



TOWARD TOMORROW  
Fr. Henry Atwell

Riverton is a "new town" for 30,000 people sprouting up south of Rochester just off the East River Road.

Presbyterian minister Rev. Larry Hickle, Baptist minister Rev. Richard Johnson and I took a tour of the rapidly developing site recently. The two clergymen head up teams of clergy and laity at work planning the religious life at Riverton and the other proposed new town, Gananda, in Western Wayne County.

As we began our tour we were given a lavishly illustrated brochure describing the Riverton community as it will look when completed. The brochure was an attractive invitation to come live at Riverton.

Mr. Milford Voorhees of Wydler Travel Agency wrote me a month or so ago asking if I'd lead a tour group to Ethiopia, the world's oldest Christian nation. He had previously arranged tours for me to the Holy Land. With his letter about Ethiopia he inclosed a brochure describing in easy-to-read text and full-color pictures the people, the land and the historic places in Ethiopia.

Just about everyone who has something to sell provides you with a leaflet or a booklet which describes the product and illustrates it attractively, whether it be automobiles, television sets, clothes, homes, new towns or ancient nations — and the literature is available free for any prospective customer.

Which brings me to the point which concerns me.

Pope Paul has recently asked the Catholics should "be directed more effectively" towards "the evangelization of the modern world."

In a lengthy statement which wisely asks more questions than it provides answers, the Pope asks, "Are our communities (dioceses, parishes, etc.) aware that they are responsible for the evangelization both of their own members and those who either do not believe or who have lost the faith?"

The Pope earlier in his statement explained that by "evangelization" he means all kinds of activity "whereby living faith is awakened in non-Christian and fostered in Christians" and that includes mission work, religious instruction, preaching — and, he adds, doing this by extensive use of press, movies, radio and television.

Years ago we had the handy Baltimore Catechism — brief, cheap and clear. Today there are shelves of excellent religious books but they are expensive and invariably have too much written text for people who are used to television and instant cameras.

The Jehovah's Witnesses may often be a thorn in our religious side but they realize the effectiveness of low-priced, attractively printed items. I think we could learn from them in this matter. They are, after all, making far more converts these days than are all the other "standard brands" Christian denominations combined.

If Riverton, Ethiopia and Jehovah's Witnesses can produce free, brightly colored, easy-to-read booklets, why can't we?

Pope Paul himself asks about our present evangelization efforts, "Is accurate and attractive information provided on the Church's life . . . ?"

He then suggests that these and many other questions "be discussed in the individual churches" to give "a fresh impulse to evangelization in the whole Church."

I hope we don't ignore the Pope.

BISHOPS JOIN BOYCOTT

St. Paul, Minn. [RNS] — The 12 Roman Catholic bishops in Minnesota have endorsed the boycott of non-United Farm Workers lettuce, grapes and Guild wines. They called on Catholics to buy and consume only UFW products identifiable by the black Aztec eagle emblem. The bishops said their motive is to "obtain recognition and status for farm workers who are deserving of total human dignity and consideration."

# State Obscenity Statute Declared Unconstitutional

New York [RNS] — New York State's civil statute on obscenity has been declared unconstitutional by a State Supreme Court judge.

In ruling on a case involving four allegedly obscene motion pictures, Justice Abraham J. Gellinoff declared that the state law was overbroad in its provisions and therefore unconstitutional.

Justice Gellinoff noted that the June ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court on obscenity had established the principle that community standards, rather than national standards, be used to determine obscenity. He held, however, that there is no evidence before this court, at this stage of the case, to enable the court to gauge the contemporary standards of this community."

In his 10-page ruling, the State Supreme Court justice explained

## Priests' Senate To Rejoin NFPC

St. Cloud, Minn. [RNS] — The Priests' Senate of the Roman Catholic diocese here has voted to reaffiliate with the National Federation of Priests' Councils, it was announced here.

