



...AND IN THESE DAYS OF DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES, FROM WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, NOT EVEN HOUSEKEEPERS ARE IMMUNE...

The Church: 1970

Stormy Issues Must Be Aired

By Fr. Andrew Greeley



There is a rumor abroad that Cardinal Suenens came within a hair's breadth of being forced to resign as archbishop of Malines in Belgium. One can only rejoice that such an event did not occur.

The Catholic Church can, of course, survive an indefinite series of disasters. It has in the past, and it will probably be called upon to do so in the future. But if Cardinal Suenens was indeed to be thrown out of his office for expressing a very mild and gentle dissent, it would have easily been a disaster of staggering consequences.

For, while he receives apparently little support from his fellow cardinals and only silent support from most of the bishops of the world, there is not much doubt to anyone who is in touch with opinions among the Catholic laity and clergy that Cardinal Suenens represents a vast number of the faithful. If he were to be suppressed then one would be forced to regretfully conclude that collegiality is largely meaningless.

I suspect that historians of the future will spend many long hours puzzling over why celibacy and birth control, the two most controversial subjects facing the Church in the wake of the Vatican Council, were not the subject of collegial decision making. If collegiality means anything at all, it means that it is practiced on controversial issues.

The historians will wonder why the Pope chose to try (obviously with no success) to shut off discussion on these two questions which are on everyone's lips. One must look long and hard in the history of the papacy to find a similar situation: when in the past has a Pope adamantly refused even to discuss with his brother bishops a matter which no one claims to be part of divine revelation? I suspect that some of the historians will want to conclude that the Pope simply did not trust his brother bishops

to be able to discuss the issue competently and intelligently.

Historians may also decide that the Pope is correct: that, indeed, his brothers in the hierarchy lack the intelligence, the wisdom, the good will, the sincerity, the humility to address themselves to the questions of celibacy and birth control. But if such a judgment turns out to be an accurate one, it will be a sad commentary on the state of the Church in the second half of the 20th century.

I have been told recently that one member of the Roman Curia has commented, "We will lose 75 per cent of the priests in the world, but still we do not change on celibacy." If such an attitude is the official Curial position, then it is an extraordinary one, both because it completely misreads the attitude of the world's clergy (it is most unlikely that 75 per cent of the priests of the world will leave), and also because it completely misunderstands the issue and closedminded exercise of authority they see in the Church.

As I have said before, what worries me most is the harm done to the papacy.

For Christianity needs the papacy. If we did not have one, we would probably have to invent it. It is an absolutely indispensable institution not merely for the Catholic Church, but for all the Christian churches. When it loses its ability to obtain the respect and the consent of substantial segments of the Catholic population, this is a tragedy for the whole of Christianity.

It is not necessary that there be change on either of the two issues, but it is necessary, absolutely necessary, that there be discussion. I cannot understand why such a moderate request for discussion as that made by Leo Suenens should be responded to as though it were an act of sacrilege, not to say blasphemy. In truth, the archbishop of Malines-Brussels is one of the best friends that contemporary papacy has.

On The Right Side
Enduring
The Status Quo

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



Now that seven weeks have passed, how do you feel about the abortion progress?

Progress? What a term for human degeneracy! On July 1, when the abortion machinery went into gear legally, I was in deep depression. However, thanks to a Bible passage Auburnian Father William Bergan made his students memorize, I returned gradually to interior tranquility.

What was the passage which has such magical results?

Not magical; rather spiritual. It recognizes the mysterious patience of God. Do memorize it yourself. "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His judgments and how unsearchable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? Or who has first given to Him, that recompense should be made him? For from Him, and through Him, and unto Him, are all things. To Him be the glory forever." (Rom. 11:33-36) That passage has helped me over many dark days. Few days in

my life have been as dark as July 1, 1970, Abortion Day.

Does this mean you are accepting the status quo?

Not at all. I am enduring the status quo, i.e. the destruction of the unborn, and am working that this state will change. Under Hitler, awful concentration camps were set up in Dachau, which I saw in 1945, in Belsen, etc. I think most Germans did not believe these camps existed; and those who did felt helpless to change things right away but hoped they would cease to be. That is my present state.

Aren't you exaggerating, comparing a few abortions to Nazi concentration camps?

