

Spirit-Illumined Conscience

(Continued from Page 6)

the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, set their minds on the things of the Spirit" (Rom. 8/5).

Pour the *Humanae Vitae* into an un-Spirited conscience, and it comes out in rebellion. Pour it into a Spirited conscience, and it comes out with this new resolve: "Christ shall be magnified in my body" (Phil. 1/20). The flesh conscience is at war with God (James 4/4; Rom. 8/7). It may not be wholly conscious of this hostility, but it comes out in bitterness against the Church. The "natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit... neither can he know them" (1 Cor. 2/14). Darwin said that his dedication to science had dulled the love he once had for music and poetry. When the Spirit departs, even in those who are baptized, the declarations of the Holy Father on moral matters seem stupid.

How Our Lord warned about the neglect of the Spirit; how souls would "turn Him off"; how their hearts would become hardened:

"You will listen and listen again, but not understand.

See and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of the nation has grown coarse.

Their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes.

For fear they should see with their eyes."

Turning Off the Spirit

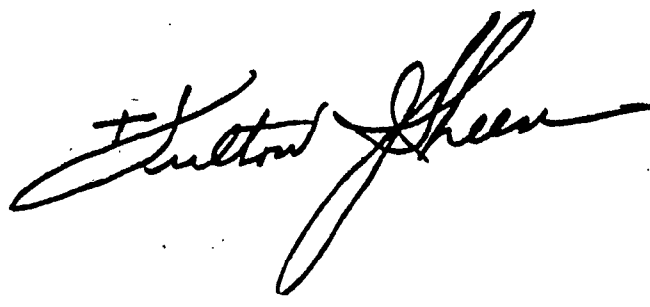
A new kind of insulation has possessed the Christian who is losing the Spirit. He avoids meetings, conferences and books which would disturb his conscience, while he limits his reading and his companionship only to those who ease his conscience. Cancerous, they refuse to go near a physician; thirsty, they approach no wells where Christ is seated in the glow of the noonday sun. Intellectually they are in the dark, and they are estranged from the life of God, without knowledge because they have shut their hearts to it. With their sense of right and wrong once dulled, they have abandoned themselves to sexuality, and eagerly pursue a course of indecency of every kind. Now that is hardly the way you learned from Christ" (Eph. 4/18-19).

This does not mean that those whose consciences are illumined by the Spirit have no struggles, anymore than it means that those who signed anti-*Humanae Vitae* documents are free from remorse.

Spirit-led consciences are weak too, but their weakness is not the same as that of the natural conscience, which makes us protesters and projectors of guilt on others. The weakness of the flesh, admitted in the *Humanae Vitae*, is never despairing, because "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. He Who searches the hearts of men, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom. 8/26, 27). The anti-Body of Christ syndrome, which comes out as aggressiveness, is quite different from the weakness which relies on the Spirit.

Even though human frailty fails to live up to the *Humanae Vitae*, the soul sees itself between two intercessors: Christ in Heaven, and the Holy Spirit in the soul. Above and within the faithful Christian is strengthened. Above, because "if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, Who is just" (1 John 2/1). Within, "because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the Will of God" (Rom. 8/27).

What a difference between the natural conscience which so often boasts: "My conscience tells me I am innocent," and the conscience which feels burdened with sin, and yet relies on the Scattered Hands of Christ extended pleadingly to the Heavenly Father, and the intercession of the Spirit in the soul to draw us back to God. The natural conscience, especially the consciences of those who have lost the faith, feels compelled to accuse the Church, to excuse its sin; the Spirit conscience loves the Church more than ever. And it loves the Church because it is keeping the negatives of what constitute a happy moral life, while the world is tearing up the photographs. "So be very careful of the lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it" (Eph. 5/15).



