



Black Bishop Ordained

Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., places the mitre — liturgical headdress of Catholic bishops and abbots — on the head of Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Howze during ordination ceremonies in Jackson, Miss. Bishop Howze, as auxiliary of the Natchez-Jackson diocese, becomes the second black bishop in the U.S. He was ordained in a "soul" style liturgy attended by more than 50 bishops.

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



(Note: This week's question is the continuation of a letter Father Hohman answered last week, Jan. 31)

Q. You missed the boat on understanding the modern parent. In a recent article you wrote that if a child refused to obey a house rule, would a parent back down so the child would not run away?

Let me be one of the first to tell you — the modern parent is a suffering soul. We put up with plenty — we keep our mouths shut — we turn the other cheek — we know about sweating blood at the garden. Know why? Because we hope our children will come back — will wake up — and we know that if they find themselves after parents have thrown them out — they have drugs, communes, crime, disease, etc., etc., out there. We pray to God each day that if we keep them in the home and help as we can — show them kindness — that they will wake up and see the family love all around them and through that love, find Christ again. Some of my friends' children have gone this route and now have found good girls and want to change their way of life and want a Catholic marriage — sometimes just because they want to please the parents who stood by them.

Who knows why — apparently some of our priests think they know. Well, put me down for one who doesn't agree. I don't approve of hippie, disrespectful ceremonies — just a simple sincere one in the parish church — maybe they will feel loving arms around their souls — security for their wobbly futures. Is the Gospel of the Prodigal Son written only for the lay people? Renewal this year should cover the clergy. We need to be strong laymen — where do we learn? From strong, loving, Good Samaritan pastors and priests.

A. I remember the point you are referring to, but I am afraid you missed the point. I was in no way referring to lesser house rules, like who should take out the garbage or even how late a kid may come home once in a while. What I was referring to was matters of principle like whether your child can use drugs in your home or have his girl friend stay overnight in the same room. What would you do in either of the latter cases if neither would give in? Would you really say it was more important for him to stay than for you to stick to your guns? Do you think he would respect you or think that was love? God knows we've got to show mercy and love and bend over backwards to show love and consideration. And certainly no follower of Christ would refuse forgiveness or drive away irrevocably.

I admire no end your own mercy and concern about kids. Even when they do go away (physically or spiritually) your love goes with them and they know that. It leaves the door open for their return and they know that. But I repeat what I said last week — in delaying teen marriages we are trying, because we care for the kids, to give them the best possible chance. If they want to blow it in spite of these efforts I pray that we can bid them "Goodbye" with them feeling that the doors are wide open when they choose to come back. Remember: no one will be refused absolutely; if there must be a delay by prudent judgment, it will be made, I hope, for only the most serious reasons.

AND FINALLY: IF WE IN THE CHURCH ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO REGARD MARRIAGE AS INDISSOLUBLE UNTIL DEATH, THEN WE HAD BETTER BE CONSISTENT AND NOT ALLOW PEOPLE TO ENTER IT LIGHTLY OR WITHOUT DUE CONSIDERATION. That to me is the real love we can show to these kids. How much heartbreak do you think we could save them from? Why don't you parents help us to help them? Why can't we have mercy and love for them and still insist that they be prepared for such a sacred mission as well as is humanly possible?

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30 New Cardinals Named

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After serving as chancellor and pastor, he was named by Pope Paul to be Bishop of Brownsville, Tex., in 1966. His four years there were marked with close contact with the people, visiting jails and farms, lands and involving himself in human and civil rights causes among his predominantly Mexican-American flock.

The 58-year-old prelate has continued his close association with the people, in Boston, the nation's second-largest Catholic See (about 1.9 million Catholics).

Since assuming his current post, Cardinal Medeiros has encouraged innovation in a number of ways, espousing new ministerial approaches, promoting education and anti-poverty programs, supporting new ecumenical thrusts, and establishing a pastoral "chain of command" by restructuring the archdiocese into three sectors, each headed by a bishop.

Cardinal designate Aponte Martinez, 51, became the first native Puerto Rican raised to the College of Cardinals. He is a former Bishop of Ponce, P. R., and became archbishop of San Juan in 1965.

There are about one million Catholics in the 462-year-old see.

Cardinal Aponte was born in Lajas, P. R., in 1922. After attending St. Ildephonso Seminary, San Juan, and St. John's Seminary, Boston, he was ordained in 1950 for the Ponce diocese.

Sen. Buckley To Introduce Amendment

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In the statement, released by Martin F. McKernan Jr., of Haddonfield, N.J., general counsel to the NRLC, the attorneys said the high court held themselves "incompetent to define human life" but then "stripped protection from human life" that has been there since the inception of the nation.

The 31 lawyers said that as a result of the ruling, "the protection of human life in the U.S. is less than in any nation of the Western world and less than it has been at any time in the history of the country."

Comparing the recent abortion ruling to the famed Dred Scott case of 1857 when the Court ruled a black was not a person, the lawyers said, "analogously, the present majority has attempted to resolve a deep moral and political controversy by the fiat of seven of its members."

"We call on Congress and the states to overturn the majority by appropriate amendment to the Constitution," they said.

In other action, a coalition of 36 Long Island right-to-life groups, joined by a similar organization from the New York City area, urged an amendment to nullify the decision.

To protect unborn babies in the meantime, the Long Island Coalition for Life (LICL) urged President Nixon to issue an "emancipation proclamation for the unborn" to protect their right to life.

Calling the amendment proposal "the only route we can now follow with any degree of feasibility," Thomas Dillon, a Jamaica, N.Y., attorney and chairman of the N.Y. State Right to Life Legal Committee, indicated the campaign will start with a proposal in the U.S. Congress sometime this year.

Meanwhile, the coalition, which claims 16,000 members, announced at a press conference that it will continue its lobbying campaign directed at the repeal of New York's liberalized abortion law and present a legislative program offering "positive alternatives" to abortion.

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30 New Cardinals Named

Ten years later, he was named auxiliary bishop of Ponce, the first native-born bishop to be consecrated a bishop on the island. In 1963, he became Bishop of Ponce and one year later was

designated Archbishop of San Juan.

One of 18 children, the new cardinal is a strong exponent of Puerto Rican culture, especially in family life.

Nixon Budget Proposes Tuition Tax Credit

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — President Nixon, in his budget for the next fiscal year, has proposed tax credits for parents of non-public school students.

During the first year, if the plan was approved, the federal income tax credit program aiding all private and parochial school parents — mostly Roman Catholic — would cost the federal government about \$300 million in income tax deductions. Once fully implemented, it could run about \$600 million a year.

Because of a New York State parochial aid plan now in process of being tested by the U.S. Supreme Court, the fate of the tax credit proposals is uncertain. A high court ruling is expected by June.

The Nixon proposal would apply to half the cost of tuition and fees up to \$200 a year per student. A bill proposed by Rep. Wilbur Mills (D.-Ark.) and Rep. Hugh Carey (D.-N.Y.) and passed last September by the House Ways and Means Committee would allow tax credits of up to \$400 per child with an income cutoff at \$25,000 adjusted gross income for the family. The President's program would put the adjusted gross income lid at \$18,000.

In proposing his total 1974 budget of \$268.7 billion, President Nixon also indicated that the historic Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 would be phased out, with most of its facets taken over by the new revenue sharing program.

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