

'Junkie Priest': Drugs a People Problem

Catholic Press Features

Bergenfield, N.J. — "I know drugs and marijuana cost money," the 11th-grade boy said, addressing a question to a 16-year-old girl who had been an addict for three years. "What did you do to earn the money for the drugs?"

"Well," the girl answered, "it cost me my self respect. My pride. My dignity. My trust in people, and it almost cost me the difference between life and death."

The brief exchange was part of an unrehearsed seminar on drugs, held recently in a middle-income community in New Jersey and conducted by the Rev. Daniel Egan, the famed "Junkie Priest" who for the past 18 years has been helping to rehabilitate drug addicts in his "Village Haven" halfway house in Manhattan.

In the seminar, 11th-graders directed questions at Father Egan and "Tina," one of the many addicts who have gone to the priest for help.

Excerpts from the seminar follow.

Tina: "I wasn't free on drugs. I was a slave. I abused it. I was running from reality. I couldn't go on any more. You know, I used to sit down and listen to people talk and say, 'It can't happen to me.' Some are dead today."

Fr. Egan: "Please don't buy the fact that everybody is smoking marijuana (and say to yourself), 'If everybody's doing it and I'm not, then I'm queer, I'm odd, I'm a fink, there's something wrong with me.'"

Tina: "If you're hooked on marijuana, how can you get unhooked? Well, you can stop if you want to stop. Is it hard to kick once you have done heroin? No, it's not hard. And a lot of people, if you're out on the street, can't do it because they don't have the willpower. All it takes to stop a habit of any kind is willpower. That's what stops it. Yourself."

Fr. Egan: "What takes its place? What has taken the place of drugs in your life, Tina?"

Tina: "You get high on people."

Girl: "Does marijuana

leave any permanent effects on the body?"

Tina: "Marijuana itself can't, but what you can do to yourself while you are smoking—while you are stoned—can."

Fr. Egan: "See, the risk, kids, is this: Your father can take one glass of gin or whiskey or rye. Now, then, the law is the guarantee of the quality of that alcohol. There are no laws that guarantee what's in the joint of grass, in the pot, in the marijuana."

"If you want to laugh at this, laugh: I'm out on Long Island some months ago, here in the East, and there was a laboratory report from six different areas, where they were studying the quality of the grass—the marijuana—and they found out that 50 percent of the quality of the marijuana was nothing more than dried horse manure. That's an awful lot of horse manure."

"But suppose you get good quality? One of the effects of marijuana is the ability to hallucinate. . . I was talking to a girl some weeks ago during a speaking trip together, and she told how she had been smoking pot for six months. Six months, and all she did was get stoned. But one particular evening on one particular stick of pot, of which she didn't know the quality, she completely hallucinated, saw colors that weren't there, and she saw a light that she thought was green and was very red. And she went through the light and killed two people. This isn't going to happen to you. But it could. It could."

Girl: "I heard on the radio that marijuana rarely leads to other drugs. Do you believe this?"

Tina: "I can't say for other people, I can only say for myself, the people I was with, that it did happen to me. I don't know about anybody else."

Boy: "Father Egan, what do you feel is the main problem concerning drugs. Is it economical or social or what kind of problem is it with the drugs?"

Fr. Egan: "I don't think the problem is economic. I think the problem is a people problem. The problem is in the person."

"It is the inability or the



Two signs, one warning motorists and the other warning all of the dangers of narcotics, form an ironic juxtaposition on a Portland, Ore., street. The billboard reads: "Laura, 8/12/50 to 3/15/69. Narcotics took her life." (RNS).

unwillingness of the person to cope with something that hurts. . . When a problem hurts, when something bothers me, when something bugs me, I seem to believe that there has to be a quick, easy, simple solution to the problem. But I'd like to assure you in this seminar, and Tina's here to verify it with me, pain and suffering is part of being human.

"And if I am really to be human, and come off human, then I should look for the solutions to problems that hurt me within my humanity, rather than in a chemical. . . There's no easy quick way to grow up and be whole and be mature. You must know the feeling of rejection, of being misunderstood. Feel it and know it, and know that these hurts are maturing; they're very purifying."

Holy Rosary Mass Marks AQ Year

Last Friday, the Spirit of Aquinas resounded through Holy Rosary Church to the beat of the Great Amen from "Lilies of the Field" as more than 1,000 students joined in the celebration of a Mass to the Holy Spirit.

