

# Bridging the Gap with Crosswords

**Catholic Press Features**  
**Kittery, Maine**—How to bring seemingly unfriendly people together—whether they be teenagers and parents, Catholics and Protestants, Blacks and Whites—is no big puzzle to a young Catholic priest here who has a way with words: the vertical and horizontal kind.

Using the slogan, "Let there be no cross words among you," the Rev. Richard G. Lonsdale, assistant pastor of St. Raphael's Church, has produced a series of crossword puzzles designed to erase the so-called "communication gap."

Father Lonsdale has already published in St. Raphael's parish bulletin a "Generation Gap" crossword puzzle, a "Catholic-Protestant" crossword puzzle and a "Jewish-Christian" crossword puzzle. In the planning stages are a "Catholic-Greek Orthodox" puzzle, a "Black-White" puzzle, a "French-Irish" puzzle ("a local problem here in Maine") and even a crossword puzzle for liberal and conservative Catholics.

In each crossword prepared by Father Lonsdale, the idea is the same: the "vertical" words will be more easy for one side than the "horizontal" words, which the other side should be able to fill in with

case although they will have had trouble with the "vertical" words. For most people to complete the puzzle they will need some help from the other side.

Thus, in Father Lonsdale's "Generation Gap" crossword, parents have no trouble filling in vertical word squares such as those requiring an eight-letter word for "If I Didn't Care" singers (Ink-spots), but they run into trouble when they get to such horizontal requirements as a five-letter word meaning cash ("bread"), which every teenager knows.

Likewise, teenagers can easily fill in the horizontal three-letter word for "Lennon's girl" (Ono), but will probably need help from the over-30 people in the house when they come to the vertical nine-letter word for "fireside chatter" (Roosevelt).

Father Lonsdale, a longtime crossword buff, can make up a puzzle in about two hours.

The first puzzle he published in his parish bulletin was the "Generation Gap" crossword, with an offer of a \$5 prize to the first parent-teenager team to bring him the correctly completed puzzle.

So enthusiastic was the response that Father Lonsdale

followed the parent-teenager puzzle with one for Protestants and Catholics, which he prepared with the help of the Rev. William Baran, pastor of Kittery's Congregational Second Christian Church.

This puzzle was not only published in St. Raphael's parish bulletin but also in the newsletters of both the Congregational and Methodist churches in Kittery and nearby Ellet.

The "Catholic-Protestant" puzzle contains such horizontal (Catholic) requirements as "Holy" (four-letter word) and an 11-letter word "pertaining to Blessed Sacrament" (Eucharistic). The vertical side (Protestant) requires, for instance, a two-letter abbreviation for "founded by Wesley" (MC, for Methodist Church) and an 11-letter word associated with the year 1517 (Reformation).

The prize for being first to solve this crossword was a copy of "Good News for Modern Man," but to collect, the Catholic contestant had to bring his completed puzzle to the Congregational minister, and the Protestant contestant had to bring his puzzle to Father Lonsdale. To be fair, two prize divisions were established: one for partners in mixed marriages; the other division for all other contestants.

The "Jewish-Christian" crossword also relies on an understanding of each other's beliefs and customs. For example, "one" across needs an eight-letter word for "December holidays." "One" down needs a nine-letter word for "December holiday." The respective answers are Chanukah and Christmas. Thirteen across is a six-letter word for "The Sacred Name" (Yehveh), and twenty down is a seven-letter word for "holder for certain relics" (ossuary).

## LAYMEN GIVE COMMUNION

St. Paul (RNS)—Two married laymen in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis have received permission from Rome to distribute Holy Communion at Masses. The permission, in both cases, is restricted to their home parishes and is for a three-year period.

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Judging by the calls we've received (for information about the place and times for turn-ins), we know that many of you have and are cooperating. Come the pay-off you'll be glad you did. Though your "reward" won't be along until after the holidays, it will still be a fine bonus for you and your church or club. Unlike bills, checks are always welcome regardless of when they arrive!

The next edition of the Money Labels Savers Guide is now being prepared. As in the first issue, we hope to again feature three or four of the groups in the Rochester diocese. (Last time three from the Buffalo area were also included on the "Round the Table" page.) If you've especially enjoyed this little magazine, found some of its products right up your alley, or have an unusual use for your Money Label profits, do let us know. Your comments are sure to be of interest to other M/L groups. Original recipes using one or more of the products would also be acceptable. But do act quickly. As in all such matters, there is a publication deadline.

So, as we said above, have a happy holiday. We'll be looking forward to a continuing pleasant relationship with our Money Labels Chairmen and indirectly with you, the participants.

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Holy Scriptures tell us of wise men from the East who came in search of the Christ Child. They followed a star until it came to rest over the place where the Child was... and "when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."

We wish that joy to all who follow the star of Bethlehem.



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