Not at all. The Abortion people, with their adroitness, refer to such comparisons as "emotionalism." They are uncomfortable with the truth, and resent being compared to Nazis. This is true of abortionists who profess to be Jews mindful of Nazi history. I do not know how the minds of professed Christians work which can give unborn children over to a butcher table, and declare they

are followers of Jesus Christ. This is no "Catholic" issue. Thank God for the Orthodox Christians who are one with the Roman Church, and for the Orthodox Jews who follow the Law, and for Protestants who accept Jesus Christ and His Word, and for humane people without much religious faith but who have not scrapped moral sanity. Of course the Abortion People are sensitive to the comparison. But their emotional sensitivity doesn't change fact.

For example. On July 1, the day Abortion Law became the shame of our state, a 6 months premature baby was born in our hospital at Hornell. The child lived for 10 hours. The parents were Catholics so the baby was baptized. I myself saw the baby: a beautiful, well formed baby boy, who was buried as a human being. That same day a 6 months unborn baby was aborted from its mother and given to death in a Rochester Hospital. Do the Abortion People consider it emotionalism to feel the horror of this? Do you think it is?

On the Line

People And Places

By Bob Considine



I asked my 5-year-old granddaughter Kelly what she had taught her dear little brother Jonathan, who is 10 months old.

"To scream," she said. Kelly will begin school in September.

"What are you going to study?" I asked. Kelly apparently had given it a lot of thought.

"How to protect your own cat," she said.

Add historic goofs:

"There is no hope for the fanciful idea of reaching the moon, because of insuperable barriers to escaping earth's gravity,"—Dr. F. R. Moulton, astronomer, University of Chicago, 1932.

"Anyone who looks for a source of power in the transformation of atoms is talking moonshine." — Lord Rutherford, British physicist, 1933.

The A-bomb is the biggest fool thing we have ever done. The bomb will never go off. And I speak as an expert on explosives."—Adm. William Leahy, before Alamogordo.

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, in a high moment of his east Tennessee crusade, dipped into the World Series to make a point about how one must watch his step at all times.

He told of a ball Goose Goslin walloped out of the park with the bases filled, and two outs. But the grand slam was nullified because Goose failed to touch first base.

Just a moment, Doctor, while I take another look at that little old record book.

The most anonymous battle

casualties is recent years have been a number — unknown — of highly skilled Russian missile technicians.

"We know we have killed Russians during attacks on SAM sites in North Vietnam," Gen. William C. Westmoreland told me during the period when we were bombing the North. "But the Soviets have never acknowledged their losses. Not a word."

U.S. Intelligence learned about the same time that the Russian missilemen were indignant over the fumbling North Vietnamese they were endeavoring to instruct. The students were trigger-happy, shot too many of the costly and sophisticated 32-foot-long rockets. Near the end of the shooting it was estimated that only one in every 70 SAMs scored a hit.

Air Force and Navy fighter-bomber pilots had devised a hair-raising method of avoiding the 1,800-mph SAM II. When one of them picked up the electronic spoor of a U.S. plane, the pilot would let it approach to within a few hundred breathtaking yards, then dive suddenly and slam on the afterburner. The SAM, incapable of changing course that abruptly, would flash over the diving aircraft, soon run out of fuel, fall back on North Vietnamese soil and explode.

The SAM III, which the Russians have installed in Egypt near the Suez, represents a greater menace to Israeli jets than the SAM II.

The newest model seeks out low-flying attackers who because they are flying low, cannot dive out of harm's way. Still, enough of the crack Israeli pilots are getting through this Russian-directed defense and scoring hits on Russian-manned installations, and obviously killing Russians.

But not a word from the Kremlin. Just as it never admitted having people in North Vietnam, now it does not admit that others are in Egypt.

Wonder what they tell the families of their dead?

"Times are tough in the Hong Kong newspaper business," an old Hong Kong hand told me at the Press Club. "We're down to 77 dailies and weeklies."

I fainted.

Billy Casper, who is probably the best golfer in the world—month in and out—paid his own way to Expo '70, Osaka's world's fair. He's an old friend of Howard Chernoff, who is in charge of the American Pavilion.

"These people are golf nuts," Chernoff said to his friend, waving a hand at the long lines waiting to be admitted to the Pavilion.

"Okay, I'll give them some free lessons," Casper said. He brought his sticks out the next day, and the line of Japanese that queued up was almost as long as the line waiting to look at the moon rock.

Casper wasn't too impressed by the rock.

"I've dug up bigger ones than that at Pebble Beach," he told Chernoff.

THINK IN TANK
PROGRAMMED BY A. L. SHEPPARD, JR.

Get free marriage counseling... talk to your mother-in-law.