



TOWARD TOMORROW Fr. Henry Atwell

In the early days of the Catholic Interracial Council, a joke made the rounds which told of a nun who asked a Negro child, "Are you a Catholic?" and the lad replied, "Heck, no, it's bad enough being black!"

These days, according to recent reports, being Lutheran is almost as bad as being Catholic too.

Missouri Synod Lutherans at their just-concluded convention in New Orleans gave virtual papal power to their president, the arch-conservative Jacob A.O. Preus. According to Newsweek, he was authorized to dismiss any pastor, seminary professor or Lutheran parochial school teacher who differs in belief from his literal understanding of the Bible.

Most likely target of the president's new powers will be 45 of the 50 faculty members at Concordia Theological Seminary, chief Lutheran seminary, at St. Louis, for their teaching of "false doctrine running counter to the Holy Scriptures." One elated convention delegate, an obvious Preus partisan, said, "I'd believe the Bible even if it said Jonah swallowed the whale!"

Missouri Synod Lutherans have never been swept up on the aggiornamento bandwagon but this latest action puts the 2.8 million member denomination on a headlong race to the past.

They won't be running alone, however.

They'll see a lot of Catholics rushing in that same rearward direction.

Front page articles in the past two issues of the Courier-Journal reported Vatican decisions which knock out a few more Vatican Council milestones.

One Vatican "declaration" was obviously aimed at Swiss theologian Father Hans Kueng and Dutch Jesuit theologian Father Piet Schoonenberg. The intricate and technical opinions of either of these two posed little

hazard to the average Catholic but the Vatican rolled out its heavy guns to blast at them for "certain errors" contained "here and there" in their writings.

Kueng especially riled Vatican waters by writing a book which questioned the concept of infallibility. As a lesser theologian remarked even several years ago, "How can anybody be infallible with fallible words?" Of course a poet asserted that "God can write straight with crooked lines," but that's God, we mortals can't do that.

Much more close to home, however, is a second Vatican "declaration" which stops the widespread practice of giving children First Communion a year or two before they begin to go to Confession. Approximately half the dioceses in the United States (including the Diocese of Rochester) had adopted the Communion-first-then-Confession arrangement as authorized on an "experimental" basis about four years ago.

This strong reaffirmation of infallibility and pre-Council sacramental practice is further evidence that Pope John is leader day by day.

One thing must be kept in mind in the midst of the ebb and flow of ecclesiastical policies and politics — no one viewpoint, no one practice is ever really adequate to express the overwhelming abundance of God's gifts to his people through his Church. It is, therefore, unfortunate if one person or one clique in the Church narrows the options by which God's people can approach him. As one delegate at the Lutheran convention remarked, "It's as if one political party had gained control of Congress and then denied citizenship to everyone who disagrees with them."

The Lutherans seem to be on the brink of doing precisely that.

I hope we Catholics don't copy their mistake.

Church Subsidies Target In Italian Parliament

Rome [RNS] — The new government of Prime Minister Mariano Rumor is being pressured to make substantial cuts in federal subsidies to the Catholic Church as part of an overall effort to solve Italy's financial crisis.

State subsidies to the Church over the past three years totalled about \$300 million. The money is channeled through five ministries — Public Works, Interior, Education, Health, and Foreign Affairs — under a Concordat (the Lateran Pact) between Italy and Vatican City State, signed in 1929.

PAX CHRISTI

Collegeville, Minn. [RNS] — Father Colman Barry, OSB, the newly-named first dean of the School of Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., received the Pax Christi Award of St. John's University here July 20.

Father Barry was president of St. John's from 1964 to 1971.

A well-known ecumenist and writer, Father Barry was cited as an outstanding scholar and educator. He recently completed a history of the Catholic Church in the Bahamas and is preparing for a new book which will attempt to pinpoint the causes of disunity among religious groups throughout the world. He has been interviewing scholars of various religions in Europe and America.

Part of the \$300 million was allocated to the country's 272 Catholic dioceses, and included annual individual subsidies of about \$3,500 to each Italian bishop.

The subsidies are the major, and immediate, target of a parliamentary majority already clamoring for a complete revision of the church-state pact.

The Lateran Pact envisioned a reduction of Italian dioceses to 93, the equivalent of the country's provinces. Church spokesmen say it has been impossible to make the reductions in the face of unforeseen difficulties.

Msgr. Gaetano Bonicelli, an assistant secretary of the Italian Catholic Bishops' Conference says: "Obstacles come from everywhere and are often unforeseen. Even Communists in certain cases were opposed to our closing down a diocese, for purely local reasons, of course."

Faculty, Program Changes Listed at St. Bernard's

St. Bernard's Seminary, which has trained candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood since 1893, will expand its programs this Fall to provide regular training programs for priests, sisters and laymen.

