity Services in Madrid

Madrid — (RNS)—A Roman Catholic lay leader and several priests joined in leading the first service of the 1968 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church here. Bishop Ramon Talbo, head of the Episcopal Reformed Church, presided.

### Priests Arrested at Sit-in

Brooklyn, N.Y. — (RNS) — Two white Roman Catholic priests, who operate a Neighborhood Action Center and live in an apartment in the predominantly Negro Bedford-Stuyvesant section, were arrested for participating in an all-night sit-in at a welfare center here. Father William J. Duncan, 30, and father John Hyland, 29, were released in \$50 bail. A hearing was set for Feb. 27. The priests, along with four Negro relief recipients, had sought emergency grants.

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LOOK at the nearest \$10 bill. What is it actually worth? Only what it will buy. In Boston or Cleveland or St. Louis, it will hardly buy enough to feed a family for two days. In the Holy Land, it will feed a poor refugee family for an entire month. The Holy Father asks your help for the refugees, more than half of them children. Your money multiplies—as you give it away.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### Does Vietnam

Some people think that the real problem with the Vietnam War is that John Wayne hasn't fought it yet.

Unlike World War II, during which dozens of patriotic war movies were made—"Bataan," "Guadalcanal Diary," "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," and "God Is My Co-Pilot" among them—the Vietnam War has produced no major Hollywood film.

But now, 60-year-old John Wayne, who has fought all the way from "Fort Apache" to "The Sands of Iwo Jima" while making 162 films, is producing, directing and starring in "The Green Berets," based on the Robin Coote novel about the commando-like U.S. "Special Forces" troops in Vietnam.

Hollywood producers will be watching its reception closely when "The Green Berets" is released—probably this summer—for, as an executive of a major studio remarked, "if this one goes over, there'll probably be a deluge" of films on the Vietnam conflict.

Until now, there has been only one Hollywood film on the Vietnam War. It was released in 1964 and was titled "A Year in Vietnam," a story about a Marine helicopter pilot shot down and trying to escape. Marshal Thompson, current star of television's "Daktari" series, wrote, directed and starred in it, but it died at the box office.

There have been several reasons why Hollywood has been reluctant to take on the Vietnam War. First, TV coverage has been so extensive that few people, it is believed, will pay to see a movie theater when they can see at home, especially when the TV version is real.

Secondly, producers realize that American opinion is sharply divided on the Vietnam War, and if the film takes either a dovetail or a hawkish position, the film risks losing a substantial part of its potential audience—not to mention the problem of picking.

"Hollywood can't take sides because if it does, it can't sell tickets to the other," according to Moli Shavieson, who directed a film about another controversial conflict, "Cast a Giant Shadow," about the Israeli-Arab clash of 1948.

But more essential to Hollywood thinking about what to do and what won't make a good picture, "there is no clear division between the good guys and the bad guys," according to one Hollywood producer.

### Chalice Award At KC Lincoln

Annual Lincoln Day Dinner of Rochester General Assembly Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus will be held Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Knights of Columbus Home, 513 Monroe Ave. at 7 p.m. A reception will precede the dinner.

Featured will be presentation of the Award of the 19th Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus Memorial Chalice

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**25 Years Ago**  
(From Catholic Courier, Feb. 11, 1943)

Figures released by Father Francis J. Lane, Catholic priest, revealed the small percentage of Catholic inmates admitted to Elmira Reformatory 1942 were regular church tenants before admission the small number who spent more than six years in Catholic school.

The Inter-Faith Good Committee of Rochester, consisting of representatives Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths sponsored area Brotherhood week. Father Patrick Flynn of Holy Rosary church was among the Rochester speakers. Father Leo G. Schwab, pastor of Lady of Lourdes Church spoke in Elmira.

Awards to winners of School-at-war Scrapbook test conducted among school children of the Diocese were made in March. Father M. Duffy, school superintendent, announced.

### Forty Hours

Devotion of Forty Hours Diocese of Rochester: Sunday, Feb. 11 — Holy Mass, Rochester.

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