

Defiance of Authority Seen Threat to Church

By CHARLES RANDISI

Has the Catholic Church gone mad?

"No," says John Eppstein, British journalist, historian, and lecturer, who discussed his book of that title last Thursday at Mercy High School Auditorium.

Eppstein's lecture was sponsored by the Rochester chapter of Catholics' United for the Faith. The four primary concerns of CUF, according to James Likoudis, a full-time administrative assistant of the national organization, are "at-

tacks upon Catholic doctrines in general, . . . the new catechetics, the foisting of abominable sex education courses into our schools . . . and liturgy . . ."

Likoudis introduced Eppstein, who was born in 1895 and became a Catholic in 1919, as "a very remarkable man."

Eppstein, bald and grandfatherly, said to the audience of 150 that there is a serious crisis in the Church today. In America, the crisis is due to a "tendency to defy authority."

He said the Church is still strong in other parts of the world, such as Poland, Roumania, and Croatia, where there is "extraordinary devotion."

The reason, he continued is that "they've been persecuted. That's what you need, that's what I need."

The Church today is still alive, Eppstein declared, because of the "solid piety of such a large part of the laity." It is due to this piety that he concludes in his book that "No, the Catholic Church has not gone mad."

In order to deal with the crisis in the Church, he asked, "What are the major targets which we should oblige to attack?"

The first are the "false theological doctrines that are filtering down to the schools."

He cited different instances of "the new catechetics" in England, Australia, and the United States, which teach de-emphasis of the divinity of Christ, creation, the Resurrection, the virginity of Mary, and other "heresies."

The second target is "sexual obsession," which has led to the "appalling state of abortion."

Third is the "cult of revolution in the Church." Eppstein referred to the growing influence of Teilhard de Chardin, the French Jesuit whose "philosophical and theological ideas" were condemned by the Holy See at the

beginning of the (Second Vatican) Council.

Chardin's teaching on evolution, Eppstein said, "destroys the notion of individual responsibility of the soul to almighty God."

But not everything is negative for Eppstein. He spoke of remedies, saying, "Nothing is going to happen unless you can change . . . public opinion."

The campaign against abortion needs "positive policy, not merely negative and protesting" attitudes.

Eppstein also sees prayer as a crucial need. "Let us not forget the supernatural," he said. "Is it not time for a revival of Marian devotion . . ."



ON THE LINE
Bob Considine

Dear Marlon Brando:

You're right about how badly the Indians have been treated in the movies and on the boob tube. Always the "bad guys, right? But how about all those actors imitating Italian Mafia goons, decadent Irish police captains, and Las Vegas and Hollywood Jews you ordered knocked off in "The Godfather"?

You would have made a much stronger case for your good cause if you had come to the stage and personally beaten that golden Oscar into a ploughshare. Having dear little Sacheen Littlefeather substitute for you, and take some angry boos from Pale Face producers of Westerns, didn't make you eligible to man a barricade at Wounded Knee, where they don't shoot blanks.

The movie Indians, some of whom are actually Indians, will work out their grievances via the Actors Guild or through one of the more aggressive anti-discrimination groups, just as did other ethnic groups whose people were stereotyped as ornery. For example, regard the change in the attitude toward the Black. He was the heavy from the time of "Birth of a Nation." Now the pendulum has swung the other way, and Jim Brown is a hero who shoots more whites than Geronimo ever did. There was a long period when all "Mexicans" were bad men on our flickering screens, followed by a period when cheers would ring out in darkened theaters if some stalwart hero shot a German, Japanese, Russian or Chinese.

We do business with the countries of those "villains" now and wouldn't think of calling Central Casting and ordering up a batch of them to act dirty and die of righteous cap-pistol wounds.

What you should have done, Marlon baby, was take the statuette, hock it, give the proceeds to the Indian commissary at Wounded Knee, and promise the real Indians to split some of the swag you're getting from all those mortal wounds suffered day and night by white goons in "The Godfather." And, of course, you should marry Sacheen Littlefeather, and have her father, the chief, spare the lives of trigger-happy John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, James Arness and others who have been striking it rich demeaning honest Equity Injuns.

Yours — Chief Hotfoot.

Martha Mitchell's telephone has been put back in service. It was temporarily disconnected by the Nixon Administration, she's sure, during a period of pop-offs in the course of the 1972 campaign. Now it's working again. She called the New York Times out of the blue last week, got a started Timesman on the phone and said, "I'm sorry, I have

a definite reason. I can't tell you why. But they're not going to pin anything on him. (Him is her husband John, former law partner of President Nixon, attorney general during the first term, later the President's campaign manager for the second term, still later a kind of unperson in the gathering storm of the Watergate bungle.)

"I won't let them," Mrs. Mitchell continued on the revitalized phone, "and I don't give a damn who gets hurt. I can name names. If you hear that I'm sick or can't talk, please, please, get your reporters out to find me. Somebody might try to shut me up."

John has never succeeded in doing that. Mrs. Mitchell has good cause to let off steam, as she sees it. Last June, while her husband was campaigning for the President in California, and she was on the AT&T horn in her hotel or motel in Newport Beach, she charged that a security man she identified as Steve King threw her to the floor, kicked her, tried to give her some kind of a shot with a hypodermic needle, and ripped the telephone off the wall by its roots. Later, the same Steve King was rewarded by being promoted to the head of the GOP's Committee for the Re-election of the President. He filled a vacancy left, somewhat hurriedly, when his boss, James W. McCord Jr. was arrested in the bugging attempt on Democratic headquarters at the Watergate. Still later, Mitchell resigned in face of Mrs. Mitchell's announcement that she'd leave him if he didn't disassociate himself from "the mess," and took her off on a nice trip — far from the madding crowd — and the telephone.

Now, service seems to have been restored. There must be people in Washington who view this with alarm. And others with great anticipation. Mrs. Mitchell's powder ket has a very short fuse.

NURSE AIDES

High school girls who wish to work as volunteer nurses' aides this summer will be interviewed at Red Cross headquarters, 50 Prince, on April 11, 17 and 18, 1-4 p.m. Training is scheduled for June 22-July 2. Interview appointments and additional information may be obtained through 275-9800.

THE CLOWNS

The Clowns, film director Federico Fellini's study of human relationships portrayed through a circus, will be shown by Rochester Institute of Technology's Talisman Film Festival tonight and tomorrow night, April 11 and 12, at 7:30 and 10 p.m. in the College of General Studies auditorium. Admission is \$1.

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