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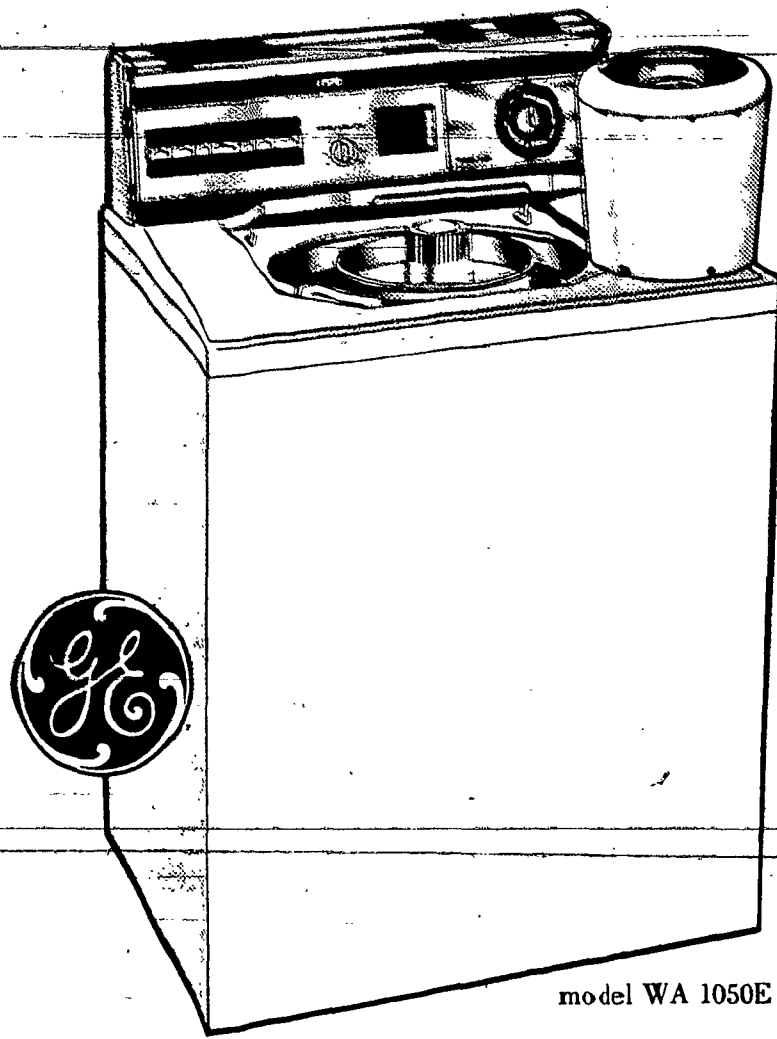
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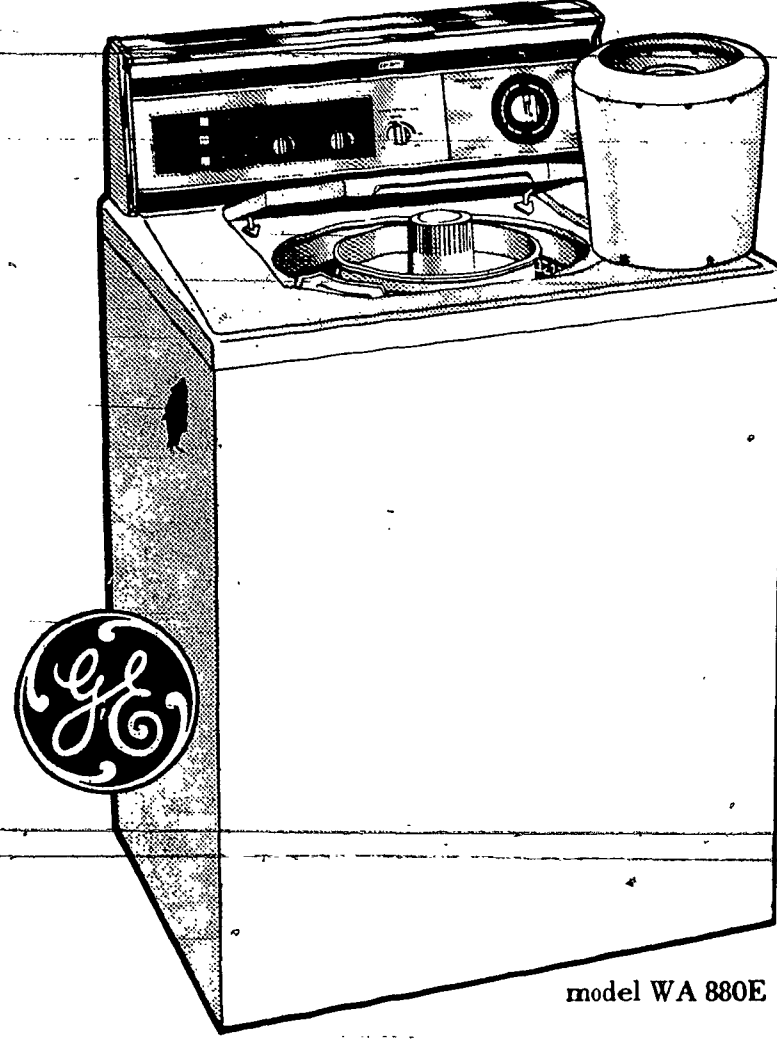


