

## The Slot Man

# A School For Politicians

By Carmen Viglucci



Now that election Day is over, it may be apropos to discuss an idea that kept recurring as we watched and read about the candidates.

Without demeaning anyone personally, it seemed that in many individual races the voters hardly had a reasonable choice. Of course, there were some excellent men running, even though it may be difficult to think of them if somebody asked you to name a couple in a hurry.

No malice is intended and most men who get to the point of running for public office have proven their mettle in other vocations.

And this is my point. They are good lawyers, teachers, businessmen, technicians — and now even priests — but that does not mean they are necessarily good politicians or, to extend the reasoning, good public servants.

What I wonder is why don't we have colleges to teach people how to be effective, well-trained politicians and thus effective, well-trained public office-holders.

I don't mean in the field of political science but rather a place where a person who wants to be a professional politician is trained in such areas as press relations, use of television, running a campaign (indeed there might be a separate elective just for campaign managers), public speaking, advertising — as well as intense ed-

ucation in particular elective offices.

Thus a college-age youngster could actually major in U.S. Senate, or governor, or even the presidency, depending if he knows in what direction he might eventually want to go in his profession. Politics a profession?! Why not? It should be!

Master and doctorate programs would also be available and the degree would be an important asset when the person actually begins running for office.

Scholarships should be available and perhaps even delayed tuition so that students could pay for their education after they hold office, thus giving less moneyed persons a better opportunity for top political jobs.

If certain other screws were tightened in our elective system in conjunction with this plan it would seem we would all benefit. For instance, if campaign expenditures were limited to just so much for certain jobs and a person could then take a course in how to utilize that much money, it would mean more effective campaigning as well as giving those with less gold a better chance.

None of this would keep anybody from entering politics, such schooling would not be a prerequisite. But it might start to lift politics into a more professional plateau and eventually erase much of the sleazy image the field now has.



Bishop Hogan is pictured at dedication Mass. In right rear is Father Sebastian Contegiacomo, pastor, and his brother, Father Allesandro Contegiacomo of Italy. At pulpit (left) is Father Nicholas Arioli, of Niles, Ohio, native of Most Precious Blood parish. At left rear are Father Oresto Crbara, Toronto pastor; Father Michael Biondi, of Aquinas Institute faculty, also a former parishioner, and Father Louis LaFavia, now attending Harvard University, former parish assistant.

## Most Precious Blood Building Dedicated

Bishop Hogan dedicated a new Most Precious Blood Church building on Stenson Street Nov. 1 and congratulated the pastor, Father Sebastian Contegiacomo, OPFS., on his 50th year in the priesthood.

Parishioners and friends will celebrate Father Sebastian's golden jubilee at a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Mapledale Party House.

The modern brick and stone church seats 460, and replaces a white-frame country-style building which seated only 200. The latter will be used as a hall and storage area.

Featuring the new structure, which has no basement, is a baptistry at the front entrance and a ramp entrance at the rear, off the parking lot, for wheelchair patients. Wood for the

large sanctuary cross is from Italy, and the tabernacle is from Spain. The building is air-conditioned.

Father Sebastian, of the Society of the Most Precious Blood, came from Italy in 1930 to become assistant at the parish, and succeeded the pastor, Father Anthony Pesce, in 1937. In 1955 a school was opened, staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1959 a large hall was erected adjoining the school, with 164 pupils, now is staffed The school, with 164 pupils, now is staffed by three Sisters of the Precious Blood and two lay teachers.

## Letters

### Disputes View On Schools

Editor:

I'd like to comment on Mr. William Cannon's statements regarding Catholic schools, which appeared in the Courier-Journal Nov. 4. Mr. Cannon states that since parochial schools educate only a minority of Catholic children these schools should be de-emphasized. This is absurd; it is like saying that since only a minority of people in the world are well fed we should minimize the concern for nutrition. He states that educating the few (Catholic children) is unjust, and then he advocates educating fewer! It seems obvious that since Catholic schools are not educating all Catholic children therefore we should have more and bigger Catholic schools.

It seems ridiculous to contend that children can be developed as Christians with one hour per week of instruction while the rest of their schooling is in a pagan environment. It is the environment that is crucial. Either we have a Christian environment for children, in the Catholic schools, or we have a pagan environment (and there is no sense mincing words) in the public schools.

Mr. Cannon's statements that Catholic schools are "divisive" and have a "discipline of fear and prejudice" makes me wonder what schools he is acquainted with. The Catholic schools that I've known are precisely the opposite: outgoing, bright, integral, and concerned with people and communities.

Robert Knille  
Lynwood Drive  
Rochester

### Peace Symbol Questioned

Editor:

I feel a compelling force within me with the help of God to write this letter. Is the peace symbol that many wear hung from their necks another form of Satan's works or of God's Works?

Remember, Satan can come in sheep's clothing, seeking the ruin of souls. It seems there are many motives behind this symbol — that is, different ideas of reaching a peace.

First of all, have these people found peace within their hearts and souls with God? War is a hell, but it begins with you, in each evil response to one another.

Second, are you all working consciously to be receptive to God's love through you to one another?

Third, are you truly fighting evil with love? Some know that the power of love is greater than the force of hate.

Fourth, are you following the laws of the kingdom? For they supersede the laws of self-demand, whether on a personal or national or world level.

Fifth, can you say the "Our Father" with tremendous meaning and humility? Then you are totally incapable of hating or killing God's children.

If you can honestly answer these questions with a yes, then I feel this may not be an evil symbol that masquerades as righteousness.

Margaret Adams,  
Hilton

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