

Balancing the Books

A Comic Novel

By Father John S. Kennedy

Comic novels about things Catholic, with clerics as figures of fun? There is nothing new about the genre. We have had them for many years, in many languages. A whole generation ago, for example, there was Bruce Marshall's "Father Malachy's Miracle," followed by several others from the same pen, the best of these being "The World, the Flesh, and Father Smith."

Now, almost 40 years since Marshall delighted us with Father Malachy, there comes a new Marshall novel, "The Bishop" (Doubleday, \$5.95), which the jacket tells us is "a humorous novel about the modern Catholic Church and the Pill."

Marshall, who has been turning out books for longer than almost anyone else writing today, has slowed down in his more recent output. His work has been lacking in the exuberance and lightfootedness which once characterized it. Besides,

he has repeated himself more than a little, and his typical tricks have grown so familiar as to be predictable and consequently less titillating.

The Bishop of the title seems to be Bishop Bede Jenkins, although throughout the novel, there are allusions to the certainty that Jenkins' secretary, young Father Spyers, is certain to be one day a bishop, possibly even pope.

Two other clerics are close to Bishop Jenkins. The first is his vicar general, Monsignor Basil Powell, a man of taste and with a distinguished military record. The second is Monsignor Finbar Ignatius O'Flaherty, administrator of the cathedral, a roaring flannel-mouth.

Such plot as there is, is set off by the publication of the encyclical "Humanae Vitae." This arouses lively discussion and some debate. Bishop Jen-

kins is firm in demanding external and internal acceptance of it by his priests.

As in other Marshall novels, there are confessional scenes, and in a series of these Father Spyers requires conformity to the law by a woman whose situation is extremely difficult. There are dire, indeed tragic, consequences, which lead to a change of attitude on Father Spyers' part and his being penalized.

The other main theme is Monsignor Powell's troubles with a nun, Sister Juliana, who is convinced that she made a mistake in entering the convent and asks for dispensation from her vows. Monsignor Powell is charged with persuading her to remain, but her persuasive powers are greater than his, for she induces him to leave the priesthood and also leave the Church. They do not marry, however, but go separate ways.

If this novel settles none of the problems which its people face, if it is skipping rather than probing, at least it is good-humored, even-tempered and can be read with moderate pleasure.



CEILING
Suspended & Block Ceilings
ONE DAY INSTALLATIONS **NO DUST FUSS**
Free Estimates—Call Day or Night
JOSEPH DE GEORGE CEILING
647-3795
SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



DISTINGUISHED CATERING
WEEKDAYS AVAILABLE FOR

• SALES MEETINGS • BUSINESS SEMINARS
2329
BROWNCROFT BLVD.
Just off Expressway
288-7655 8 MIN. FROM DOWNTOWN
YOUR PREMISES OR OURS

Mini-Math

By Sam Stein

A	B		C	D
E			F	
G			I	
K				

HORIZONTAL

- A -4
- C +6
- E +1
- F -4
- G -1
- I +5
- K +2
- L -5

VERTICAL

- A -7
- B +4
- C -1
- D +3
- G -2
- H +3
- I -2
- J +2

Answer on Page 9B

INSTRUCTIONS: Mini-Math is worked like a crossword puzzle. Use numbers 1 through 5 only. For example: (A) Horizontal may call for +3 in two squares, which may be (+4 and -1), (+5 and -2), (+1 and +2), (-2 and +5), etc. The same with Verticals.

Water Heater Break Down?



Install an **RS Smith**
Permaglas Gas Water Heater

Includes delivery and normal installation. No sales tax required to be added on the installed price. Budget terms available.

\$164⁹⁵

30 GAL. MODEL

10-Year Guarantee

If within the 10-year period your tank leaks or you have rusty hot water due to a defect in the glass lining, you will receive a new water heater free. On any heater purchased after October 1, 1965, installation will be free within five years of purchase.

RGE ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC
89 EAST AVENUE • 546-2700

Open Tues. & Thurs. Till 9 — Saturday Till Noon

**STATE UNIV. COLLEGE,
BROCKPORT, N.Y.**

OFFERS ADULTS



College Credit Courses

- Classroom Courses: Day or Evening
Brockport or Rochester
- At Home Courses: Study by Correspondence
or Television - WXXI

Simple Enrollment — by mail or in person.
For Brochure and Forms call 395-2345 or
395-2638; or, send coupon.

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, State Univ.
College at Brockport, 14420

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
Classroom Courses
Television Courses
Correspondence Courses

COURIER/2

Spend an Afternoon with the Thoroughbreds

bring home the bacon!

FINGER LAKES RACE TRACK

POST TIME 1:30 PM MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
AT EXIT 44 ON ROUTE 96 CANANDAIGUA, N.Y.