

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

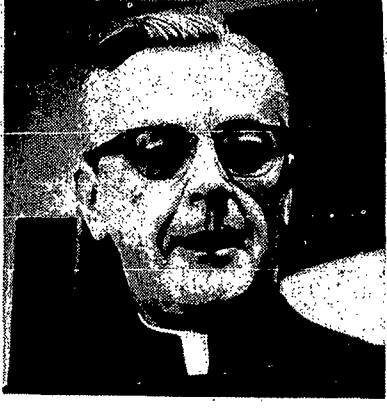
Vol. 81 No. 22

12 Pages

Rochester, New York

Price: 15¢

Friday, Feb. 27, 1970



The Bishop's Week

"I know my own and my own know me." (John X, 14)

A bishop's favorite image of the Lord has to be that of a Good Shepherd. The bishop's crozier, a shepherd's staff, is a constant reminder to him that he must have concern for all his flock and that his voice must be readily recognized by all committed to his care.

Last Monday evening I completed my third tour of the diocese within a period of less than three months. I wanted all our priests to hear my voice on matters which I considered important, and through them to reach it to all my people.

In fact, the last mission concerned itself with a crisis in communication — an imminent danger that the voice of the Shepherd of Rochester would soon lose its power to reach into every home of the diocese.

More precisely, the urgency centered on the future of our diocesan paper, the *Courier-Journal*. It had been brought to my attention that the last few years had witnessed an alarming decrease in its circulation. Such a situation has to be a matter of grave concern to any bishop, for as shepherds we rely heavily on our paper to amplify our voice.

Accordingly, I took the problem to my priests along with a promise of a greatly improved paper by the first week of April if a large circulation improvement gave the editors the finances to improve the paper this Spring. The promise included a new format (tabloid style), professional photography, broader coverage of the areas outside Monroe County by competent reporters, and a weekly adult education feature of five articles written by recognized authorities in the fields of Scripture, Theology, Liturgy and Christian Witness.

I stressed in my appeal the role of the paper in assisting me to fulfill my duties as the teacher and spiritual leader of nearly a half million people. I pointed

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IF YOU MOVE . . .

let us know about it so we can keep your *Courier* coming to you on time. Phone or mail us notice of your change of address. Include your old address and new address and the name of your parish.

Courier-Journal, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Phone 716-454-7050.



Your Lenten Sacrifice Will Help

Forty million persons die each year from some form of malnutrition. American Catholics have been asked for Lenten Sacrifice to contribute to 24th annual American Catholic Overseas Fund collection to be taken in diocesan churches on Mar. 15.

National Pastoral Unit Under Consideration

Washington — (NC) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) has asked an advisory body of bishops, priests, nuns and laity to study the possibility of creating a National Pastoral Council.

John Cardinal Dearden of Detroit, president of both the NCCB and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC), announced the action in Washington Monday.

They had been contemplating for some time the idea of getting initial studies started, a spokesman said, and had included the broad question of National Pastoral Councils on the agendas for their separate meetings here Feb. 16-18.

Bishop Hogan and his auxiliaries are discussing proposals to form a Diocesan Pastoral Council and will announce the plan later this year.

Cardinal Dearden asked that the 50-member Advisory Council of the USCC — a bishop, a priest, a religious, a layman and a laywoman from each of 10 geographic areas of the

Foot-in-Mouth Department?

Is there a point at which education becomes penance?

Many of the bulletins that cross the *Courier-Journal* desk during Lent announce lectures and discussions. One such notice this week mentioned refreshments, even, and then came right out with the question:

"Why not make attendance at this lecture part of your Lenten sacrifice?"



MRS. ROBERT REIFSNYDER

Local Woman Honored in News Contest

National Catholic News Service this week announced that a story written by Mrs. Robert Reifsnnyder, of St. John of Rochester Parish, Fairport, has been given an "Honorable Mention" in the service's Good News Contest.

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Speno-Lerner Bill Provides Catholic Schools' Best Hope

See editorial on Page 6

(From *Courier-Journal* Sources)

Albany — A "parent-student assistance program" called the Speno-Lerner Bill, introduced in the State Legislature Jan. 28 offers the only realistic hope for finance-floundering parochial schools this year, veteran capital-watchers admitted this week.

The flurry of excitement over the

first steps to repeal the Blaine Amendment which the legislature took last week cannot hide the fact that Blaine will not be dead until November, 1971, if all legally required moves are successful. And no money could possibly reach the non-public schools from the State's treasury until mid-1972.

The Blaine Amendment for 75 years has forbidden direct state aid to church schools.

To remove an amendment requires the approving vote of two separately elected legislatures and the decision of the general public in a referendum. The public will not vote on Blaine until election day in 1971.

The parent aid plan, named for

Senator E. J. Speno (Rep., East Meadow) and Assemblyman A. D. Lerner, (Rep., Richmond Hill) provides for tuition grants on a sliding scale to parents of children attending non-public elementary and secondary schools.

Grants from \$50 to \$250 depending on family income and the school's tuition will be paid directly to parents under the plan.

The bill limits the grants to 80 percent of the "secular education costs" within the nonpublic school curriculum. The school makes the determination of which percentage of its time and costs are spent on religious subjects and which on secular subjects.

Write Your Lawmaker

Do you have an opinion on the parent-aid school plan?

SENATORS

Thomas Laverno, 50th District, 4109 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14617.

James E. Powers, 51st District, 17 Evergreen Drive, Chili, N.Y. 14624.

