

## Prevent 'Another Attica,' Mass. Governor Urged

Boston —(RNS)— One hundred Catholic, Protestant and Jewish community leaders have appealed to Gov. Francis W. Sargent here to exert his executive leadership "to prevent another Attica" in Massachusetts prisons.

The appeal originated with the directors of Packard Manse, an interreligious, interracial group with centers in Roxbury and Stoughton, Mass.

A telegram to Gov. Sargent urged him to set up an appointment with Packard Manse representatives "to discuss the deteriorating and volatile conditions at our prisons."

"We are convinced," the telegram stated, "that only you can reverse the trend toward a collision course engendered by the prisoner's desperation, the correctional officers' fears, and the public's mixture of fear and ignorance."

The religious group asked Gov. Sargent to close by execu-

tive order correctional department segregation units at Bridgewater, Mass., as a pledge of your good faith."

The telegram described the Bridgewater units as "medieval chambers of horror, which are used as ever-present threats and intimidations."

Packard Manse's message urged the governor to visit the Massachusetts prisons personally "to provide yourself with eye witness observations of the numerous cruel and unusual punishment inflicted on prisoners."

Signatories of the message included James McClain, president of Packard Manse; Episcopal Bishop John Burgess; Methodist Bishop James K. Mathews; the Rev. Avery Post of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference; Dr. Patricia Goler and Father Paul Rynne, chairman and executive secretary of the Boston Archdiocesan Human Rights Commission; and Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn of Temple Israel.

## Our Parish COUNCIL by Bernard Lyons

There's an eighth sacrament!

Before you bring me up on heresy charges — think about it.

It's the sacrament of Christ in the other person!

Matthew tells us (25:34-40) that Christ said, "Come, blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me."

It is interesting that the just seem to be aware of their service to the Lord as the unjust are unable to see their lack of service to Him.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and take you in; or naked and clothe you?" they asked.

And Christ answered: "Amen I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

The Church has put the "eighth sacrament" into a list, called the works of mercy. There are 14, usually divided into seven works of corporal mercy and seven works of spiritual mercy.

Many people have not thought of these works of mercy since catechism days, even though they may now be involved in them.

As a member of a parish council, have you considered the following:

• You may feed the Christ in the hungry . . . with your school lunch program or through the parish pantry that

feeds the poor and the unemployed.

• Giving drink to the thirsty through the adoption of a parish in a mission country where part of the money goes to bringing in a fresh water well, or through a community-action program on water pollution here at home.

• Clothe the naked through the Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Collection, the Catholic Charities' Salvage Bureau, or a rummage sale where clothing is made available to the poor at very little cost.

• Visit those in prison . . . through the Legion of Mary program of visits, support of a half-way house for ex-prisoners, the establishment of a bail bond fund.

• Shelter the homeless . . . through the encouragement of parishioners in adoption programs, foster homes, and with support of low-cost housing.

• Visit the sick . . . through visiting programs and Home Mass programs for the elderly and shut-ins.

• Bury the dead . . . through a cemetery committee, and the planning and help with liturgies for the deceased.

• Instruct the ignorant . . . through inquiry classes, CCD, parochial schools, and religious education programs of all sorts.

• Counsel the doubtful . . . especially in this day when we are so aware of changes, through forums and workshops on changes in the Church and society, and through friendly discussions with our family, neighbors and fellow parishioners.

Similar opportunities to practice the works of mercy apply to comfort the sorrowful, admonish the sinner, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead.

## Obscenity Case Acquittal Draws Fire

New York — (RNS) — A criminal court jury decision to acquit a New York bookstore operator charged with promoting obscenity was characterized here by a veteran campaigner against smut as tantamount to making New York State the "Denmark" of the United States.

Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., national president of Morality in Media and a dissenting member of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, blamed the acquittal on the erroneous interpretation of the U.S. Supreme Court by the state's penal law revision commission which has rendered the state's obscenity law "almost unenforceable."

The acquitted bookstore operator, Jeffrey Pomerantz, 30, proprietor of a card and book store in New York City, was charged with promoting obscenity by selling copies of "The Illustrated Presidential Report of the Commission on Obscenity and Pornography."

The book, 10 copies of which were sold to a plainclothes policeman, contained the text of the commission's report but was illustrated by color photographs showing explicit sexual acts. According to a New York Times report, the book pictures

"depicted the seduction of a young boy and bestiality, among other things."

Father Hill, commenting on the verdict, said that smut pro-

ducers can, according to the current law in New York, legally publish a Bible illustrated with obscene photos or drawings.

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