

THE SLOT MAN — Carmen Viglucci

This is the time when news services and publications reveal their choices for the top news stories of the past year. The religious press is no different.

Among items commonly selected as the top religious stories of 1973 were the Mideast War, the continuing conflict in Northern Ireland and U.S. Supreme Court decisions on abortion and aid to nonpublic schools.

We have a suspicion that the events that didn't take place during 1973 were the really big stories. With the perspective of a new year, world leaders will review 1973 and in 1974 will correct history.

For instance:

Golda Meir and Anwar Sadat will shake hands, tell each other shalom, agree to end once and for all this damned foolishness and show the world they are God-fearing people who just won't be part of killing any more.

Shortly thereafter, the Israelis and Egyptians will depose their respective leaders and start a new war.

Richard M. Nixon will take to television and tell his audience, "Whew, boy, did I tell you some whoppers! Look, I'm sorry I just got carried away with all that mandate talk and when things got bad I got scared and made them worse. If you want me to leave, let me know." Millions of Americans will let him know and in a second television appearance he will say, "Cee, can't you tell when I'm only fooling."

CBN Adds TV Channel

Portsmouth, Va. [RNS] — The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), an evangelical operation with headquarters here, has signed an agreement to purchase KTVW-TV, Channel 13, in Seattle, Wash.

Channel 13 will be the fifth TV station to be owned outright by CBN, a production and syndication operation founded in 1961 by M.G. Robertson, now president of the organization.

"We are just astounded at the growth the Lord has given us," Stanley Ditchfield, CBN vice-president of marketing said here.

In addition to its new Seattle station, CBN owns KXTX-TV in Dallas, WYAH-TV in Norfolk-Portsmouth, WHAE-TV in Atlanta, and WXNE-TV in Boston, now under construction and expected to go on the air this year.

The Christian Broadcasting Network also has affiliated commercial stations in Houston, Detroit, Baltimore, Charlotte, Roanoke, Hartford, Greenville, S.C. and two California centers — and a cable television outreach serving hundreds of smaller cities across the nation.

CBN also owns and operates a five-station radio network in New York State, including WCBN in Ithaca.

A new group will endorse suicide as a population control measure bolstering its theme with the argument that suicide is an individual decision and therefore up to each person to decide for himself. Immediately clinics will spring up around the country so that potential suicides will not have to resort to "back-alley butchers" and can do away with themselves in sterile surroundings.

Some people will object to this but columnists will say they are religious fanatics.

The head of the IRA and his Ulster Protestant counterpart will sit down over a stout and recite together Kipling's lines, "The colonel's lady and Judy O'Grady are sisters under their skins." Instead of blowing up the pub they will drink together until closing.

Key 74 will be a resounding success.

A nationwide groundswell of support will win amnesty for Indochina War draft resisters. This will happen after Richard M. Nixon announces to the nation via television, "To err is human, to forgive divine." Some will notice a halo around the President's head as he speaks.

An obscure Transylvanian astronomer named Klenzir will announce the coming of a comet and hordes of sects will announce that this means the end of the world. The only ones who will see the comet will be a soap salesman who develops an ad campaign around it.

A Rochester paper recycling company, Better Life Services Corp., has announced that an avid newspaper reader can accumulate nearly 16 pounds of waste newsprint a week. The company weighed six issues of both Rochester dailies, the Sunday Democrat and Chronicle, the Sunday New York Times, a suburban weekly and a shopping guide. Saved up for a year, the company advises, that weekly pile could add up to \$8 if any groups are interested. Just think how much more it would be worth if the diocesan weekly were included!

Mail continues to arrive addressed in odd terms to Bishop Joseph E. Hogan. The latest entry was sent to Rochester Catholic Press, Attention, Mr. B.J. Hogan, president. They wanted to know if he needed a loan.

Another Courier-Journal writer is the recipient of a journalism award. Dick Baumbach labors as our Elmira correspondent but his main job is with the Star Gazette. He learned recently that the Associated Press cited him for his work during the June 1972 flood. The award was made in November of that year but Baumbach didn't learn about it until a year later when his newspaper posted all its awards on a wall. Fame may be fleeting but sometimes it sure takes a long time in arriving.

Ecumenism Runs High At Church Street Court

By PEG PEASE

Hornell — The spirit of Ecumenism has been running high at Church Street Court, the senior citizen's complex of beautiful apartments and well-

SWEM Slates Unity Prayer

The Southwest Ecumenical Mission (SWEM) will hold a special ecumenical service at St. Augustine's Church on Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. in conjunction with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Speaker for the service will be Father Arthur F. Gouthro, SA, director of the ecumenical institute of Craymoor, Garrison, N.Y. The Craymoor fathers are the founders of the Week of Prayer.

Father Gouthro holds degrees in Dogmatic Theology from the Catholic University in Washington and Ecumenical Theology from St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Canada.

More information regarding the week of prayer or the service can be obtained by calling 436-7940 or 328-9363.

kept grounds dotted by evergreens and when in season, flowerboxes laden with vibrant color.

This closely knit group decided many months ago to celebrate joint services once each month at their recreation center and each month alternating with a priest or minister. At the most recent Holiday Mass held Dec. 21, Father William Cosgrove, chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, officiated, with 34 elderly residents and guests celebrating around an altar banked with white carnations and holly.

Mrs. Helen Brown, who has been instrumental in bringing the services to the court, along with Helen Holloway and Jack Mahoney, said that Catholic and non-Catholic residents alike "look forward to the spirit of unity the services afford."

"They bring us more closely together and we look around and feel one big happy family," she said. Dr. Richard Hasler of First Presbyterian Church will officiate at Jan. 24 services to be held at the Center at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Brown urged "even the outsiders" to attend and concluded by saying, "some of us are on crutches as I have been recently — others use canes or walkers but we make it and come away enriched."

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