

Humanae Vitae And Conscience

(Continued from Page 6)

to Him, I am a whole person with a whole heart — a loved and forgiven heart.

Compassion for the Troubled

This is the logic of the Humanae Vitae. There is no pat on the back in it for those who would break with the constant teaching of the Church, but there is compassion for them; there is pardon. Pope Paul VI understands how hard it is to overcome passion, and to "dominate instinct"; he admits that it "undoubtedly requires ascetical practices"; that "sense excitation, unbridled customs, as well as every form of pornography and licentious performance" lead many to "depravity under the pretext of artistic, or scientific need". But despite all this, he says: "The Church cannot have a different conduct towards men than that of the Redeemer".

Note that here there is an appeal to the consciences of those who have been ransomed by the Blood of the Savior. The Gospel is the salt of the earth; not its honey. The Humanae Vitae gives us no right-over the Truth, as Paul VI has no right over it; it does not conform to the Gallup Poll which counts the Catholics who no longer obey the moral laws of the Church; it refuses to enter the wilderness of those who have lost the sense of forgiveness while retaining the sense of sin, as it disdains to join those who have the misery of sin without the mercy of forgiveness. Humanae Vitae will not say that what the world makes good, the Church must rubber stamp. It does, however, reaffirm that nothing that men can do to God will ever stop God loving them.

Hence, Paul VI concludes: "And if sin should keep its hold over them, let them not be discouraged, but rather have recourse with humble perseverance to the Mercy of God, which is poured forth in the Sacrament of Penance". Only the vision of the Blood of Christ could allow such compassion for human weakness, and hold out such hope for reconciliation.

When the conscience sees itself mirrored in the tortured Christ, does it really begin to see both its misery and its hope? Everybody's life has been written. Each autobiography can be found black on white, red on white in the Christ on the Cross. The flesh is the parchment, the pen is the nails, the ink is the blood, the pages are flesh hanging like purple rags. There each sin of each life can be read in nails and steel and thorns. But in that Voice alone is heard the sweetest words to a conscience: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they are doing".

A conscience which seeks to have its sins explained away, is an entirely different kind of conscience than the one which has its sins forgiven. The married couple who referred to (?) newspaper clippings to justify their despicement of the Humanae Vitae, are quite different from those who know they do wrong by practicing contraception, but nevertheless trust that the Blood of Christ will cleanse them "seventy times seven".

"Oh, tempt me not! I love too well this snare Of silken cords.

Nay, Love, the flesh is fair,
So tempt me not! This earth affords
Too much delight;
Withdraw Thee from my sight,
Lest my weak soul break free
And throw me back to Thee!

Thy Face is all too marred. Nay, Love, not I —
I did not that! Doubtless Thou hadst to die:
Others did faint for Thee; but I faint not.
Only a little while hath sorrow got
The better of me now; for Thou art grieved,
Thinking I need Thee. Oh, Christ, lest I fall
Weeping between Thy Feet, and give Thee all:
Oh, Christ, lest love condemn me unreprieved
Into Thy bondage, be it not believed
That Thou hast need of me!
Dost Thou not know
I never turned aside to mock Thy Woe?
I had respect to Thy great love for men:
Why wilt Thou, then,
Question of each new lust —
'Are these not ashes, and is this not dust?'
Ah, Love, Thou hast not eyes
To see how sweet it is!
Each for himself be wise:
Mock not my bliss!
Ere Thou cam'st troubling, was I not content?
Because I pity Thee, and would be glad
To go mine own way, and not leave Thee sad,
Is all my comfort spent?
Go Thine own ways, nor dream Thou needest me!

Yet if, again, Thou on the bitter Tree
Wert hanging now, with none to succour Thee
Or run to quench Thy sudden cry of thirst,
Would not I be the first —
Ah, Love, the prize! —
To lift one cloud of suffering from Thine
Eyes?
Oh Christ, let be!
Stretch not Thine ever-pleading Hands thus
wide,
Nor with imperious gesture touch Thy Side!
Past is Thy Calvary. By the Life that died,
Oh, tempt not me!
Nay, if Thou weep'st, then must I weep too,
Sweet Tempter, Christ! Yet what can I undo,
I, the undone, the undone,
To comfort Thee, God's Son?
Oh, draw me near, and, for some lowest use,
That I may be
Lost and undone in Thee;
Me from mine own self loose!

(Laurence Housman)

Thorton Sheen



Architect's rendering depicts proposed new building for Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Epiphany (Byzantine Rite), under construction on Carter Street near Willite Drive. New edifice will replace small brick building nearby, considered too small for expanding parish membership. Cornerstone for new building will be laid Sunday, Oct. 19, by Bishop Ambrose Senyshyn of the Exarchy of Stamford, Conn. Father Stefan Horodeckyj is pastor. Epiphany Church separated from St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Church in 1958. St. Josaphat's adopted Gregorian Calendar, and some parishioners, preferring to maintain Julian Calendar, decided to form own parish.

Newark Teachers Spent Vacation Going to School

Newark — For the majority of teachers at St. Michael's School the summer vacation was "back-to-school" time.

A majority of the seven Sisters and 11 lay persons on the parochial school's faculty took courses in various colleges or broadened their education through travel.

Sister Joyce McGinn, RSM, principal, attended Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, to continue her studies toward a master's degree in elementary school administration.

Sisters Helen, Suzanne and Theresa, and Miss Charlotte Pitrella attended Nazareth College for courses in theology and education. Sisters Marie and Roberta spent their summers studying current trends and innovations at Medaille College in Buffalo.

