

Southwestern Bishops Back Farah Boycott

From Courier-Journal Services

In an action similar to the recent stand taken by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan of Rochester, the bishops of New Mexico and Arizona have joined Bishop Sidney M. Metzger of El Paso, Tex., in endorsing the clothing workers' strike at Farah Manufacturing Co. in El Paso.

A resolution adopted at the conclusion of a meeting in Santa Fe of the bishops of the dioceses of Tucson, Phoenix, Gallup, N.M., and Santa Fe, along with Bishop Metzger, gave support to "the strikers and the boycott of Farah Manufacturing Company so that the basic human rights of collective bargaining and unionization might be recognized and allowed to become realities for the workers and strikers."

On Feb. 14, Bishop Hogan issued a statement in the Courier-Journal, which said in part, "I will personally support the current nationwide boycott of Farah slacks until an equitable resolution of the issue is reached. I urge retailers and consumers to examine their roles in this dispute as a moral issue."

Last May, some 2,000 of the 10,000 workers employed at the slacks-producing firm walked off the job to protest company tactics designed to dissuade employees from joining a union. The National Labor Relations Board has charged the company with having violated federal law by discharging employees and changing work rules to prevent the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO, from unionizing its work force.

Farah has been ordered by the NLRB "not to fire or discriminate against any employe joining or supporting the ACWA or any other union" during the boycott.

Bishop Metzger had endorsed the boycott last December.

The other four bishops who signed the joint statement were Archbishop James Peter Davis of Santa Fe, Bishop Edward McCarthy of Phoenix, Bishop Francis Green of Tucson, and Bishop Jerome Hastrich of Gallup.

Archbishop Davis said the resolution "generally endorses collective bargaining." Bishop Metzger commented: "The bishops agree the workers and

strikers have the right to collective bargaining and job security, to fair work quotas and negotiated wage scales. There is a great need for social justice and this is the reason why they gave their endorsement to the workers and strikers."

Criticism of the bishops' action came from James F. Garvin, an active Catholic layman and executive vice president of the Albuquerque Industrial Foundation.

"As a Catholic layman," Garvin declared, "must, in good conscience, question the rationale of the Southwestern Catholic bishops' statement encouraging a boycott of Farah clothing products."



The Champs

Mrs. William Blum [left] stands with the cheerleading team from Christ the King, which she coached. The team took the CYO's Pink Division first place at the recent 22nd annual elementary school tournament. In the Yellow Division, St. Alphonsus, Auburn, took first place. More than 600 girls competed.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE
Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Recently I went to Rochester to make my Easter confession. Father Joseph P. Haffey is my gentle confessor. He is now retired and in residence at St. Ambrose. While getting to confession was my first objective, another involved going to Our Mother of Sorrows Church on Paddy Hill, Greece. I invited myself to supper, and got there early enough to assist at the 5:10 p.m. Mass, celebrated by the pastor, Father George S. Wood.

Rochester suburban Greece has seven Catholic churches, which range in spectrum from quite conservative to quite liberal. Four tend toward the stability of conservatism. Three tend to good cheer and surprises and experimentation. So Greece has something for most people: With priests like Father Wood; his assistant Father Frederick Eisemann whose Teutonic methodism is a marvel to all who know him; and the priests in residence: Msgr. John M. Duffy and Father John Malley; plus a fine parish school and a good CCD program, the parish is well served; and the parishioners respond with appreciation.

At the Mass I joined about 50 parishioners, including an attractive Jackson family, father, mother and six children, who were at Mass celebrating the third anniversary of the death of their 17-year-old son and brother. Their devotion spoke strikingly of the vitality of our Faith.

I find it fascinating to observe the ways different priests celebrate the New Form of the Mass, and recall with affection the Tridentine Mass celebrated by the late Msgr. Wilfred Craugh, who was rector of St. Bernard's Seminary. I thought of Msgr. Craugh as I observed how Father Wood celebrated Mass so simply and unobtrusively. Liturgist Father Joseph Champlin instructs us to remember that the priest presides at the altar to meld the congregation into a holy family adoring the Transcendent Lord of the Universe, and loving one another. Not all priests have the finesse or the delicate sensitivity of Father Champlin. And to attend Mass where the priest roars prayers supposedly directed to God, at the people, can be disturbing. Thank God it is rare,

but I have often thought what a cross it must be for people with intelligence to observe their celebrant praying in the wrong direction, and add to my thoughts, "And God is not deaf, either." Oh, well!

John Eppstein is an English convert, an internationalist and the son of an Anglican vicar. Writing about the Mass in his recent book, *Has the Catholic Church Gone Mad?*, he comments: "What worries so many of the faithful is the transformation of the priest, offering prayer and sacrifice to God at the altar on behalf of the people, into a caricature of a Protestant minister shouting at them from the other side of a table or reading desk. A curious cult of the chair has been introduced. The priest sits brooding at the congregation like Buddha, when not reading the scriptures to them."

"The practical effect of directing all prayers at them (the people), includes a rhetorical tone in which, while nominally addressing God, he is more engaged upon impressing his human hearers. Hence the people cannot avoid reactions to the personality of the minister, warts and all. This is far removed from the impersonal respect for the sacerdotal office, which has hitherto distinguished Catholic worship, and reduced individual distraction to a minimum." (Pp. 13-14)

All during the Lenten season an average of nearly 500 persons have gone to daily Mass at St. Ann's Church, Hornell. This from a congregation which has a Sunday average of 2,200 souls. Why such a turn out? Tradition, service, devout liturgy, good people, good priests, good school, and a strong sense of parish loyalty. During a panel discussion on the local TV station, discussing Bishop Joseph Hogan's Time of Renewal, there were four panelists: a high school senior, two school teachers, a housewife and mother, and the moderator, Rudy Schneider who is director of BOCES. All five concluded the panel discussion with a unanimous: "We love our parish; and the greatest thing the parish gives us — is the Mass."

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