



FR. ANDREW GREELEY
The Church
1971

I have argued that the Supreme Court decisions against aid to Catholic schools can be understood not so much in the rhetoric of the state-Church controversy but as a manifestation of residual nativist resentment of Catholic schools. If one remembers the nativist tradition and its pervasive effect in American society, one is not surprised at the court decision. One is surprised, however, that

Schools Today

Catholic educators are surprised.

However competent their legal advisers may have been in the narrow technicalities of the law, the educators do not seem to have been nearly as perceptive about the importance of the nativist tradition as did the attorneys of the American Jewish Congress and the American Civil Liberties Union. (It is interesting to note that just as some American Catholics have become super-patriots, more pious WASPS, so some American Jews have become super nativists, more nativist than the most nativist of WASPS.)

But granted the power of residual nativism, what can Catholic schools do? If the rhetoric about the wall is really a diversionary tactic to justify nativism, then new plans, for all their legal niceties, will be a waste of time.

If those who shape the conventional wisdom of American society have made up their minds that Catholic schools are going to get no money from the state, and if the Supreme Court has accepted this conventional wisdom (and it usually does go along with the wisdom of the intellectual elite), then no plan is going to be acceptable. The deck is stacked in Leo Pfeffer's favor.

There are three general courses open to the Catholic schools. The first would be to accept the increasingly difficult task of private financing; the second, to "de-ecclesiasticize" control; the third, to pursue some version of the "voucher plan" by which all parents would be given a direct subsidy from the state for the use of the school of their choice.

My own sympathies would argue for a combination of all three. I think the official Church—pastors, bishops, school superintendents—should get out of the school business. The schools should be turned over lock, stock and barrel to the laity; it is, after all, the laity whose children attend the schools.

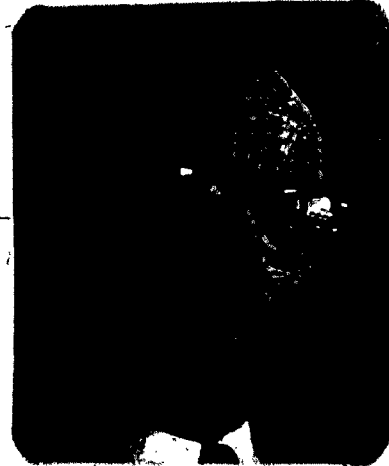
Let the laity worry about financing; let them push the voucher plan; let them argue with Leo Pfeffer that the schools are an independent system not under the control of the official Church.

This scheme would free the clergy for more evangelical activities. It would make it much harder for the Supreme Court to phony up the phantom of "entanglement". And it would certainly be practical, as the experience of our Canadian neighbors demonstrates.

Is it likely to happen? Too many people would have to give up power. Much better that they go down with the ship than that they turn the ship over to another captain and crew.

Thursday Deadline

Thursday noon is the deadline for news and photos for the Courier-Journal of the following week.



DANA R. BERGH

Nazareth Names
New Director,
New Trustees

Dana R. Bergh, 30 Briar Patch Road, Pittsford, has been named vice president for college relations at Nazareth College of Rochester. He will be responsible for all development, alumanae relations and public relations activities of the college.

In other action by the Nazareth Board of Trustees, Dr. Paul A. Miller, president of Rochester Institute of Technology, was elected a trustee; John W. Rutledge, senior vice president—operations of the Magnavox Co., was named chairman of the Trustees' Annual Giving and Endowment Committee; and E. James Hickey, partner in the law firm of Hickey and McHugh, was elected secretary of the board.

Bergh has served as registrar and director of financial aid at Nazareth since 1969. For the previous 15 years, he was an executive and director of several manufacturing concerns. Prior to that, he was associate director of Tufts University's systems coordination project at the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., and an administrative analyst in the Office of the President, University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Miller became president of RIT in October 1969. He previously had served as president of West Virginia University, provost of Michigan State College and assistant secretary of education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Rutledge was a Xerox executive for 17 years before joining Magnavox this month. He served as senior vice president of Xerox from 1968 until last May and was a member of the board of directors and the executive committee.

Hickey is a director of the Rochester-Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross and a former member of the Board of Directors of Rochester General Hospital. A member of several area, state and national legal associations, he is a past president of the Monroe County Bar Association and a former member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association. He resides at 245 Edgemoor Road, Rochester.

Courier-Journal

CCD Coordinators on Increase

By CECELIA VIGGO

At a time of high unemployment, one "service industry" in the diocese increased its labor force by one third last year.

Twenty-two more parishes have hired religious education coordinators, bringing their number to 64, reported Father Daniel Holland, director of the Office of Religious Education—CCD.

Statistics reveal that Rochester Diocese, with approximately 33% of its parishes staffed by coordinators, ranks among the top ten nationally.

Father Holland explained that the dramatic increase must be looked at in the "context of four years of development."

One of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's first actions, the director said, was to give endorsement and support to the work of the 24 coordinators, who were active when he became

bishop and to compliment their pastors for the programs already begun.

This episcopal approval, plus the growing reputation of the coordinators, brought more requests for information about the position from parish boards and pastors. Hiring coordinators is on the rise in the nation as a whole, he added.

The job of religious education coordinator demands extensive teaching experience and a solid academic background in theology.

Principal duties include planning, initiating, evaluating and administering the religious education programs for children, teen-agers and adults.

Although many religious are coordinators, the position is open to lay people.

How would coordinators describe their roles?

"Key words for me are resource and leadership," com-

mented Sister Marie Brown, SSJ, coordinator at St. Jerome's, East Rochester.

Sister Mary Jo Langie, RSM, coordinator at Holy Name of Jesus, Greece, felt that availability was very important: "to be there, to be of assistance to parishioners in whatever capacity in which I can help."

"In trying to build a Christian community, and to encourage lay leadership in the parish religious education programs," affirmed Sister Catherine Heverin, SSJ, coordinator at Holy Spirit, Penfield.

"I think the coordinator must be a creative person, the initiator of religion programs," offered Sister Sheila Kennerson, RSM, coordinator at St. Patrick's, Victor.

Summed up, the coordinator is the person with the know-how and expertise in a particular field, who hopes, in time, to foster leadership among members of the community.

SCHOOLS OPEN

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Safety First!

The Automobile Club of Rochester has announced a five-county campaign aimed at all motorists to safeguard the lives of thousands of children returning to school.

Some 20,000 bumper stickers reading "School's Open—Drive Carefully" are being distributed through law-enforcement agencies in Monroe, Yates, Ontario, Livingston and Wayne Counties. Distribution also is being extended to trucking firms, retail delivery trucks and thousands of motorists.

Plans for the campaign were outlined to the sheriffs of the five counties and their staffs this week.

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