



THE CHURCH 1974
— Fr. Andrew Greeley

Now that the *Star Trek* reruns have completed their fourth round, my new TV hero is Theo Kojack, the Polish New York police lieutenant played by a Greek. (Lt. Columbo is Jewish, but that's all right because the Jewish cop in *Steels of New York* is Italian. Only in America!) The scripts may be weak, but the atmosphere is authentic and Telly Sevalas is an ethnic par excellence — a combination of toughness and tenderness that ought to put to rest forever the disgraceful Polish jokes which still clutter up the networks.

Kojack isn't married. The police department is his life. But then, Owen Marshall isn't married either, nor is Mannix, Marcus Welby, Chief Ironsides, Perry Mason, Matt Dillon, Mr. Spock, Jim Phelps, Barnaby Jones, or Captain Chase. Neither was Shane, Sherlock Holmes, Nero Wolfe, or Hercule Poirot.

There are, of course, married



MARY REED NEWLAND

Mrs. Newland To Lecture Here

As part of St. Ambrose Parish's adult education lecture series, Mary Reed Newland, author and lecturer, will speak on "Parishes and Families," Tuesday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m., at the church's Dailey Hall, 31 Empire Blvd.

Mrs. Newland has written eight books and numerous magazine articles on Christian family life. She has appeared frequently on radio and television and presented a TV series in Hartford, Conn., on teaching the Bible to children. She has lectured on religious education, family life, liturgy, scripture, adult education, and ecumenism, and has taught at the College of St. Rose and Siena College in Albany. In 1972, she was appointed chairman of the Committee on Adult and Home Education for the Diocese of Albany.

Her lecture at St. Ambrose is open to all. Donations will be accepted.

**Reading Skills
Core Topic**

Reading improvement programs and the selection of appropriate materials will be discussed tomorrow at Nazareth College. A specialist in the field will address school superintendents, principals, reading supervisors and teachers in a three-session conference scheduled for 2:30-9 p.m.

Sister Rosemary Winklejohn of Urbana, Ill., will talk about the "rationale, classification and effective use of published materials" in district, school and classroom programs. She is assistant director of the Education Resources Center Information Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, in Urbana.

The three sessions will be held in the Nazareth Arts Center auditorium, under the auspices of the college and the Rochester Area Council of the International Reading Association. Dinner will be served from 5:30 until 7.

TV heroes — John Walton, Commissioner MacMillan (one wonders how he and Ironsides get along), Archie Bunker — but they are a minority. And in most of the adventure stories the conflict between family and job is compelling. It is hard to be a dedicated cop (private eye, doctor, lawyer, marshal, vulcan) and still maintain ordinary relationships.

In the mystery stories Roderick Inland succumbed to his artist lady friend, John Appelby did indeed marry Judith, and Peter Wimsey finally captured that rather tiresome woman he pursued well into advanced middle age. But the real detectives — Lew Archer, Sam Spade, Phillip Marlowe — follow the celibate path blazed for them by C. Auguste Dupin, S. Holmes, and N. Wolfe.

Are they trying to tell us something?

I had not thought of the celibate folk hero until a seminarian pointed it out to me. There is, he argued, a natural symbolism of dedication in the celibate life that is understood and accepted by almost everyone in our society. There is no anguished cry of outrage or protest when our adventure heroes are portrayed as men whose dedication and commitment is so great that family life is not for them. On the contrary, we accept such symbolism of dedication as a matter of course. It is right and proper that Shane should ride over the mountains alone, that Deerslayer never gets the girl, that Sherlock never turn to his violin and his cocaine for solace. Theo Kojack is merely the most recent of a long line of celibate folk heroes. Far from the symbolism of celibacy being foreign to our culture it is an integral part of it.

And the celibacy of Kojack, Poirot, Shane, Wolfe, Mannix is not merely a celibacy based on convenience. Obviously if Nero had a wife he would have less time for his orchids, and Holmes couldn't have bounded over to catch a train for some isolated moor if he had kids to worry about. No cop with a family would take the chances that Kojack, Mannix, and Lew Archer take. Freedom from attachments and responsibility facilitates their work.

