

Blow, Blow Where You Will! O Spirit of God!

Almost ten years have passed since the opening of II Vatican Council (Oct. 11, 1962). The fresh air of renewal has been stirring in the Church with varying velocities ever since, depending on the degree of translation into action of the classical and challenging documents issued by the Council Fathers. Pope Paul VI has referred to the Conciliar decrees as a point of departure towards new goals. "The seeds of life planted by the Council in the soil of the Church," he once remarked, "must grow and achieve full maturity."

Our faith assures us that the convocation and conduct of the Council was primarily the action of the Holy Spirit breathing a breath of renewed life into the Church, inspiring men to search for better ways of accommodating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the needs of the contemporary world. The Church's mission in every age is to breathe the Spirit on all of man's activities, to raise him up constantly, to point to his dignity, and to fight for the conditions he needs to achieve his fullness. I never want it said of the Diocese of Rochester what a report of a recent poll of another American diocese disclosed: "only 47% of its people had even heard that there was a Vatican II."

The Slot Man

We have an unsigned letter that deserves more than the usual fate of such missives. Obviously written by someone with an



abundance of faith, it contains some very useful suggestions for the betterment of the Courier-Journal.

The writer also enclosed an act of contrition printed in a long-ago edition of the Courier, several clippings of bright sayings, and the recommendation that readers purchase "The Following of Christ".

The letter was signed "an old subscriber (and I do mean old, 89 this month) — and ailing (please say a prayer for me)."

In calling for a period of personal and institutional renewal in the diocese, I want the challenges of Vatican II translated into a living reality for all (100%) of our people.

The diocesan Church exists as does the Church universal to be a living sign of the Kingdom of God already present among us, even though it is not complete. It is the mission of the Church to be a preview of the Kingdom while straining towards its completion.

If the Church of Rochester is to be a preview of the kingdom, it needs to know something about that kingdom. So, a year of renewal demands study, reflection, and prayer.

The growth parables (the seed growing in secret, the sower and the seed, the wheat growing amidst cockle) indicate that the kingdom will have a period of growth requiring the cooperation of man and God, and this growth will bring us to a harvest time which will be "the coming of the Lord." Another image of the kingdom emerges in St. Matthew's Gospel (Matt. 25:35) where the inheritance of the final kingdom will be given to the Lord's advantaged who became thus by serving the disadvantaged of the earthly kingdom (the hungry, thirsty, homeless, etc.).

The II Vatican Council presents a further image of the Kingdom: "For after we have obeyed the Lord and in His Spirit nurtured on earth the values of human

dignity, brotherhood and freedom, and indeed all the good fruits of our nature and enterprise, we will find them again, but freed of stain, burnished, and transfigured. This will be so when Christ hands over to the Father a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace." (THE CHURCH TODAY—#39).

If the Church of Rochester is to be a believable sign of the kingdom, it will nurture here the values of human dignity, of freedom, of justice, and peace. It will be the example of reconciliation and fraternal service. It will be preoccupied with a mission to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, visit those imprisoned, wipe away tears from the eyes of men, and preach the Gospel to the poor.

Our Church will be a sign that in this portion of the Kingdom there will be neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free. In other words, we cannot tolerate any form of discrimination nor permit any second-class citizenship.

To be in the Church is to believe not only in what the Church is, but in what it ought to be. And only he who has hope and optimism in the future, will bend his energies to make that future a reality.

Beautiful documents and new structures of themselves can never produce renewal. The Holy Spirit joined to our spirit and our energies can accomplish a new Pentecost for the Church of Rochester. Such is my hope and my daily prayer to the Holy Spirit.

By Carmen Viglucci

Of Big Things and Small

Dear unknown reader, thank you for your ideas and inspiration and I'm sure many Courier readers will remember you in their prayers.

I'm not from Corning, so every time I drive by that hillside sign just out of town that says "Jesus Christ Is the Answer", I wonder who deserves the credit for the reminder.

Our new correspondent in Ithaca, Mrs. Joy Chalone, and her husband have what she describes as an "unusual bit of nostalgia" attached to their marriage. They were married at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeoye Falls by a visiting priest, the then Father Joseph L. Hogan, now bishop of the diocese.

We didn't know Father E. Charles Bauer as closely as we would have liked. Still his unexpected death came as something of a body blow. Rarely has one man so embodied such simple compassion for those he served and rarely has one man accomplished so much while maintaining his own basic humility. By serving the disadvantaged at Bosco House and at Newark State School before that, he really served us all.

Such a man needs no worldly memorial, nor would Father Bauer want one, but may we respectfully suggest that some diocesan building be renamed in his honor. Perhaps Bosco House itself?

Maybe it would be too difficult to enforce gun control legislation. So how about a law stopping the manufacture of bullets?

Editorial

Father... He Can Stand Tall

There he stands.

Dad.

Never in the history of the world may Father's Day seem to mean less.

Women's libbers hold the stage. From night to noon, from jobs to leisure, from sex to schools, from athletics to aesthetics, from underwear to makeup we have been exhorted to give women their due.

Standing in the background has been dear ole Dad. He may not be impressive in appearance, whether in his green clothes of manual labor or his uniform of striped shirt and paisley tie.

He may be boring with his admonitions of don't do this and do that. He may be prematurely gray worrying about his kids' education, or about getting the money to install a family room, or about handling quips about female equality.

He gets unduly worried about his inability to fix the furnace and his hopelessness in the face of a dripping faucet.

He may even acquire a guilty conscience over learning that all of life has always been geared his way and still he hasn't quite made it. He looks back and sees that if he had done this that way and that this way, things might be better for him. But that is second-guessing.

He may have served in the military and now feel that the time was useless. Maybe he should have spoken up and protested that his service time was a bore and a personal danger. But it seemed right at the time, if not fulfilling, and he really can't talk too much now about the two to five years of his life that people now tell him he wasted.

He is caught in a cross-current of in-

creasing costs, diminishing income and depreciating respect. He handles this by marching forth boldly each day, pretending that his job is so important that only he can cope with it. And when things go wrong, he doesn't weep. That's unmanly.

When he comes home at night he remembers all is well when his child runs up to him at the door and says, "Hi, Dad." He is reassured in the arms of his wife.

Long ago he probably chucked aside his dreams of personal success in order to handle the multi-problems of job security, a decent home for his children, of keeping the respect of his wife, and of standing tall in the face of demoralization.

There he stands. God bless him, help him and love him. Father.