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Bishop Hogan on Lent: A Time for Heart-Changing

My dearly beloved in Christ:

One of the truly influential books of the Twentieth Century is entitled *The Cost of Discipleship*. While many may not accept the totality of the theology of its author, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, no Christian can question him when he writes about Calvary, Christ as Redeemer and the process of redemption. For the Lord tested the authenticity of his discipleship in the Nazi persecution with the full weight of the Cross which he patiently accepted and embraced.

In a celebrated passage on the implications of discipleship he draws a distinction between what he calls Cheap Grace and Costly Grace. As we prepare to enter upon the penitential season of Lent, I invite you to reflect with me on the significance of this distinction.

Many people in their approach to the practice of religion are looking for Cheap Grace, whereas the Gospel offers only

Costly Grace. Cheap Grace means wanting to achieve salvation without undergoing a true conversion of heart.

Cheap Grace means accepting the truth of the Gospel, while avoiding the demands of the Gospel. Cheap Grace means saying I believe without the corresponding willingness to say I do.

It costs very little to assent with our minds to the truths revealed by our Lord; it costs much to live by these truths. Costly Grace—the only grace that the Gospel offers—is grace that makes unconditional demands on a man.

Costly Grace calls a man to risk his own self-security. It calls him to live by the Gospel wherever it may lead. It calls a man to take the next step.

You recall the story of the rich man who came to Jesus with the question: "What must I do to obtain eternal life?"

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Eight Area Legislators Favor Speno-Lerner

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI and JOHN DASH

Eight of the 14 state legislators from this diocese who answered a Courier-Journal poll on the parent-aid school bill said they would vote in favor.

Two said they would oppose the bill, four had not made up their minds and four did not answer.

(The bill is explained through a series of questions on Page 17.)

Of the five state senators, three expressed their intention to vote for the bill.

Sen. James E. Powers took a strong stand, saying he would not only vote for the bill when it came to the floor but "most important I would vote to override the threatened governor's veto."

Gov. Rockefeller, at a recent news conference leveled criticism at the Speno-Lerner bill, indicating he would veto it, if it were passed by the Legislature.

Sen. Thomas Laverne of Ir-

of interest politically is the fact that six Republican legislators have indicated their intention to vote for Speno-Lerner despite obvious pressure forthcoming from the governor.

Two Republicans will oppose the bill while six others either did not answer or have not decided.

Both Democrats in the diocese support the bill.

ondequoit, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said he would vote in favor of the Speno-Lerner Bill.

Another Republican senator who intends to vote yes is William T. Smith of Big Flats.

While Sen. Theodore D. Day of Interlaken did not express a definite decision on Speno-Lerner, he did indicate a general leaning toward approving some form of parochial aid.

"I am prepared to vote for any constitutional and affordable aid that comes before us on the floor of the Senate."

Sen. Thomas McGowan of Buffalo did not answer. His 54th District covers some of the western part of the Rochester diocese.

Five state assemblymen said they would vote for the parent-aid bill but two expressed some concern over the Blaine Amendment issue.

William Steinfeldt while saying that he expected to vote for Speno-Lerner added that he is concerned "that the Blaine Amendment repeal referendum receive second passage this year so that the referendum can be held this fall. Until that amend-

ment is repealed, tuition aid or alternative measures will be on shaky ground."

S. William Rosenberg expressed similar sentiment, stating he will vote for parent-aid legislation but feels "we would be on much firmer ground if we also repealed the Blaine Amendment."

Strong support for the bill came from Frank A. Carroll who called for a "realistic approach in reference to the expenditures of the tax dollar regarding aid to education."

"I have committed my full support to the parent aid legislation," he said, adding, "the ratio-gap between minimal subsidizing at the present time and maximum mandated sky-high expenditures for the future is too great for me not to support this proposed legislation."

Both Raymond Lill and E. Richard Marshall simply indicated their intention to vote for the bill.

Two members of the Assembly, Joseph C. Finley and Constance Cook said they would oppose Speno-Lerner.

Finley cited "hundreds of letters I get from unhappy taxpayers" in declaring he cannot support any additional programs "until the budget is straightened out."

Mrs. Cook who is chairman of the Assembly's Education Committee, replied, "I believe this proposal is unconstitutional under the Blaine Amendment."

James L. Emery, while not

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JAMES POWERS
... must override veto



WILLIAM STEINFELDT
Blaine action needed

Fight World's Misery Pope Begs U.S. Children

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LENTEN RULES

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of FAST (one full meal) and of ABSTINENCE (no meat at all). Those over 14 must abstain; those between 21 and 59 must fast.

Everyone over 14 years of age is bound to observe the law of complete abstinence (no meat at all) on all Fridays of Lent. No Catholic Christian will lightly hold himself excused from this penitential practice.

On other Lenten weekdays, while there is no obligation to fast (limit full meals to one, no snacks between meals) diocesans are urged to follow some self-imposed, freely assumed fasting in the spirit of conversion and reconciliation.