

Painless Discipleship - - Fact or Fiction

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tion, 'liberation from' movements, and automated answers to human problems.

How easy it becomes for us to transfer this worldly philosophy of the "good life" to our own spiritual life—to espouse what might be called an I.B.M. spirituality. This false asceticism would advocate instant redemption assured to all who could feed into the programming of their lives an impressive record of numbers of devotions attended, prayers uttered, and Communion received. And the best this computerized approach to Christianity could ever read in its summary and analysis of our spiritual health would be: "He loved the Redeemer but not His Cross."

It is, then, with the vigilance of a good mother's concern for her children's well-being, that the

Church sets aside a definite period each year to help us absorb the wisdom of the Cross of Christ and to learn what He meant when He offered this season's invitation: "Let us go up to Jerusalem." For who of us would embrace the Cross on his own initiative? And even if our faith were strong enough to remind us that there is but one road to the Heavenly Jerusalem, painful because it is an upward journey, when would we begin the ascent? Most likely on some tomorrow—that elusive moment which always avoids the unpleasant reality of now—the only time the Lord has called "acceptable".

Joseph L. Schlotz
Bishop of Rochester

Lutheran Tells Of Visit to Pope Paul

Minneapolis — (RNS) — Dr. Fredrik A. Schlotz, former president of the American Lutheran Church, had a private audience with Pope Paul VI and thus filled what may have been the only gap in his long career of ecumenical relationships.

On his way home from the late January meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Addis Ababa, Dr. Schlotz accepted Vatican hospitality for the first time.

Dr. Schlotz, who was also president of the Lutheran World Federation for seven years, had not visited the Pope before, feeling that constituents might misunderstand his visit.



Fathers Leon Hart, CSB, and Daniel Brent of the Schools' Office, with John Ritzenhaler, diocesan comptroller, look over the notice of payments to diocesan schools for "mandated services."

State 'Services' Aid Headed for Schools

Parish schools and high schools of the diocese will begin receiving checks totaling \$678,734 from New York State next week to pay for state-required secretarial services supplied by the schools.

First mailings of the payments to 104 schools in the diocese — part of \$10.1 million being paid to 1,365 nonpublic schools throughout the state — should arrive in the next 10 days, according to John Ritzenhaler, diocesan comptroller.

(A listing of the appropriation given to each school will be printed in the Courier-Journal next week.)

Ritzenhaler announced that this month's state checks are only half of what the schools of the diocese will receive this year. An equal amount, bringing the full total to nearly \$1.3 million — is expected "by late May or early June."

Schools receive \$27 a year for each elementary school pupil and \$45 for each high schooler enrolled.

Called emergency state aid by the governor's office, the

money will pay for "mandated services" such as the administration and grading of various examinations, the maintenance of attendance and pupil health records and the keeping of certain teacher personnel data.

Why The Agony?

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gratitude, with indifference, with betrayal."

Once in the fresh dawn of creation, Satan brought the glorious garden of Paradise crumbling to ruin with a LIE! Now he rocks the Garden of Gethsemani and shakes the soul of Christ with the TRUTH!

This is the truth of our ingratitude. This is the truth about our modern lives—lives cold and indifferent to Christ's immeasurable love for us.

In Gethsemani, Christ was tempted to hate us, tempted to turn back from the Cross and abandon us. He did not hate us, abandon us. But he did not

For once Divine Justice turned his back on justice. For once, Divine Truth ignored the truth, — the truth about ourselves!

This was the agony of Christ — you and I.

Abortion

Repeal Defeated

Santa Fe, N.M.—(RNS)—Efforts to repeal or amend New Mexico's liberal abortion law have failed in the current session of the legislature.

The House committee considering a bill setting numerous restrictions on abortions gave it a "do not pass" recommendation.

More than 700 abortions were performed in New Mexico in the year following the liberalized law's passage. Only 70 legal abortions were performed in the year prior to enactment of the law.

Move Fails

Annapolis, Md.—(RNS)—A parliamentary maneuver designed to kill a liberal abortion bill in the Maryland House of Delegates was defeated here. The amendment would have required a three-fourths majority to pass the new abortion measure.

As written, the bill would make abortions before the 20th week of pregnancy a matter to be decided by a woman and her doctor. After the 20th week, the operation could be done only if judged necessary by the physicians.

Speno-Lerner Support Letter

If you favor passage of the Speno-Lerner Parent Aid Bill to provide assistance for nonpublic school parents you may use the letter below.

Remember to sign it, put it in an envelope and mail it to Gov. Rockefeller, the State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224.

Lay Committee Formed To Press for Parochial Aid

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Father Leon Hart, associate superintendent, describe the necessity for passage of the bill at this session.

Carmen J. Viglucci, editor of the Courier-Journal, was named chairman of the committee and John Oberlies of St. John of Rochester Parish, Fairport, vice chairman.

Other members as of now are Frank Abate, Robert Agness, Thomas Banaszewski, Dr. Steven Buckley, Joseph Brophy, Jerry Clifford, Anthony Costello, Edward Hahns, Joseph Fischette, Robert Hinkleman, Brian Mannion, Jerome Moriarity and Robert Warth.

The committee will be expanded and members will contact all parish school boards in the diocese to promote the campaign.

The bill would provide direct assistance to parents of students enrolled in nonpublic schools.

Before it can come to a floor vote, the education committees must vote to release it. Sen. Thomas Laverne of Irondequoit is chairman of the Senate Education Committee and Mrs. Constance Cook is the Assembly committee chairman.

Gov. Rockefeller had indicated his displeasure with Speno-Lerner, indicating he would veto it if the Legislature passed it. He said he favored the Blaine Amendment repeal route to establish parochial aid.

The governor more recently has softened his stand, saying he only objects to "the form" of Speno-Lerner and recognizes that aid in some manner is necessary at this session. He said he would still pursue Blaine repeal.

The state's bishops oppose this method because of the time

involved. If the Legislature should approve putting repeal to a referendum, the voters would not vote on it until November and even if repeal was voted, such aid still would be tested against the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The bishops also feel that the heat of a Blaine confrontation could hinder ecumenical relations.

The bishops and Catholic educators say the crisis is now, and aid must be secured at this session.

Transfer Ban

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sultation with the public school principal."

The Catholic high schools of Monroe County have agreed to join in adopting the same policy for grades 10-12. Their policy, determined by the Association of Secondary School Principals from the eight Catholic high schools of the county, was voted Monday and sent to Father Brent for announcement.

Last Spring, after the Rochester School Board decided not to implement the Goldberg Plan, following public controversy which had prompted the Bishop's ban on transfers—the diocesan school office did authorize transfers, "with vigilance against abuses" in consultation with Superintendent Herman Goldberg and the diocesan Office of Human Development concerned with inner-city issues.

Intended reorganization of some 15,000 pupils into separate junior and senior high schools in September triggered restatement of the Bishop's original ban.

Dear Gov. Rockefeller,

I am writing to you to express my support for the Speno-Lerner Parent-Aid School Bill.

I request you to use your influence to get the bill out of committee.

I further request you to press for the bill's passage when it comes to vote in the Assembly and in the Senate.

(Signed)

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