Why Celibacy Is Unpopular

(Continued from Page 6)

burden; 12% of motorists drive through red lights, therefore, traffic laws are a symbol of police abnormality.

Do increases in law breaking, however, necessarily prove that the law is wrong? The F.B.I. reports that in the United States pick-pocketing has increased 87%, purse snatching—223%, bicycle stealing—83%, auto theft—140%, burglaries — 250%, bank robberies — 302%, rape — 84%, murder — 52%. In other words, while population increased 11%, crimes increased 122%. Why not, by the same logic, apply the anomic mentality to honesty, decency and fidelity, and grant moral holidays and freedom from prosecution to those who find it hard not to steal, rape and pillage?

In other areas, the anomie creates a love of novelty, "itching ears" and "wandering off after man's fictions" (2 Tim. 4/3). It runs after liturgical innovations which shock, sermons which thumb noses at the creed and behavior which is almost neurotic in its desire to prove "identity" by shoving aside decorum and courtesy. The anomic man has no deep spiritual roots, and always looks for validation from without. It is not the Church which gives him authenticity, but "the charism" of the world. He must be recognized in the eyes of others, especially the un-Churched, or the anti-Church. His personality is constructed by either the approving eyes, or the disapproving frowns of his clique; like an elephant in a herd, he dreads isolation from it, and scrupulously avoids all those who would stand for nomos and order.

This anomic spirit of the world with its romantic exaltation of the ego, is bound to infect conformists who seek identification with worldliness. In this carbon monoxide of anomism, celibacy cannot live; it can hardly be discussed. It stands for constraint, and in the aggressive, egotistic atmosphere of "I am who am", what other response is possible except, "Non serviam"? "I will not serve"!

The four reasons for the unpopularity of celibacy are rarely faced. Some would become conformists to the mood of the times, and recommend abandonment of celibacy; others, reacting against such conformists, would merely rehash all that has been said about celibacy, and not place it in the context of our times where the priestly life is lived with difficulty.

The above attitudes mislead many. They should be, however, a reminder that life may be a bed of roses, but it has pillows of thorns. Vietnam, cancer, high taxes, ersatz mysticism through pharmaceuticals, the threat of nuclear incineration, the decline of prayer, the irreverence to the holy and marriages exploding into divorce are other facts of our times.

Now anyone who would come along and say that the abandonment of celibacy will open the gates of paradise to the frustrated clergy, is a fool. How naive can one be?

But on the other hand, celibacy must be rethought, not forgetting either the decline of faith, nor the never-changing demands of Him Who bade us "count the cost". In the face of the latter, we ask Christ if He demands such sacrifice:

"Must Thy harvest-fields
Be dunged with rotten death?"

(Thompson)

Fulton J. Sheen

Mercy Alumnae Plan Dinner

Arrangements for Our Lady of Mercy High School Alumnae Association annual dinner, scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the school, are being discussed by Mrs. Sal A. Ferris (seated), association president, and (standing from left) Mrs. Robert Shaver, dinner chairman, and Mrs. Charles Boyer and Mrs. Robert DeClerck. Television personality Eddie Meath will be speaker, and entertainment will be by "The Four of Us."

IRONDEQUOIT K. OF C.

Irondequoit Knights of Columbus have invited their wives and friends to join them in a wine tasting session Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 8 p.m., at Christ the King school hall. There will be a movie from a California winery.

Grand Knight Thomas Grosodonia will direct a program in honor of past grand knights.

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Meetings and Socials in the Diocese

A 6:30 p.m. Mass will precede the annual tureen supper of the **Sacred Heart** Rosary Guild Monday, Oct. 13. Father Jose LaCalle, director of the Spanish Apostolate at Mt. Carmel Church, will be guest speaker at the supper.

A showing of fall shoe fashions will highlight the social part of the **St. James** Rosary Society's opening meeting, Monday night, Oct. 6.

St. Cecelia's Ladies Guild will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, in the church hall.

The three-day barn sale which the **Catholic Women's Club** is conducting as a scholarship benefit will run from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. today, tomorrow and Sunday at 1886 Portland, between Ridge Road and Titus.

A Columbus Day dance will be held next Saturday, Oct. 11, at **St. Philip Neri**, from 9 until 1. Tickets may be obtained from presidents of parish societies or at the rectory. None will be sold at the door.

