



## THE CHURCH 1973 Fr. Andrew Greeley

The collapse of Chilean democracy is a monumental tragedy. After establishing one of the longest traditions of peaceful political processes in Latin America the Chilean people now find themselves governed by an unimaginative and quite possibly repressive military that shows no sign of wanting a return to democracy. What's more, despite sympathy for a socialist government in the world press, it appears from reports on the scene that the vast majority of the people of Chile are reluctantly accepting the new government as the only alternative to chaos.

The media repeated throughout the revolutionary crisis that Allende was the first democratically elected Marxist leader in South America. What they usually did not say was that he was a minority president who carried only 37 per cent of the popular vote, a mere percentage point more than the right-wing candidate. The Christian Democrats — Chile's center party — threw their support to Allende when he promised to respect the country's constitutional processes. When he reneged on that promise the Christian Democrats withdrew their support, causing the instability that ended in revolution.

Once Allende had power, Chilean democracy was finished; Chile would have a police state dictatorship. The only question was whether it would be of the right or the left. You cannot impose an ideological Marxist society on a people the majority of whom do not want it — not without throwing the democratic processes out the window. Radical Marxism and representative political democracy have coexisted nowhere very long. Firmly convinced that they are morally and intellectually right, Marxist ideologues must force the people to "correct" behavior whether they want to engage in that behavior or not.

It would be a mistake to underestimate the power of the Marxist vision. Every Marxist government that has ever achieved power (and the Western European social democratic political parties are hardly Marxist in any meaningful way) turns into a repressive police state, but the elegance and the insights of the Marxist analysis seem to have perennial appeal, particularly for intellectuals. And it is precisely this elegance and insight that makes Marxism oppressive when it proponents gain power. Those who are captured by the Marxist vision are forced to conclude that those who wish to maintain their own personal freedom are immoral; therefore they must either be eliminated or forced to be virtuous — for their own good, of course.

There is currently a romance between some Latin American theologians and Marxism. The so-called "theology of liberation" is usually a combination of second-rate theology, fifth-rate economics, and what real Marxists call "vulgar Marxism." It is an unimpressive hodgepodge, but it enables some Latin churchmen to think that they are part of the "revolution." Whether the

### Northwest Meeting

The next general assembly meeting of the Northwest Region is scheduled at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 14 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, it was announced by Father Thomas M. Reddington, regional coordinator.

disastrous effects of religious flirtation with Marxist ideology in Chile will change their minds remains to be seen.

If the Latins want to peddle this inadequate theology, it is their affair. After several centuries of messing up the Church in Latin America, I suppose they have the right to try to do something to pretend to be important to the rest of the world. And if their strategy of moral blackmail at international meetings is successful with guilt-ridden North Atlantic theologians, then that is the fault of those who give in to that moral blackmail. In the United States we have learned through painful experience that such surrender only delays the development of mutual respect. Perhaps the Europeans will learn this eventually.

But what is intolerable is for those itinerant theological Marxists to claim that they are speaking for the "oppressed" of the world. No one elected them spokesmen. There is no reason to think that their own experience is typical of their fellow citizens, and much reason to think that most of the "oppressed" are not Marxists at all.

To appeal to one's representative status as a theological credential is merely to admit that one is not sure whether one's theology is good enough to make it on its own. For some of the "liberation" types such a fear is certainly valid. If they didn't engage in moral blackmail they wouldn't be good enough to keep getting invited to the transatlantic meetings they disrupt.

It is a useful tactic, one supposes. But it is hardly fair to those people for whom the itinerant disrupters claim to speak. The theologians might make a much more important contribution if they stopped going to meetings, put aside their vulgar Marxist textbooks (and spare us any more quotes from Marcuse, please), and actually made a serious, non-ideological study of their countries.

But that would be work. Moral blackmail is much easier.

## Nazareth Academy Slates Open House

Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Avenue, will receive prospective high school students and their parents at an Open House, Sunday, Nov. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Students and teachers will be available for directing visitors to centers of interest, answering questions, and explaining programs and procedures.

Features scheduled for Open House will include a video tape documentary. The scripts are being prepared in films classes here and will be filmed through the cooperation of Aquinas students.

Since many departments are

## St. Joseph's, Penfield, Plans Evening Devotion to Eucharist

St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield, is planning an evening of prayer and devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Eucharist on Saturday, Nov. 10. Following the 5 o'clock Folk Mass there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Private prayer will follow until 7:15 when a brief Scripture Service in preparation for the Sacrament of Penance will be held.

Confessions will be heard at the usual time, 7:30-8:30, and Exposition of the Blessed

### RETREAT SCHEDULE

Following is a list of retreat leaders of parishes that have scheduled men's retreats at Notre Dame Canandaigua for the weekend Nov. 9-11: Our Lady of Mercy, R. Pschierer, 865-1294; St. Charles Borromeo, H. Terhaar, 663-5471; St. James, A. Cammeyer, 482-6824; St. Christopher, Chili, R. Datz, 293-3863; St. Vincent, Churchville, R. Landry, 293-2233; St. Mary, Scottsville, W. Duquette, 889-1581; St. Helen, Rectory, 235-1210; Nativity, Brockport, W. Corbin, 637-4828.

employing individualized instruction, independent study, achievement contracts and corresponding marking systems, teachers will at scheduled times explain the work of certain departments. The Science Department has scheduled 15-minute periods for each level of instruction four times during the afternoon.

The program will include some student demonstrations of class projects and of co-curricular activities including the school newspaper. Tours will include the specialized research centers, library, shorthand library, science laboratories, auditorium, gymnasium, guidance complex, and classrooms.

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