



ON THE RIGHT SIDE Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Pompous vacuities and vague declarations irritate my soul. They impel me to retort with testy bluntness: "Just what do you mean?" The response is usually an irritated: "Oh, you want everything clear-cut and defined. You want everything in neat categories." Just why this abhorrence of clarity, of making distinctions, of categories, remains a mystery. Categorizing is necessary for mature, rational living. Dogs are not trees. Women are not men. Angels are not stars. Truth is not error. Our Lord was clear and categorical when He said: "To the good shall I say, Come. . . . To the wicked shall I say, Depart from Me . . ."

These thoughts come to me frequently as I read of bland subversions of the beautiful Decree on Ecumenism. The subversion is invariably done "in the name of Vatican II and Pope John XXIII." But it betrays Catholic consciousness of its own uniqueness and its supernatural mission. The pretext given is: democracy, equality, charity. The result is: confusion, indifference, and sometimes loss of the Catholic Faith.

What is ecumenism? The Decree reads: "Ecumenism means those activities and enterprises, which, according to various needs of the Church and opportune occasions, are started and organized for fostering unity among Christians." (#4)

Our closest separated brothers are the Orthodox Christians. These are Greeks, Russians, Syrians, Ukrainians, Lebanese, Copts, and many East Europeans. Many have migrated to the States. They usually grant that the Pope is first bishop among equals. But they do not acknowledge any jurisdiction on the part of the Pope over the Universal Church.

The Sunday after our Easter I was thrilled to watch a full hour's program from a Greek Orthodox (not in union with the Pope) church in New York City, celebrating Easter. The Orthodox and the Catholics share almost exactly the same faith and sacraments. We have in common a valid episcopacy and priesthood. We both have the Mass, or Divine liturgy. We both hold the seven sacraments. We both acknowledge the Bible and Divine Tradition as sources of Revelation. And we both have a

deep devotion to Our Blessed Mother, whom the Orientals call "Theotokos," i.e. God-bearer, or Mother of God. Union should not be so difficult between Orthodox and Catholics. We have many historical layers of discord, politics and misunderstanding to peel off. But the substance beneath is the substance of a mutual Faith and Morals; and devotion to the Mother of God.

The following Sunday I was present for Mass at the Byzantine church on Lake Salubria, near Bath. The congregation numbered 32 persons, including a vigorous choir of seven members, and myself. The parishioners came from as far as Alfred University, 40 miles away. This miniscule parish has a big sister in Elmira Heights, which has nearly 500 families; and a beautiful new Church. The ethnic background is Ukrainian. Both parishes are served by a 73-year-old Ukrainian priest. And both are united with Rome. Again the beauty of the Byzantine liturgy and doctrine proclaim the fact: the Catholic Church is not the Latin Church, but the Church Universal. The fact that there are many Oriental churches united with Our Holy Father should make unity with the Orthodox more hopeful. The world saw through TV the historic embrace between Paul VI and Archbishop Athanagoras. We wept at our needless separation.

Frank Sheed wrote a chapter on ecumenism in his paperback: *Is It the Same Church?* He expressed his belief that the union of Christians will come through Our Blessed Mother. At least, the most evident beginnings are between the Oriental Catholics united with the Pope, and the Orthodox, who in their autonomous individuality are greatly united with us and we with them in our mutual love for the Mother of God. May that God-bearer quickly bring us who love her so much quickly into Eucharistic unity.

Those engaged in Adult Education will find the pamphlets by Will Whalen, not only about the Orthodox Christians, but about the beginnings of dozens of Protestant Christian Churches of great value. They are accurate and sympathetic in the best ecumenical spirit. They can be bought from The Claritan Press, 221 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill. 60606.

Kodak to Sponsor Contest For Scout Photographers

Scouts who have earned their photography merit badge by Oct. 1, 1973, will be eligible to compete for nationwide recognition — and six scholarship prizes — in the new Scout Photo Scholarship Awards, announced by Eastman Kodak Company.