Holy Family Rosary Society will give a birthday dinner Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the Pine Room for Msgr. George Sehmitt. Reservations must be made by this Sunday noon with Mrs. Joseph Smarsh, 436-0327, or Mrs. Frank Gross, 436-1387.

The Rosary Society of **Our Lady of Mercy**, Greece, will meet at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, to hear Assistant District Attorney Jack B. Lazarus on "Crime in Our Area."

The **Cardinal Mooney** Women's Guild will sponsor a fashion show at the school Monday night, Oct. 6, at 8:15. General chairmen are Mrs. Matthew McBride and Mrs. William Callan.

St. **Ambrose** Rosary Society, meeting at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, will hear Sister Rosemary, SSJ., on changes in convent life. The parish will sponsor a Diet Workshop open house at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, in Dailey Hall.

St. **Augustine's** glee club will present a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, in the school hall, 420 Chili, as a benefit for the parish youth program.

Candidates for election to the **Mother of Sorrows** board of education will be introduced at a Home-School Association meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9.

Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioners will put on a "Country Fair," from 1 until 7 Saturday, Oct. 11. There will be pony rides, an antique shop and an art show, in addition to booths featuring hand made items and baked goods. Chicken dinner will be served from 4 p.m. until closing.

The **Holy Rosary** Guild will entertain the parish school faculty at dinner in the church hall at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7.

The **Catholic Mission Guild** will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 513 Monroe.

The **Advisory Senate, LCBA**, will sponsor a card party at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, in the St. Joseph Business High School, Franklin Street. Tickets may be obtained through Mrs. Leonard Bossert, 266-2077.

St. **Pius X** Rosary Guild will meet at 8 p.m. Oct. 7, for a Living Rosary. Barbara Fallesen, guest speaker, will show a film on the FISH organization.

St. Andrew's Christian Mothers' Club will have a Living Rosary at 8 p.m. Oct. 6 in the church.

The **Corpus Christi** Mothers' Club will meet Oct. 20. Marge Warner and Mary Stratton will entertain.

Sister Charity of Holy Angels Home will be guest speaker at the annual communion breakfast of the Rosary Society and Women's Club at **St. Anthony's**, at 9:15 Sunday morning, Oct. 5. Other events on the organization's calendar are a business meeting at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, and a card party in the school hall at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13.

The Rosary Society of **Our Lady of Lourdes**, Brighton, will hold a next-to-new sale from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, in the school hall.

The Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association of **St. Jerome's, East Rochester**, has scheduled the annual card party for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8 in the church hall. The regular meeting will be at 8 p.m. Oct. 1.

Catholic Daughters of America of **Nativity parish, Brockport**, will hold their annual membership dinner in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9.

Members of the **Archconfraternity of the Holy Family** at **St. Joseph's** Church will receive communion at 9 a.m. Mass Sunday, Oct. 5, and have breakfast and a meeting afterward in the cafeteria.

A supper dance for the benefit of **Holy Angels Home** will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, at Hospitality House, Penfield Road. Miss Louise Randazzo, president of Holy Angels Guild, is general chairman.

Layman to Give Lecture Series At Mt. Carmel

Auburn — William J. McMahon, a 1965 graduate of the Institute of Lay Theology in San Francisco, is conducting a series of Wednesday night lectures at Mt. Carmel High School.

McMahon

Sponsored by the Eastern Vicariate Office of Christian Formation, the series is being handled by Father John Glogowski, OCF vicariate coordinator.

Fee for the nine lectures, slated from 8 to 9:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 8, is $2.50. Topics include:

Man: Problems of Suffering and Death: Prayer: Relationship between God and Man; Creation and Sin; Salvation History; Covenant: Moses, David, Jeremiah; Jesus the Christ; The Sacrament: Personal Contact with Jesus; The Commandments: The Christian Commandment.

Carnival, Parade To Highlight 'Kearney Week'

Friends of Bishop Kearney High School have been invited to a series of "Kearney Week" activities next week to be highlighted by a veteran's day, an open house, a fire demonstration, a three-night carnival and a parade.

Activities are scheduled Monday, Oct. 6, through Saturday, Oct. 11, and are sponsored by the Fathers' and Mothers' Clubs of the school.

Monday's program will begin at 10:30 a.m., with civic and political figures as guests. Ceremonies will include honors to the school's graduates who have served or are serving in military service, with a special citation for Robert P. Tomasso, 1967 graduate, who lost both legs in the Vietnam conflict.