Mrs. Rosemary Bramante, Mrs. Grete Nelson and Mrs. Elizabeth Kelly attended the University of Rochester, where they received credit for taking part in classes geared to the innovative method of "pupil-team learning." This course was taken a year ago by Mrs. Mary Powell and Mrs. Christopher Rooker.

Mrs. Ward Rynearson, science teacher, traveled daily to Watkins Glen for an experimental study in Immunology. Each day for six weeks she spent from

Volunteer Group Invites Women To Institute

The Council of Catholic Women, a volunteer group from the former Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, is planning a personal development institute for all interested women in the diocese. The one-day program will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua.

Miss Josephine Fitzgerald of Hornell, council president, is general chairman, assisted by Mrs. Frank Lyke of Manchester, vice-president, and Mrs. C. Fay Lunkenheimer of Fair Haven.

Titled "Fashion Me a Person," the program will emphasize creative living and the development of leadership potential. It will be modeled on a similar three-day institute held last May in Buffalo.

Washington, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Women, will moderate the day's program. Others who will take part are Miss Laura Failey of Auburn, Mrs. Arvid Lakeberg of Rochester, Mrs. Charles Miskell of Geneseo, Mrs. Frank-Belgotti of Elmira and Miss Josephine Fitzgerald of Hornell.

The institute will open at 8 a.m. with Mass at St. Mary's Church, and end at 4 p.m. Luncheon will be served at the Canandaigua Inn.

Prepaid-reservations should be made by September 22 with Mrs. C. Fay Lunkenheimer, Box 355, Fair Haven 13064. The fee for the entire program, including luncheon, is \$3.75.

HOLY FAMILY ROSARIANS MEET

The Rosary Society of Holy Family parish will assemble Wednesday, Sept. 10, for church services at 7:45 p.m., and a business meeting and wig demonstration at 8:15.

4TH DEGREE KNIGHT

Elmira — Msgr. Philip E. McGhan, pastor of St. Peter & Paul Church, has been named faithful friar of Elmira Assembly 229, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Auburn K. of C. Plans Clambake

Auburn — Annual clambake of Auburn Council 207, Knights of Columbus, will be conducted from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, in the rear of the council rooms on Genesee Street.

Grand Knight Rocco D. Malvaso has named Joseph Murray and Robert Holmes as co-chairmen. Howard Bishop will be bakermaster.

PILGRIMAGE

The 16th annual Auriesville pilgrimage sponsored by the Knights of St. John is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5. Details may be obtained from Joseph A. Zimmer, 342-4039.

St. Michael's Festival to Go International

This year's four-day festival at St. Michael's parish, Rochester, scheduled Thursday, Sept. 11, through Sunday, Sept. 14, will have both a carnival and an international flavor.

A circuslike atmosphere will envelope the large parish parking lot with ten adult and children's rides, including ferris wheel and merry-go-round. Puerto Ricans will present Spanish guitar songs, and a "German beer garden band" will also be featured.

Thursday's schedule, beginning at 7 p.m., will be confined to rides and refreshments only. Other activities will be added from Friday through Sunday, with matinees from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Co-chairmen of the festival committee are Dick Cummings, Joe Hummel, George Litzenberger and Al Oechsl.

Red Cross Extends Appeal

The Red Cross appealed this week for more money to back up its relief efforts among the victims of Hurricane Camille.

E. James Hickey local chairman, said that a reappraisal of the damage had raised the fund quota for Monroe County from \$38,793 to \$96,981. The national goal has risen to \$15 million, from six.

Red Cross is providing more than 100,000 meals a day in the devastated Gulf Coast area. It reported that 19,000 dwellings had been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

Checks should be made to the American Red Cross, labeled "Hurricane Relief" and mailed to the local organization at 50 Prince Street.

PREXY RESIGNS

Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — Father Raymond J. Swords, S.J., president of Holy Cross College, has resigned effective next June 30.

TV Movie Ratings

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Week of Fri., Sept. 5 thru Thurs., Sept. 11

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
Friday, September 5			
9:00 p.m.	10	Pandora and the Flying Dutchman	B
11:30 p.m.	13	This Earth is Mine	A-3
Saturday, September 6			
2:30 p.m.	10	Reunion in Reno	A-2
3:00 p.m.	13	On the Beat	Not Listed
11:00 p.m.	13	Voice in the Mirror	A-2
12:00 a.m.	8	Deadline U.S.A.	B
12:35 a.m.	10	Hot Summer Night	A-2
Sunday, September 7			
2:00 p.m.	13	Killer Ape	A-1
2:30 p.m.	10	Reunion in Reno	A-2
3:30 p.m.	13	Killer Ape	A-1
8:00 p.m.	13	55 Days at Peking	B
11:15 p.m.	13	They Drive By Night	A
11:30 p.m.	10	The Desert Hawk	A-2
Monday, September 8			
10:30 a.m.	13	They Drive By Night	B
9:00 p.m.	8	Masquerade	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	Revolt at Fort Laramie	A-1
Tuesday, Sept. 9			
10:30 a.m.	13	Revolt at Fort Laramie	A-1
9:00 p.m.	8	The Ghost and Mr. Chicken	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	Slim Center	A-1
Wednesday, September 10			
10:30 a.m.	13	Slim Center	A-1
9:00 p.m.	13	Two Rode Together	A-2
11:45 p.m.	13	Seven Ways from Sundown	A-2
Thursday, September 11			
10:30 a.m.	13	Seven Ways from Sundown	A-2
9:00 p.m.	10	Madison Avenue	A-2
11:30 p.m.	13	The Tattered Dress	Not Listed

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