



## TOWARD TOMORROW Fr. Henry Atwell

In the old days when periodically the Catholic Courier would announce a batch of new, shiny red monsignors, those of us who were on a different list would make such jokes as, "Monsignors have the liturgical privilege of adding a fourth 'Domine non sum dignus' or subtracting one 'mea culpa' from the Mass text."

Then when the Mass text was revised a few years back we discovered that everybody, not just monsignors, could subtract not just one but even two "mea culpa's" from the venerable Confeiteor. We are all of us down to just one "my fault" admission.

Watergate has revealed that the White House staff has even abolished that one last surviving "mea culpa." There is now no such thing as guilt. We are now all of us wholly innocent.

The New Yorker magazine in a recent issue compiles a telling series of quotations from the principal participants, as follows:

Secretary of State William P. Rogers, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in March of 1969, said, "Cambodia is one country where we can say with complete assurance that our hands are clean and our hearts are pure."

He both knew and had assented to the secret bombing of Cambodia that was at that moment going on — a total of more than 100,000 tons of bombs — a fact which he, with the President and the Pentagon, kept from both Congress and the American public.

Despite this massive policy of deceit, Mr. Rogers undoubtedly did think his hands and his heart were pure.

"I was just a messenger." "I was a conduit." "I took the bag of money from here to there, but I didn't know whom it was intended for or why." "I made the telephone call, but I didn't know what the message meant." "I typed the memo, but I didn't read it for content." "I assumed that if the instructions came from the White House what I was doing must be authorized and legal and proper." "I trusted my superiors." "I listened to my own tapes, and I found myself innocent."

The New Yorker commented on these statements: "And, in a sense, all these people are innocent, just as we are all innocent. We did what we did, because one way or another, by whatever moral maneuvering, through whatever intricate transactions we could make with our consciences, we thought that what we were doing was right at the time. It is sad that we must be judged by others rather than by ourselves."

Ten years from now, fifty years from now, a century from now, eternity from now, how convincing will all the Watergate excuses sound? How convincing will our own excuses sound for our apathy, our lethargy, our unconcern when, like Mr. Rogers, we knew all along that people were being bombed and killed and we were more concerned about the scarcity of hamburger and the rising cost of lettuce?

## Cardinal Hails WCC Anniversary

Vatican City (RNS) — Cardinal Jan Willebrands, the highest Vatican official in charge of ecumenical affairs, has pledged "our confidence, our hope, and our efforts" in pursuing collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The Dutch-born prelate, who is president of the Secretariat for Christian Unity, hailed the 25th anniversary of the WCC in an article in the Vatican City daily L'Osservatore Romano.

Cardinal Willebrands observed that, while the Roman Catholic Church was not involved in the establishment of the WCC on Aug. 26, 1948, its coming into being was bound to make contacts between the council's member Churches and the Catholic Church "easier."

The international organization, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, now numbers more than 260 Protestant and Orthodox member Churches.

"The collaboration between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC has begun," the cardinal said, and "is developing with confidence and in obedience and loyalty to the teaching of the Church."

"Certainly, there is no lack of difficulties," the Vatican official noted. "They stem from the greatness of the cause of (Christian) unity, as well as from the circumstances of history and the characteristics of human nature."

"However," he affirmed, "these difficulties in no way diminish our confidence, our hopes and our efforts in the pursuit of collaboration with the World Council of Churches."

## New Principal Named For Nazareth Academy

Administrative appointments in secondary schools operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester have been announced by Mother General Agnes Cecilia Troy.

Sister Mary Jean Smith will be principal of Nazareth Academy, the 100-year old private school for girls on Lake Avenue. She has served as vice-principal there under Sister Annunciata McCabe for the past three years.

Sister Annunciata, principal since 1965, will work in the Office of Planning and Development at Nazareth College on two of the big events in the college's near future: the Middle States Evaluation and the 50th anniversary.

The new vice-principal of Nazareth Academy will be Sister Jeannine Scheg, who served in the same capacity at Mt. Carmel High in Auburn from 1967 to 1970. When the Auburn school closed, Sister Jeannine became a member of the Academy faculty and chairman of its history department.

## Show to Discuss Marriage Encounter

On Sept. 15, the diocesan radio call-in show, "Call for Renewal," will feature Father Coleman Logan, O. Carm., and Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Turiano, on the subject of Marriage Encounter.