Open to boys registered as scouts and ages 11 through 15 as of the contest deadline, Oct. 1, the awards program offers scholarships for the three best photos entered in each of two categories — black-and-white and color. First place winner in each category will receive a \$1,000 scholarship; second place winner, a \$500 scholarship, and third place winner, a \$250 scholarship. Certificates of Merit also may be awarded to entries which demonstrate photographic excellence or unique photo applications.

Not limited to scouting-related pictures, entries can cover any subject but must have been taken by the scout entrant after Oct. 1, 1972. Contestants, having completed the prerequisite

photography merit badge requirements, may enter a maximum of three pictures in each category. If an entry is an award winner, the original negative or transparency must be made available to the Boy Scouts of America on request.

A panel of photographic experts, appointed by Boy Scouts of America, will select award-winning pictures on the basis of originality, composition and evidence of good camera technique.

Following the announcement of winners (in a feature article in *Boys Life* magazine), Kodak will feature outstanding scout pictures in six traveling exhibits at various locations throughout the United States by Boy Scouts of America.

Rules folders and official entry blanks can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, business size, stamped envelope to National Scout Photo Scholarship Awards, Scouting Division, Boy Scouts of America, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902.

RC&E consumer news

Have a safe summer in your backyard

As the weather warms up and you take some of your living outdoors to your backyard, don't forget to take along your electrical safety precautions, too. You should already have a healthy respect for your housepower; now think about the added hazards of electrical equipment used near a pool or when it's damp outside. Don't let your carefree summer living make you forget safety.

Extension cords

Never use extension cords designed for indoor use outdoors. Buy weatherproof, grounded extension cords that bear the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) seal of approval. A grounded cord is one with three wires and three prongs on the plug. If the cord is plugged into a grounded outlet, the third wire will serve as an escape route for any electricity that might leak from a piece of equipment if a problem developed in it. Without the grounding wire, the leaking electricity could give you a shock.

Your electrician can tell you whether your three-hole outlets are grounded. Some are not.

Never patch an outdoor cord. If it is cut or damaged, replace it.

Outdoor outlets

Equip your outdoor outlets with a ground-fault circuit-interrupter. This piece of equipment, available from electrical contractors and electrical supply companies, will protect you from electric leaks too small to trip your circuit breakers or blow your fuses but still strong enough to hurt you.

The National Electrical Code now requires that "all outdoor receptacles located between 10 feet and 15 feet of the inside walls of a permanently installed pool shall be protected by a ground-fault circuit-interrupter." Above-the-ground, or storable, pools "shall be supplied by outlets

protected with circuit interrupters."

You can examine several models of ground-fault circuit-interrupters this month at RC&E's Consumer Information Center located on the first floor of our main office at 89 East Avenue. Its open during our regular office hours. Questions about them should be asked at the Residential Department on the 5th floor, 546-2700, ext. 2751.

Your outdoor outlets should be weatherproof and have covers to keep out rain.

Outdoor equipment

Make sure your electrical equipment is in good working order. Don't leave it outside in bad weather or store it in a damp place.

Use only approved outdoor equipment. Indoor lamps and other fixtures are not designed to take outdoor exposure.

Don't start outdoor projects until the ground is dry. Never stand in a puddle when using electrical equipment. If you've just come out of the pool, dry off before you touch your electric rotisserie. And, never use electricity in the rain.

Around the pool

Don't put a swimming pool under power lines. If they fell into the pool, they would make it very hazardous.

Don't let anyone in the pool when you are using electric equipment, such as a pool vacuum.

Keep radios, TV's, lamps and other electrical devices away from poolside.

All of this may sound like a lot to remember. It isn't. All it really requires is that you and your family develop good safety habits with electrical equipment used outdoors. These habits soon become as automatic as the electric service you use. Have a safe summer.

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