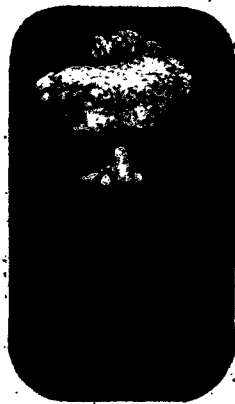


His Will — One Flock and One Shepherd

John Calvin, one of the best known of the Protestant Reformers, said in the later years of his life, "We must count among the worst evils of our time the fact that the churches are separated from one another."



Four centuries later, Pope John XXIII summoned the world's Catholic bishops to the Vatican Council to seek a solution to what he termed "this vexing problem of our broken unity." He said, "The day must finally come when there will be but one flock and one shepherd, because Jesus Christ so wills it. Let us hasten the coming of this blessed day by our prayers."

I sincerely hope all Catholics of our diocese will join other Christians to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25.

All our ecumenical efforts, all our theological dialogues, all the meetings and conversations of the most eminent of churchmen are all doomed to ultimate frustration unless they are founded upon and supported by the devout prayers of Christian people.

All the great pioneers of the ecumenical movement were themselves the first to admit that ecumenical activity must be preceded by and sustained by prayer, a prayer which echoes the prayer of our divine Lord at the Last Supper when he prayed for all who would ever be his disciples: "That all may be one, as you, Father are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." (John 17:21)

This week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as we observe it today, had a most interesting origin.

Two Anglican priests, one English, the Rev. Spencer Jones, the other an American, the Rev. Lewis Wattson, inaugurated an octave of prayer in 1908 for the reunion of their Church of England (the Episcopal Church in the U. S.) with the Roman Catholic Church. A year later Wattson became a Roman Catholic and later the founder of the Graymoor Friars, who have made Christian unity one of the principal purposes of their order. He popularized the devotion among Catholics and attained repeated papal approval and encouragement.

Meantime, in France, a priest, the Abbe Paul Courturier, wanted to extend the devotion so that Catholics would not just pray for other Christians but with them.

He said, "Neither Catholic prayer, nor Orthodox prayer, nor Anglican prayer, nor Protestant prayer suffice. All of them are necessary, and all of them together."

This more truly ecumenical version of the Week of Prayer as proposed by Abbe Courturier gained prompt acceptance in churches throughout France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and Holland. He asked all Christians to pray quite simply "for that unity which Christ wants his Church to have." He attached no strings to his prayer. He trusted God to answer the prayer in a way and at a time of God's own choosing.

In the United States, the Week is now sponsored by both the American Catholic bishops and by the National Council of Churches.

We read day by day the sad story of Northern Ireland where the division between Christians has led to such tragic consequences. Here in America we still have a long way to go before we heal the wounds of years of separation, hostility and misunderstanding.

But I am convinced we are indeed headed in the right direction — that unity is indeed someday possible. As Pope John once said, I now repeat: "Let us hasten the coming of this blessed day by our prayers."

The Slot Man

By Carmen Viglucci

Smoking... Nothing But a Drag

An old Italian saying — "As long as she doesn't smoke" — is used, for instance, when someone describes in particularly unglowing terms the girl an Italian boy is about to marry to his grandmother.



Grandma listens to the litany of the girl's faults then shakes her head slowly, tsk-tsks, then gives the proper dim approval to the bond with the words "well, as long as she doesn't smoke."

What Grandma had to say has picked up a great deal of import ever since the famous surgeon-general report nine years ago. Since then 29 million smokers have butted the habit. Chances are, if a Finger Lakes Area Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association report is correct, that most of these have been men.

The association says that it's more difficult for women to give up smoking because, it says, females tend to smoke in order to allay feelings of anger, anxiety, fear and shame. Men, presumably, smoke for other reasons.

One thing is sure — smoking-related diseases such as cancer and tuberculosis are not male chauvinistic. Nor are they women lib. They are sex-less in their approach to the destruction of life.

The bright spot, of course, is in the fact that 29 million have kicked the habit, proving that it can be done. This is National Education Week on Smoking and may be just the time to make a new year's resolution to scratch smoking.

If, however, you are among those who will continue to smoke, then try ways of cutting down, such as inhaling less, smoking fewer cigarettes, spending more time

between drags, and smoking only half way down the weed. The latter is effective because tobacco itself acts as a filter and the farther down the cigarette the less tar and nicotine is caught by the tobacco.

Another thing to keep in mind, dear smoker, is not to get upset over those militant non-smokers who protest your habit. First of all you may only be aggravating heart stress already worsened by smoking but, also according to the local Interagency Council on Smoking and Health, cigarette smoke can be harmful to non-smokers, especially if they have heart and respiratory diseases.

The Slot Man tries not to lecture, particularly when writing an anti-smoking column with a cigarette in hand. But I am going to cut down on this nefarious habit. Starting now. Won't you join me? We'll probably find life milder. Much milder!

Editorial

Peace and a Clenched Fist

Peace efforts fell flat, Hanoi was bombed again, a short Christmas truce ended with resumed land fighting and more bombing, more Americans are now in POW camps, Harry S. Truman died, an Earthquake killed between 3,000 and 6,000 Nicaraguans, Roberto Clemente died on a mission of mercy and 99 persons lost their lives in a Florida plane crash.

All of this happened in a brief period at the end of December 1972 while most of us were feasting on holidays and football.

Most of these dire events leave little for us to do about them. The best we can do for Truman is to pray for him and make sure he gets honest historical treatment. That's probably the way he wants it.

Frustration over the war has been in-

tensified. If peace "is at hand" then somebody had better unclench a fist.

Something can be done, or at least tried, as far as this war goes. Both the Senate and House seem more amenable to measures designed to end this holocaust. Write your Washington representatives. Write your president.

Plane crashes, though they really are not as numerous as it would seem, like automobile accidents, apparently always will be with us. You can, however, at least help stem skyjacking by cooperating with measures devised to reduce it.

Despite those Puerto Ricans waiting along the beachfronts for their beloved Roberto Clemente to emerge from the ocean, he will no longer thrill baseball fans with his fielding and hitting talents, his homeland where he is a national hero.

Teammates and Pittsburgh Pirates officials did not dwell on Clemente's baseball prowess in comments on the tragedy.

"It is typical that he should die on the way to help somebody else," said a fellow player.

In Clemente's name the opportunity exists to do something substantial in the face of the most dire happening listed above — the Managua earthquake. As many as 6,000 may have been killed. Some 300,000 are homeless.

The Clemente family has requested that anyone wishing to remember Roberto could best do so by contributing to relief services for Managua.

You may do so through Catholic Relief Services, 350 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001.