The show is broadcast live over WROC radio every Saturday night at 11:10. Father William Graf is host.

Bishop Joseph Hogan will be Father Graf's guest the Saturday before, Sept. 8. The topic will be "The Catholic Church Today."



SR. MARY JEAN SMITH

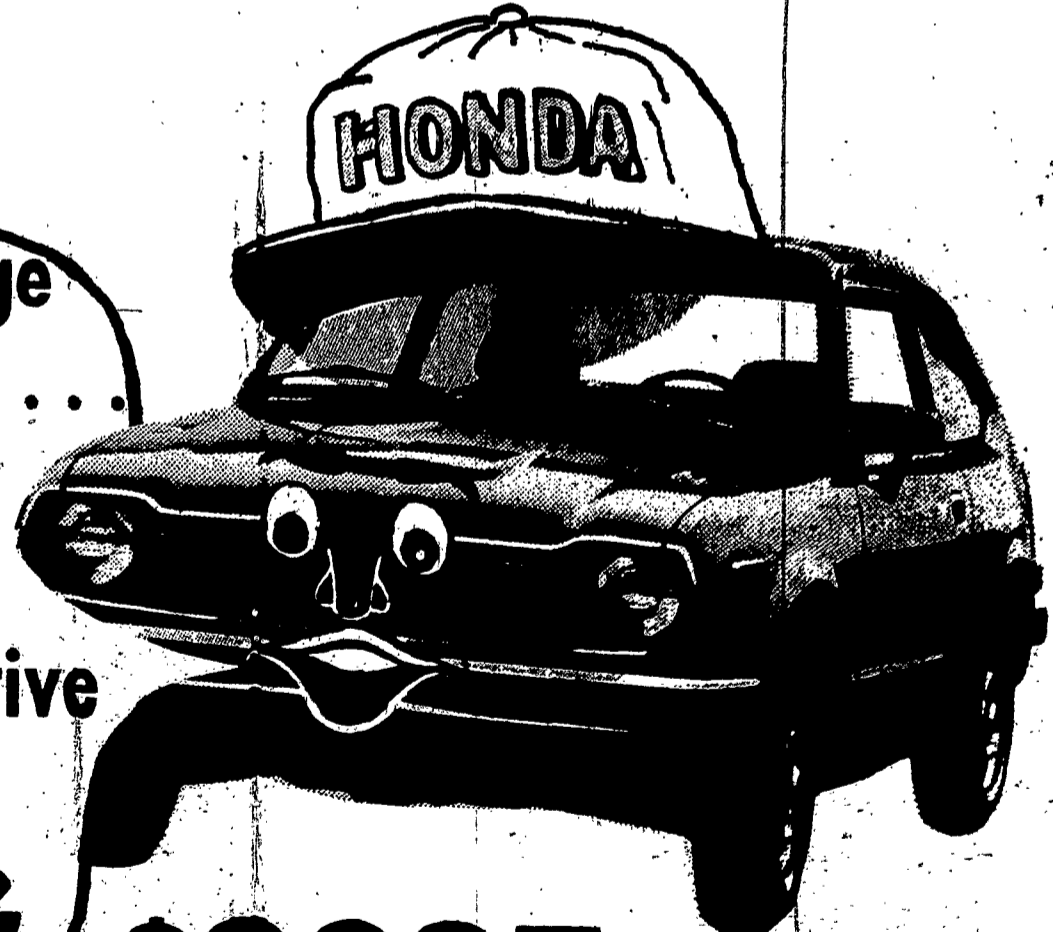
St. Agnes High School on East River Road also will have a new vice-principal. Sister Carol Cimino, who taught at King's Preparatory School from 1968 to 1970, and at St. Agnes since then, will assist Sister Mary Margaret Merkel, principal.

Sister Mary Jean is a native of Bath, where her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Ernest P. Smith, still reside. She has BA and MA degrees from Nazareth College, and has taught at Blessed Sacrament and St. Anne's schools in Rochester; Sacred Heart School in Auburn; St. John's, Spencerport, and St. James, Waverly. She was on the faculty of St. Agnes High School for three years and then moved to Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Rochester as principal from 1968 to 1970.



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