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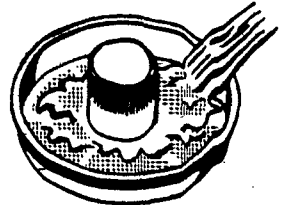
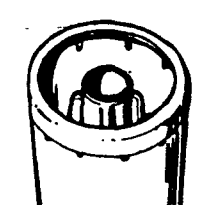
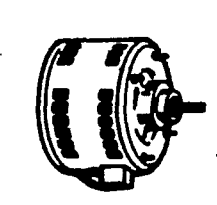
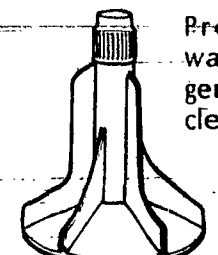
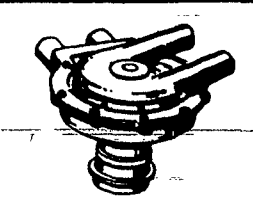

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Auburn Launch For M

Auburn — Auburn 207, Knights of Columbus, began an intensive parish membership drive with a goal of at least 100 members.

K. of C. members each parish in the area during the period of Sundays, to prospective members plan the aims and purposes of the organization.

Grand Knight Roscoe and Francis Yoman of the membership committee, released a statement which said in part:

"The Knights of Columbus is the largest and most influential Catholic lay organization in the country, and in addition to its fraternal activities it

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It will be "around in 30 days" for two priests beginning V. Sept. 10.

Their objective? Many "mission stations" during that time, particularly those with an association with the Diocese.

The trip will be an orientation for the members of the diocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Father Joseph Reinhard will take over the leadership of the office Oct. 1.

Accompanying Father Reinhard will be Father Roscoe, chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital.

In submitting the report this week, the priests endeavor to contact persons in the Diocese who may be lost to the Church. His diocesan having no telephone in the office, 716/454-2922 Sept. 9.

The priests will visit three continents: Africa and Europe. Reinhard describes the trip as "A graphic study of the universality of the Church."

Before they leave, confer with Msgr. O'Meara, who succeeds Fulton J. Sheen as director of the Society.

Nocturne To N

Nearly 500 members of County's "high prayer" will mark the anniversary of the Adoration Society morning, Sept. 7.

Bishops Fulton J. James E. Kearney and men at Mass and in morning.

Bishop Kearney preside Mass and preside in St. Joseph's Church on Sept. 7. Bishop speak at the breakfast at 9:30 at Flagship Hotel. Mc charter members will be.

Founded in 1810 Italy, the Nocturne Society was first in the United States in 1882.

The fifth anniversary was celebrated in Rochester Bishop John F. O'Connell discussed the society at the Laymen's Seminars in June of that year. Bernard's Seminars outstanding proposal idea were William

K of C De Chairmen

Wallace J. Stev deputy of the New Council, Knights of Columbus, has appointed Everus of Canandaigua the Central District Deputies.

Claudius was named for the 95th district appointed cese are Harry P. Elmira; Armond Auburn; George Burl Robert P. Hafner, David F. Letson,

Paul G. Rombau was named chair oratorical committee for A. DeSimon, secretary, chairman of

PAPAL SYM Vatican City — Paul VI sent a message of condolence to Bishop of Annecy, France, following his profound catastrophe on 1 near Thonon in which 150 persons drowned.