The decision to rejoin the Chicago-based national organization, which comprises more than 130 diocesan senates, councils and associations, was made after members of the Senate hear Msgr. Ellsworth Kneel, professor of canon law at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

The original vote to disaffiliate was blamed on lack of support for the NFPC by Bishop George Speltz of St. Cloud, a "poor image" of the NFPC in the national press; several controversial positions taken by the federation on social issues; and the belief that the need for the NFPC had lessened when the U.S. bishops decided to set up a committee for priestly life and ministry.

that "while the court knows its own standards, and knows what it believes the community standards should be, there are no facts presented before the court to enable it to say, with reasonable assurance, in advance of a full trial, what the trier of the facts will find the community standards actually to be."

It was unclear whether the immediate effect of Justice Gellinoff's ruling left New York State without an obscenity statute. Some observers pointed out that New York City Corporation Council Norman Redlich and Manhattan District Attorney Frank Hogan have announced plans to appeal the decision to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, and suggested that while the appeal is in process the statute remains in force.

However, a spokesman for the Manhattan District Attorney's office told Religious News Service that as far as New York County (Manhattan) was concerned, "We're taking the position that for all intents and purposes we have no obscenity law." He said that the District Attorney's Office was instructing police not to take any further actions with regard to confiscating allegedly obscene books, magazines, or motion pictures.

The spokesman pointed out that the Manhattan District Attorney's Office has jurisdiction only in New York County, and speculated that district attorneys elsewhere in the state may take

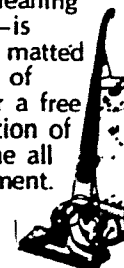
the position that the state law is still in force.

Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., national president of Morality in Media, Inc., told Religious News Service that although he had not read the text of Justice Gellinoff's ruling, his initial impression from reading newspaper accounts was that the justice did not properly apply the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling in the Miller vs. California case.

"An examination of the Miller opinion," Father Hill commented, "clearly discloses that the United States Supreme Court enjoined state courts to construe their state statutes so as to incorporate the specifically prohibited sexual acts given as examples in Miller." Instead of construing the state law, the priest noted, the justice declared it unconstitutional.

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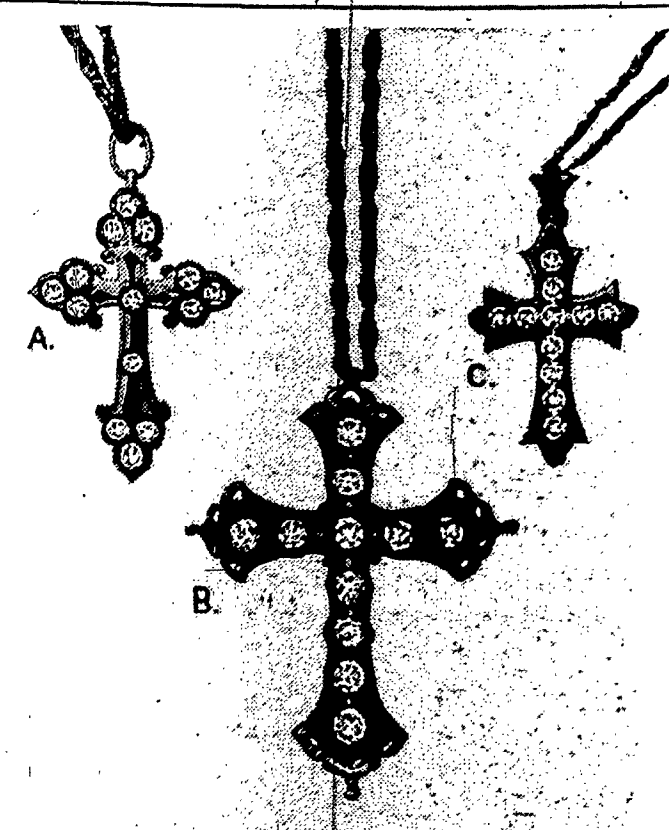
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