An announcement to this effect was issued last week by Bishop Joseph Hogan, president of the board of the school.

The new program of continuing education will provide training for permanent deacons, pastoral assistants, lecturers and Eucharistic ministers.

Joining the seminary staff as coordinator of the continuing education programs is Sister Anne Mary Dooley, SSJ.

Sister Dooley is a native of Niagara Falls, and has a Master's degree in Education from Boston University, an MA in Religious Studies from the University of Ottawa, and a Master's degree in Pastoral Studies from St. Paul's University, Ottawa.

She has also served as vocation director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, and has extensive experience in teaching, retreat work, and administration.

According to Bishop Hogan the following are also joining the full-time staff at St. Bernard's this year:

Father Thomas R. Brummel, CMF, a Claretian Father with Licentiate in Philosophy and Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and M.A. in Classical Greek from the Catholic University in Washington, and a PhD candidate (majoring in Classical and Patristic Greek and Classical Latin) at the University of California at Los Angeles. Father Brummel has had extensive teaching experience, and will be joining the Scripture Department at St. Bernard's as Associate Professor of Old Testament. He will also be offering courses in Patrology and New Testament Greek.

Father Francesco Turvasi, MSC, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart and a native of Italy. He has been teaching most recently at Menzingen in Switzerland, and has a Doctorate in Theology from the University of Fribourg and is the author of several books and articles. Father Turvasi is an internationally known authority on the Modernist Era and many of his writings deal with personalities and events of that period. He will serve as Associate Professor of Systematic Theology.

Douglas Hyde who taught courses at the seminary in the fall of 1967, again in 1969, and most recently in 1971. A former editor of the London Communist newspaper The Daily Worker, and a convert to Roman Catholicism, Hyde now devotes part of his time to writing, lecturing, and teaching at such institutions as London's Missionary Institute and St. Bernard's Seminary. The remainder is spent working in



SISTER ANNE MARY DOOLEY

various trouble-spots of the Third World, where he has been influential in reconciling the aspirations of oppressed minorities with the goals of post-colonial governments. Hyde will be teaching courses in leadership and in contemporary Marxist ideology.

As of June 1, the new Director of St. Bernard's Library is the Rev. Jasper G. Pennington, a native of Michigan, and a graduate of Western Michigan University with a BA, and a Master's Degree in Library Science. He is also a graduate of the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., from which he received the Degree of Master of Divinity. Mr. Pennington was previously on the staff at the library of the School of Theology at Sewanee. He is married and the father of two children. He was recently ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul in Detroit. He expects to be ordained a priest during the coming year.

'Radio Priest' Dead at 81

St. Louis [RNS] Jesuit Father Eugene P. Murphy, founder and director of the internationally-broadcast Sacred Heart Program was buried here July 23 following a funeral Mass at the church on the campus of St. Louis University. Father Murphy, 81, died July 19 of an apparent heart attack at the Jesuit Residence on campus.

A native of Denver, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1912. In 1931, while at St. Louis University as superior of Jesuit seminarians, he became interested in the university radio station and its potential for religious education. Father Murphy experimented with a morning meditation program, and in 1939 settled on the format which the Sacred Heart Program has used ever since: opening hymn, nine-minute talk on a doctrinal subject, prayer and closing hymn. A television version of the program was launched in 1954. The program is carried currently on 985 radio and TV stations throughout the world.

Also new to St. Bernard's this year is Thomas W. Banaszewski who has been the Seminary Business Manager since April 1. Banaszewski is a graduate of Albany Business College and of Ricker College, Houlton, Maine. He has worked for Hickey Freeman Co. of Rochester since 1965, where he was Assistant to the Treasurer. Banaszewski is married and the father of 4 children. He is active in Holy Cross Parish, where he is President of the Board of Education, and he is also President of the Rochester Diocese Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and a member of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Jaycees and the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Bishop Hogan concluded his announcement by stating that Joseph C. Kelly, who for the past two years has been Assistant Professor in the field of Old Testament Studies, will assume new responsibilities this September as Administrative Assistant to the Rector. Kelly is a native of Elmira, and received his BA from St. Bernard's Seminary in 1965. He was granted his MA by the University of Notre Dame in 1966, and is currently completing his PhD dissertation in the field of Scripture Studies at Notre Dame. Kelly is married to the former Patricia Murray, of Cleveland, Ohio. As Administrative Assistant, Mr. Kelly will be responsible for directing recruitment, community relations, faculty development, relations with lay alumni, and will be coordinating various other aspects of the developing seminary program.

In announcing the appointments, Bishop Hogan stressed the importance of bringing to the seminary program people of such diverse backgrounds and accomplishments. "We want St. Bernard's to meet the challenges and the needs of contemporary Christians. Its staff and its programs must reflect the breadth and depth of scope in the Church today."

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