But that is not all, it is not even the most important thing about their celibacy. "Being alone" has critical symbolic value. It represents the total involvement of their personalities in their work. They are men possessed by a vision of what the world ought to be like and have dedicated their entire beings to the pursuit of their goal. None of us think that they are crazy or immature or misfits. On the contrary, if Shane came riding back we would be disappointed in him. If Kojack left the force to marry we would feel betrayed. If Captain Kirk messed around with one of the women in his crew we would be outraged. And it is inconceivable that we would approve if Holmes had resigned to marry Irene Adler.

Like I say, are they trying to tell us something?

Deaths

Mary Sercu

Mass of the Resurrection for Mary Lillian Sercu was celebrated Dec. 24 at St. Ambrose Church by Fathers James Marvin and Richard Beligotti.

Mrs. Sercu, wife of Engelbert E. Sercu of Laurelton Road, died Dec. 20, 1973, at the age of 79. She was a member of the St. Ambrose Rosary Society and of the Mercy Guild.

Surviving besides her husband are five daughters, Mrs. Mary Edith Agness, Mrs. Ernest (Dorothy) Willett, Mrs. John (Jeannette) Wahl, Miss Lucille Sercu, RN, and Sister Mary Lucetta RSM; eight grandchildren; a brother, J. Francis Kinzel, a niece and a grand-nephew.

Rose McAvoy

Rose M. McAvoy of Chestnut Bend Road, Webster, died Dec. 15, 1973. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Rita's, with burial in Binghamton.

Mrs. McAvoy is survived by two daughters, Miss Betty McAvoy and Mrs. Clarence (Rose) VanEpps; 10 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Samuel (Loretta) Weir of Binghamton, and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. McMillen

Dr. James Joseph McMillen of Mansfield Pa., a dental surgeon, died Dec. 29, 1973, after an intermittent illness of several months. He was a native of Corning and had several relatives in the Rochester area.

He was the father of Tom McMillen, University of Maryland basketball star who played with the U.S. Olympic team in Munich in 1972. The Maryland team attended the funeral.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Jan. 1 in Mansfield's Holy Child Church, a new church which Dr. McMillen helped to plan and finance.

He had practiced his profession in Mansfield for 43 years, and for 15 years had been chief of the dental staff at the recently closed state hospital in the neighboring community of Blossburg.

Dr. McMillen was educated at Corning Free Academy, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Michigan and Northwestern. He was a fellow of the International College of Dental Surgeons, a member of State and National dental societies and a past president of his county and district dental societies. He was a member of

VETERANS' PARTY

Knights of Columbus, Rochester Council 178 will entertain residents of the Bath Veterans' Center with a party, Sunday, Jan. 13. The council will distribute small gifts, and shows will be staged by Mrs. Albert Leopold and Mrs. Valarie Leopold Wilke. Bruce Decker will provide the music.

the Knights of Columbus in Wellsboro and a charter member of the Lions Club of Mansfield.

Survivors are his widow, Margaret Hager McMillen, and five children, Sheila, Mary Elizabeth, J.J. McMillen, J. Paul and Tom; a brother, Bernard, of Dunedin, Fla., and a sister, Mrs. Lynne Cooper of Rochester. Relatives in this area include also two nieces, Mrs. Gerald Sullivan of Rochester and Mrs. Frederick Woehrlen of Churchville.

Edward Murphy

Elmira Heights — Mass of the Resurrection for Edward L. Murphy was celebrated Dec. 24 at St. Charles Borromeo Church by his brother and six priests from this area.

Mr. Murphy, a World War I veteran and a former conductor on the old Pennsylvania Railroad, died Dec. 21, 1973.

Father Donald J. Murphy, pastor of St. Pius X, Rochester, concelebrated with Msgr. Leo Schwab and Fathers Joseph Gaynor, John Leary, Raymond

Wuest, Edward Foy and Henry Adamski. Other priests present were Fathers Stephen Chomko, William Tobin, James Collins and William Streb.

Mr. Murphy is survived by two sons who live in Florida, Edward of Pensacola, and Lawrence of Sarasota; three daughters, Mrs. Mary E. Stevens and Mrs. Joseph L. Sullivan of Elmira and Mrs. Peter J. Loftus, Maplewood, N.J.; also, a daughter-in-law, Mrs. John F. Murphy of Indianapolis; 23 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, and a sister in Auburn, Sister Francis deSales, SSJ.

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