This Mass traditionally marks the start of a new school year at Aquinas Institute. For the first time, it was moved from the auditorium to Holy Rosary, the parish in which the school is located. The church was filled, with students standing in the aisles.

The Mass was said by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, with Aquinas principal Father Leon Hart, CSB, and Fathers John Whitley, Richard Allard and John Spratt, all of the Aquinas faculty. Students Bruce Fouquet and David Dinolfo served. The folk group was led by Mr. Ted Baenzinger, CSB, of the Aquinas faculty.

Gallery Offers Three New Shows

Three new shows open tomorrow, Oct. 11, at Memorial Art Gallery, 490 University.

"Japanese Art of the Sixties" will run through Nov. 9, together with the 86th annual exhibition of the Rochester Art Club and a competitive exhibition organized by the local chapter of New York State Craftsmen.

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Kearney 2nd in Cross-Country

Bishop Kearney, Cardinal Mooney, and McQuaid Jesuit runners all ran in the money last Saturday at the 18th Annual Baldwinville Invitational Cross-Country Meet.

Kearney took on the toughest half of the 37-school field and wound up second only to a powerful Christian Brothers Academy team from Syracuse. The Kings scored 82 points with Mike D'Erico (6), Rick O'Connor (8), Kevin Hanna (15), John Ferreri (22), and Tom Walsh (31) to beat out Watertown for runner-up spot.

Mooney's squad ran in the bottom bracket and scored an easy team-win as well as snaring the individual title with Ben Smith's 12:22 for the 2.4 miles. Behind Smith were Andy

Boehm (3), Bob Curtis (4), Larry Muir (19), and Tom Koerner (22). McQuaid, which did not enter a varsity squad, placed Tom McLaughlin (8) and Pat Cullinane (9) of 104 runners in the same race.

McQuaid captured first in the soph-junior race of 8 schools. Dick Sheridan led the way in second place, followed by John Hurley (4), Greg Smith (6), Mike Cramer (8), and Tom Gaffney (12).

In J. V. competition, Kearney was edged for second place by Lockport, though the Kings had 3 men in the top ten: Dave Aman (5), Carmen D'Errico (8), and Marty Lawson (9).

McQuaid's junior high entry suffered its first loss after two invitational wins, running second behind Fayetteville-Manlius in the 15-school field. The

Knights' Chris Horton in fourth was the top local finisher.

Kearney Loses 3 in Soccer

Bishop Kearney's soccer players had a tough week, losing two games in the City-Catholic League and one outside the league.

In league play, Madison took B. K. 1-0, and two days later, Jefferson triumphed 3-1 over the Kings. Rich Eichner scored the Kearney point.

In non-league action, the Kings held Wayne Central scoreless until the third quarter, something that hadn't happened this season to the traditional soccer powerhouse. Final score: 2-0.



Don't Stew over This Meal

From Belgium comes the beef stew known as Carbonnade Flamande, a classical main-dish richly endowed with onions and often flavored with beer. In the easy-to-make recipe which follows, canned roast beef with gravy reduces the cooking time and work greatly without sacrificing the traditional good taste, and apple juice or cider supplies the typical subtle flavoring.

The canned roast beef with gravy which is the mainstay of the dish is fully cooked and nicely seasoned, as it comes from the can. That means that the ingredients to be measured are few, and the only cooking required is simple and quick: the saute-

ing of the onions, the heating and thickening of the stew—a matter of about 20 minutes. That makes the dish a treat for the home cook as well as the diners, because of the work that doesn't have to be done.

Traditionally Carbonnade Flamande is served with whole boiled potatoes dressed with butter or margarine and sprinkled with parsley or chives. A green vegetable, crisp salad, and home-style bread, will complete a delightful main course.

EASY CARBONNADE FLAMANDE
2 medium onions, chopped

- 1 tablespoon bacon drippings or shortening
- 1 cup apple juice or apple cider
- Dash of pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 cans (12 ounces each) roast beef with gravy
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 3 tablespoons water
- Whole cooked potatoes

Saute onions in drippings. Add apple juice, pepper, parsley and roast beef with gravy. Bring to a boil. Blend flour with water and stir in; cook until mixture is thickened and bubbling. Serve over whole cooked potatoes. Makes 5 to 6 servings.

Earn more. Now!

DIVIDENDS COMPOUNDED DAILY

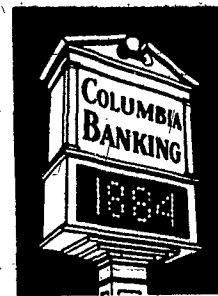
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