The Bishop Kearney High School Band, state champions, will be honored. Citations also will be given for student volunteer projects and for scholastic achievements.

Tuesday's schedule includes open house for prospective students and their parents, from 3 to 9 p.m. On Wednesday there will be live campus interviews and music through a portable WBBF radio station studio.

Featuring the opening of a carnival at 6:30 p.m. Thursday will be a fire demonstration by companies of Battalion 1. Carnival rides, games and refreshments will begin on Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m. A fish fry will be served Friday in the school cafeteria.

Saturday's program will begin with parade of local marching bands, drum corps units and fire companies, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Culver-Ridge Plaza and ending at the school.

BOY'S CHOIR COMING TO CANANDAIGUA

Canandaigua — The Boy's Town Choir will give two concerts here Thursday, Oct. 9, under the auspices of St. Mary's Home-School Association.

The performances, for the benefit of the Thompson Hospital building fund, will be at 3:45 and 8 p.m. in Canandaigua Junior Academy.

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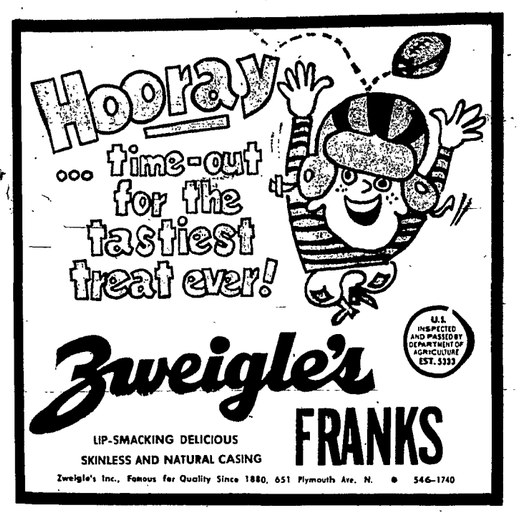

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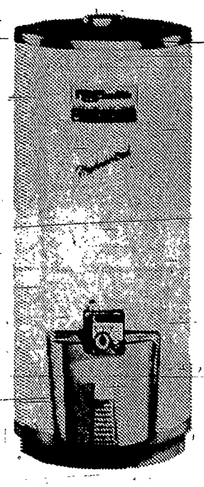

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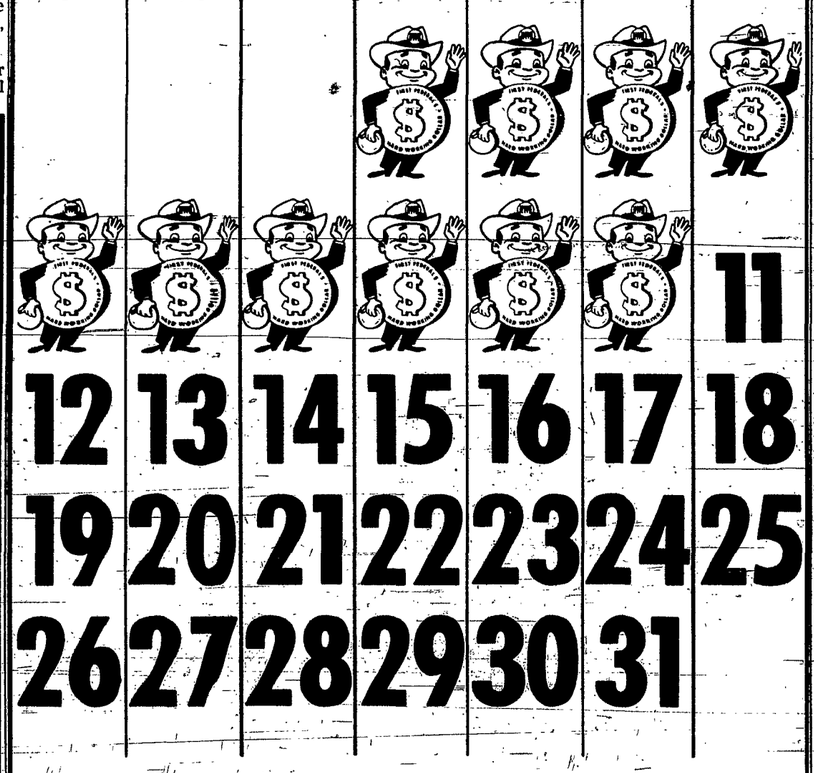

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