

TOWARD TOMORROW Fr. Henry Atwell

Month by month one or more government agencies tell us about the rising cost of living. Most people note that fact day by day.

I've also noticed a rising cost of religion.

Pastors point out to their parishioners that church expenses keep going up like all other expenses and, obviously, there is a need for increased response at offertory time.

Diocesan expenses, national church expenses, worldwide expenses spiral ever upward.

And the people in the pew either patiently dole out more or, disgruntled, drift away.

There is a paradox here.

Comfortable religion demands uncomfortable contributions in cash — but uncomfortable religion makes few cash demands.

Dr. Dean M. Kelley, author of "The Meaning and Conduct of Dialogue," has written, "True Christianity does not need help. It has help to give! It is the strongest thing in the world! It has withstood every kind of persecution the world could offer . . . It has revitalized old empires, renewed tired economies, changed the course of world history."

Lloyd C. Douglas in his best selling book of a decade ago, "The Robe," imagines what the Roman Emperor Tiberius might have said about the young, growing Jesus Movement of that time:

" . . . the trouble with this new Calilean idea — the people believing it are utterly possessed! This Jesus was tried for treason — and convicted — and crucified. But he rose from the dead — and he will take care of all who give up their lives as his followers. They have no fear. Now you set a thing like that in motion and there'd be no end to it!

"It might be interesting to watch this thing develop. If it could go on the way it seems to be going now, nothing could stop it. But it won't go on that way. It will collapse after awhile. Soon as it gets into a strong position, then it will squabble over its offices and its spoils — and grow heavy with power and territory. The Christian afoot is a formidable fellow. But when he becomes prosperous enough to ride a horse — a Christian on horseback will be just like any other man on horseback! This Jesus army will have to travel on foot if it expects to accomplish anything."

And that's the way the Church finally became crippled, when another Emperor, Constantine, gave the Church freedom, territory, prestige, power — horses by the hundreds.

And in order to keep all these nice things, the "horseback Christians" of today pay their clergy well to serve doses of soothing syrup in bland sermons so as not to rock the boat.

That leaves both clergy and lay people free to enjoy life as usual — a diluted if not totally distorted way to imitate the Christ who was so poor he "had not whereon to lay his head" and even in death had to be buried in a borrowed grave.

Senator Mark Hatfield earlier this year, at a prayer breakfast in Washington, attended by over 3,000 people including Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and Evangelist Billy Graham, said, "Lives lived under the lordship of Jesus Christ at this point in history may well put us at odds with values of our society, abuses of political power, and cultural conformity of our church . . . We sit here today as the wealthy and the powerful. But let us not forget that those who follow Christ will more often find themselves not with comfortable majorities but with miserable minorities."

I guess we just each one of us have to decide who we want to sit with us.

Local Teacher Serves in Texas

Nadia Melnyk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Melnyk of Buonomo Street, has joined Volunteers for Educational Services (VES) and is working among Mexican Americans in Texas. She is a fourth and fifth grade teacher at St. John Bosco School in San Antonio.

VES, under the auspices of the Texas Catholic Conference, sets up lay staffs in Texas parishes and schools where 50 per cent or more of the people are economically or educationally deprived.

A 1968 graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School, Nadia received an associate degree from Monroe Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from State University College in Oneonta. She has taught in Delhi and Utica and as a substitute in Rochester schools.

VES volunteers receive \$60 a month, plus room, board, transportation and medical insurance. They live in groups of three or more at their designated parishes.



Oppose Landfill

Ray Datz, chairman of the human development committee of St. Christopher's parish council, George Stephenson of the Chili Citizens Group and Deacon Bill Spilly look over Black Creek Park's proposed landfill site. The parish council recently went on record as opposed to the landfill by a vote of 12-0 with one abstention. A council statement noted "a responsibility for the human as well as the spiritual growth of persons and the way in which they treat the lands and waters of nature," in the action.

Deaths

George Meyer

George E. Meyer, who worked for local newspapers for more than 40 years, died Sept. 23, 1973, in Genesee Hospital. He was 72 years old.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated last Wednesday at Blessed Sacrament Church.

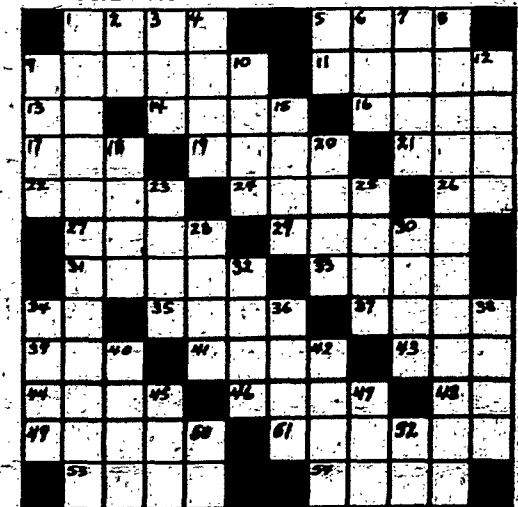
Mr. Meyer was an advertising page-layout man. In that capacity, he worked part-time for the Courier-Journal after his retirement in 1966 from the Rochester Times-Union. He had been with the latter paper for 34 years, and earlier with the Democratic & Chronicle and the old Journal-American.

A longtime resident of Field Street, Mr. Meyer was a Blessed Sacrament parishioner for 39 years. He and his wife, the former Catherine O'Brien, moved two years ago to Meadowbrook Lane.

Surviving besides Mrs. Meyer are several cousins.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Soapy water
 - Dress edges
 - Seem to be
 - Oral
 - French article
 - Small song bird
 - White brain matter
 - High card
 - Woodland animal
 - Superlative ending
 - Rich fabric
 - Let fall
 - Note of scale
 - Enemies
 - Greek letter
 - Notions
 - Hammer head part
 - District of Columbia
- DOWN
- Entreaty
 - Grade
 - Rowing implement
 - Web
 - Narrow inlet
 - Slide
 - Pinochle term
 - By
 - Church officer
 - Stings
 - Lamb
 - Blackthorn fruit
 - Definitely
 - Skyward
 - Morning moisture
 - Red stone
 - Exclamation
 - Highest note
 - Underground animal



Answer To Crossword On Page 17

- Establish the truth
- Exclamation of woe
- Hollow grass
- Tropical fruit
- Roman fiddler
- Hypothetical force
- Play
- Retain
- Equal
- A seasoning
- Toothed wheel
- Appear to be
- Prescribed amount
- Malt beverages
- Consumes
- Be carried along
- Charity
- Green vegetable
- Split pulse
- Registered nurse (abbr.)
- International language

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AWARD WINNING TV

This year the New York State Associated Press Broadcasters Association has saluted the Channel 10 News Department, headed by James Reilly, for excellence in individual reporting and photography, plus the general quality of their news presentations. In addition, Channel 10 was awarded First Place in two news categories.

FIRST PLACE

- BEST LOCAL TV DOCUMENTARY**
"Route 2". The story of Occupation Education. Produced by Warren Doremus; Filmed by John Hart.
- BEST SPOT NEWS COVERAGE**
For Channel 10's report of a fatal fire at Goodman Street North. Reported by Warren Doremus; Filmed by John Hart.

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