

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Can You Say No?

This child in Central America needs your help. She will get it if you support the Catholic Relief Overseas Aid Fund collection next Sunday. Bishop Hogan's letter supporting the collection is on Page 5A.

Lenten Thoughts

Beware of Temptations

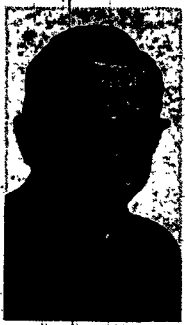
This is the third in a series of Lenten messages for Courier-Journal readers by pastors from throughout the diocese. Father Henry F. Adamski is pastor of St. Casimir's in Elmira.

By FR. HENRY F. ADAMSKI

"All these will I bestow on you if you prostrate yourself in homage before me." (Matt. 4/9)

Our first parents were tempted and fell, sinned against God. Christ was tempted, but did not sin. Let us consider tempta-

tions and illustrate with examples.



1. St. Thomas Aquinas was a son of wealthy and influential parents. From early youth he decided to be holy and believed that he could be s t achieve it by entering religious life, choosing the Order of St. Dominic. His brothers were deeply upset and arranged for him a trip to a Roman villa where they offered him a high church position with much in-

come and fame. He cast aside this proposal — a temptation to avarice. Next they had him cast into prison — they contrived to send to him beautiful but immortal women. But he resisted this temptation of the flesh also.

He became a Dominican, an outstanding teacher and writer of world renown. This temptation to pride also failed to turn him away from his goal of humble piety before God and man.

CONSIDERATION: Man conquers in serious temptations only when he is strong in his

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Implement School Report, Bishop Hogan Orders

Bishop Hogan today ordered the diocesan education offices to take positive steps immediately to fulfill three recommendations made by the diocesan Educational Task Force for the strengthening of the elementary parochial school system.

In a pastoral letter responding to the Task Force Report presented on Jan. 13, the Bishop authorized the following action steps:

- Establishment of regional groupings of parishes to improve the total educational program of the diocese.
- Inauguration of methods to provide equitable distribution of monies for education and to generate new income.
- Appointment of an interim Diocesan Educational Commission to be concerned with various educational apostolates.

(Full text of the Pastoral Letter is printed on Page 18-A.)

Bishop Hogan stated that his decisions were based upon his own "careful study" of the lengthy Task Force Report and "due consultation". Since the announcement of the ETF report a flood of advice and support have come to the Bishop from the Priests' Senate, the Sisters' Council and varied regional meetings of priests and parish school boards.

Father Albert J. Shamon, Vicar for Education, was charged with responsibility to expedite the action steps with the aid of the staffs of the diocesan education offices.

Father William J. Flynn, assistant Chancellor, is to direct development of the regional parish cooperation plan. He

will outline suggested groupings of parishes, by counties and other geographical divisions, and begin inter-parish dialogue in the local areas. Other personnel will be provided to assist areas working toward this regionalism.

The Task Force Report had urged such regional organization of parish schools "to permit cooperative planning and consolidation needed to prevent wasteful use of our educational resources."

Parishes in Corning and in Chemung County were commended for having recently reached agreements consolidating their schools and faculties for next Fall.

The Bishop's directions indicate his hopes that reorganizing education across parish lines "would maximize the use of all of our resources to reach the greatest number of God's

people." It would also, he said, pursue goals "too local for the diocese and too large for the individual parishes."

Bishop Hogan promised to appoint the Diocesan Educational Commission within the next few weeks to serve until formally elected representatives from all the regional school boards could take over.

Members of the interim Commission will include priests, Sisters and laity for terms of one and two years, he said.

In facing the financial problems of the school system four action steps were ordered by the Bishop:

- A salary pool plan shall be formulated to bring reasonable equity to salary costs in the school system. Schools with only a few teaching Sisters

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CCD Report Cites No Catechetics For 42,000 Pupils

Nearly 42,000 Catholic students from grades 1 through 12 in the entire Rochester Diocese received no formal religious education, the diocesan Division of Religious Education CCD admitted this week in a statistical report on its activities for 1970-71.

Acknowledging that parish efforts, through both the parochial schools and the separate instruction programs for public schoolers, have been unable to attract 30 per cent of the Catholic youth of school age, the report called for "serious and planned reallocation of our educational resources on the diocesan and parish level to better reach all Catholic children."

Specific recommendations include:

- Serious parish effort to inform Catholic parents of the students' need for religious instruction and their own parental responsibility for attendance;
- Strong insistence that each parish hire at least one professional religious educator to direct every phase of the parish program.
- Volunteer CCD teachers and home visitors must be recruited and trained.

Father Daniel Holland, dioc-

esan director of the Religious Ed./CCD programs and author of the report, admitted that statistics on non-attendance could not evaluate the quality of the instruction programs.

Teaching, content and method of conducting the classes certainly have turned off many young people and contributed to low attendance figures, he said.

"But in all justice, every effort, at every level of the diocese, must be made to make CCD work. To do anything less is to write off the majority of Catholic youth."

The diocese has 138,942 students of school age. Some 42,500 of these are in the 91 parochial elementary schools and the 10 Catholic high schools.

Another 56,000 are regular attendees at parish CCD schools of religion, the report noted.

But there are known to be 97,383 Catholic youths who do not attend Catholic school and 41,287 of these have no association with any form of religious education.

Father Holland reported that the parish CCD programs aimed at high schoolers enroll less than half of the 9th to 12th

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Your Wedding Day

Today's Courier-Journal contains a special tabloid section with articles for brides — and grooms-to-be and their families.