

Wide Response to Vocation Campaign

Numerous commitments of prayer and sacrifice for the 1973-74 school year have been made by people in the Diocese of Rochester as a result of the Prayer Campaign for Church Vocations.

The campaign, which took place in mid-September at all parishes in the diocese, resulted in several thousand letters of commitment to prayer and sacrifice, noted Father Gerald Connor, diocesan director of vocations. All of the letters are being read by priests and students at St. Bernard's and Becket Hall, and by sisters in formation within the diocese.

"We were extremely pleased with the offerings of all people who responded to the campaign," Father Connor stated. "People of all age groups, and from just about every parish in the diocese, responded."

In the campaign, a request was made for prayers and sacrifices throughout the current school year. The prayers would be offered for all people in religious life, and for those in formation or those who are considering a religious vocation.

Father Connor noted many of the commitments came from entire families, while there also were large numbers from young school children and many individual parents and older persons.

One of the letters received was in Braille with a translation



Reading vocation prayer responses with Father Connor are, left to right, seminarians Philip Lembo, Daniel Almeter, John Schantz, and Martin Keating.

written above each typed Braille word.

Another letter offered special sacrifices for each member of a large family, to include attending five to 10 extra Masses as well as offering rosaries and Hail Marys.

One family said it would pray together each week for special vocational situations it was aware of; another family indicated it would make as many people as possible aware of the life of giving and sacrifice required of priests, nuns and brothers.

"We are hopeful," stated Father

Connor, "that the effort made to involve people throughout the diocese in this campaign will have continuing success this year. We thank all of those who have written to us with their offerings, and want them to know

of our appreciation." Persons wishing to respond to the campaign may still do so; contact Father Connor by writing to him at Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Road, East Rochester, N.Y. 14445.

Folk Worship Festival Set

The annual Northwest Regional Folk Worship Festival will be held Nov. 30 at Cardinal Mooney High School from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

This year's theme is the "Spirit of God." Folk groups attending are asked to bring their own "finger foods" such as cookies, and brownies. Soft drinks and coffee will be available.

Each folk group is asked to prepare two songs appropriate for liturgical celebrations.

Even though your parish may not have a group, interested parishioners are still asked to come so that everyone in the northwest region can participate, according to Sister Mary Poole, Northwest region liturgy chairman.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Star of Christmas, the nationally acclaimed Christmas production of the Strasenburgh Planetarium, is now showing through Jan. 6. Weekday showtime is 8 p.m. There are several matinees on the weekends.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE
Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

The most dreadful book I have ever read is Auschwitz, by a Hungarian Dr. Miklos Nyiszli. He himself was a prisoner in Auschwitz concentration camp. Because of the zeal for scientific studies on the part of some Nazi scientists, Dr. N. was not killed, but was given the post of camp pathologist, examining corpses of prisoners and making scientific reports of his findings. Daily he witnessed hundreds of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, religious and Communist men, women and children, stripped naked, marched to the "showers" and gassed to death. Daily he saw bodies loaded like wood for the crematories, excepting those sent to him for scientific research. I myself saw the concentration camp at Dachau in 1945 and can imagine the horror of concentration camps better than many.

Wouldn't you think that Dr. Nyiszli would have gone stark mad? The fact is that men can become used to evil and horrors to the point of apathy.

In our own country we see Planned Parenthood clinics, counseling for life prevention; for easy and safe fornication for the young, concomitant with "the pill," and with this aid, a skyrocketing of gonorrhea and syphilis; and when convenient, for abortions, death to the unborn. We see doctors, respected in communities for their traditional vocations to preserve men's lives, accepting fees to destroy unborn babies. In the fearful spirit of the German Jews we watch first the creeping, then the walking, then the marching, and now the charging of the abortionists, crusaders to destroy the unborn.

And we? Are we apathetic? Some are. Some are not. For example, Birth Right has a full-time office in Rochester which is non-denominational, and gives help to women and girls with difficult pregnancies; difficult because of social condition, e.g. unwed motherhood, or financial or even health problems. Right to

Life is another non-denominational group, which carries on an effective program of education regarding abortion, and works to reform our abominable laws. My own personal concern impelled me to write the two following letters.

Editor, Readers Digest
Pleasantville, New York 10570

"It is with reluctance I am asking you to cancel my subscription to the Readers Digest. For decades you were a bastion preserving human, patriotic and religious integrity. Even when most popular magazines capitulated to the sensual and sensational, you held firm.

I note with regret your experimentation to mollify the outraged, and to outrage the mollified. November's Digest just came. Reasoner's "Unforgettable Cardinal Cushing" is no sop to balance Dr. Guttmacher's "Why I Favor Abortion." The destruction of unborn children is a horror to millions of decent Protestants and Jews and Blacks, as well as to Catholics.

Will you kindly send me a neat listing of your advertisers, with their addresses; including the zip code, so our constituencies can get to the task? It will save us precious time. If this request strikes you as odd, it really is less odd than that the Digest should be promoting abortion."

Editor, Catholic Digest
St. Paul, Minn. 55165

"Enclosed is a letter to Readers Digest. Millions of Catholics have read the R.D. for years with much appreciation. It is a regret to see them capitulate to abortionists, esp. since they have a circulation of 18 million copies.

However, since nature abhors a vacuum, might it not be good for those who chose to cancel their Readers Digest to subscribe to the Catholic Digest? Would your PR promote the idea? Prospera!"

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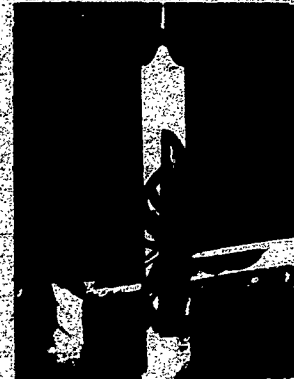
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