William T. Smith, 48th District, Smiths Farms, RD 1, Elmira, N.Y. 14803.

Theodore D. Day, 49th District, RD 2, Interlaken, N.Y. 14847.

Thomas E. McGowan, 54th District, 704 Brisbane Bldg., Buffalo, N.Y.

ASSEMBLYMEN

Donald C. Shoemaker, 130th District, 838 Lake Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580.

Raymond J. Lilly, 131st District, 31 Wolfert Ter., Rochester, N.Y. 14621.

S. William Rosenberg, 132nd District, 1866 Clover Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14613.

Frank Carroll, 133rd District, 613 Elm Grove Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14606.

William M. Steinfeldt, 134th District, 217 Weston Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14612.

Don W. Cook, 135th District, P.O. Box 181, Henrietta, N.Y. 14607.

George Michaels, 122nd District, 10 Norman Ave., Auburn, N.Y.

Constance E. Cook, 125th District, Coy Glen Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

L. Richard Marshall, 126th District, 7 Strathurst Park, Elmira, N.Y. 14605.

Charles D. Henderson, 127th District, 89 Church St., Hornell, N.Y. 14848.

Frederick L. Warder, 128th District, 100 Lewis St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456.

Joseph Finley, 129th District, RD 1, Walworth, N.Y. 14688.

James L. Emery, 136th District, 5477 Lakeville Road, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454.

All may be addressed at the State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

Parochial Aid Need Now, Catholic Educators Say

Albany — "Blaine repeal is a good thing, but it just won't help the Catholic schools this year," was the initial reaction from Catholic educators and spokesmen after the legislature overwhelmingly endorsed repeal of the Blaine amendment in both houses.

"Certainly this unwanted, unrealistic provision should be removed from our State Constitution," said Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the State Catholic Committee, which has long urged repeal, "but it is a long process . . . as any constitutional change should be."

"Meanwhile statistics show that without substantial aid to parents of non-public school children there is no doubt that many, many more parents will have to forego their right to send their children to a religious oriented school this coming year," he said.

J. Alan Davitt, secretary of the Catholic School Superintendents Council for the state agreed:

"The figures coming into this office clearly show that without help to the parents two things will happen:

• "Several schools across the state will close.

• "Parents will, of necessity, withdraw their children from the Catholic schools in order to cut back their expenses as inflationary costs cut into their paycheck."

"The net result," Tobin pointed out, "will necessitate higher and higher taxes for the state's citizens to support the public schools."

When asked what action could be taken by parents, both Tobin and Davitt suggested letters to legislators, particularly Assemblyman Constance Cook who heads the Assembly Education Committee and Sen. Clinton Dominick who is chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

"I believe," Davitt said, "that when they total up the costs and see that continued shifts from non-public to public schools are destined to increase taxpayer costs some three quarters of a billion dollars per year

(that would almost double the income tax) then I believe they'll seriously consider endorsing some form of parent or student aid to the non-public school sector."

"Many legislators are already in favor," said Tobin, "and it's just a matter of their convincing enough of their brothers on the hill."

There is no indication now when any aid-to-non-public-school student bill will reach the floor in either house. It is expected, however, that they will not be bottled up in committee but given time for floor debate.

Sen. Brydges Denies Shift On Abortion

Albany — While vigorously denying that he has changed his position on any of the current abortion proposals now before the state legislature, a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Earle W. Brydges, admitted that the senator has definitely shifted his position on abortion . . . if only a small amount.

The shift in position was made known last week when the senator told newsmen he was seeking to see if some sort of "less objectionable" abortion bill than the main ones now pending could be drafted.

Part of the reason, according to the spokesman, was the feeling on the senator's part that there had been a shift in sentiment on the issue. He cited the fact that few letters came urging no change, whereas more letters favoring change had come to his office. "Those who don't want a change just don't seem to write," the spokesman said.

In answer to a *Courier-Journal* query, the Senator, through an aide, said he had asked his staff to look into the abortion issue

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good news

By MRS. ROBERT REIFSNYDER

If all relatives were as wonderful as ours are, and if all the members of the "older generation" were as understanding and encouraging to the "younger generation" as the members of our family are, I know the world would really be on its way to being a better place.

Two years ago our 17-year-old daughter, the oldest of seven children, decided she would like to spend the summer in Spain on a student program. She got herself a job after school in order to pay for the trip as she knew that we would not be able to be of much financial assistance. By the time she boarded the plane in July she would have enough money saved to pay for the whole trip herself. However, the full payment was due in March. Knowing that she certainly wouldn't have the money by then, she decided to write to my aunt for a loan (which she paid back in June).

The following is the reply which arrived three days later by Special Delivery and which I keep and cherish:

Dear Joan,

I'm so glad you reminded me of a time I must have had the good sense to suggest lending money for a good cause and I'm delighted that you have the good sense to ask for what you need. I think I'm lucky to have the money, and I'm happy to send it, for what I hope will be a marvelous experience for you.

The trouble in life is that when you are young, have the time and energy, and can profit from the experience of travel for what we hope will be a long and fruitful life—you don't have the cash. Later when you might have the cash, you no longer have the youth. You and I will be putting this situation in better balance.

Good Luck,
Aunt Genie



Moratorium On Smoking

Students from Randolph, Mass., High School remove a cigarette vending machine from a store during the town's recent 24-hour moratorium on smoking. Smokers were asked to donate the money they would have spent on tobacco to a scholarship fund. (RNS)