

THE CHURCH 1974

The style and the structure of ecclesiastical organization reflects the culture of the outside society. In ancient times the bishop was modeled after the Roman senator—a wise, learned policymaker in Rome and a sophisticated diplomatic proconsul in the provinces.

The senator and the senatorial bishop were responses to the conditions of the Empire in the early Christian era. Gradually, as the barbarians knocked at the door, the proconsul became the leader of the local city, which made him part wise man and part general. His ecclesiastical counterpart was following the same evolutionary path.

In the Middle Ages leadership in the Church began to change again to respond to the chaotic conditions of the time and the difficult task of making the barbarian tribesmen, who had been baptized en masse into real Christians. The typical secular leader was the "lord," the absolute military ruler whose slightest word was law and to whom vassals and serfs owed absolute obedience.

When you became a vassal you gave up your rights to the lord in return for his guarantee of military protection against the various invading armies that swept across Europe. Such a primitive political organization was a response to the times, and it turned out to be a remarkably effective one.

In the religious communities that emerged in those days the same concept of lord-vassal relationship was codified in the superior-subject relation. It was an effective way to organize a community in an era of simple problems and a relatively uneducated clergy.

It was probably the only way a community could be kept together. One wise man capable of leading was all a community could hope to expect at any given time. He had to make all the decisions for everyone, since there was no one else to make them. The simple, unlettered rank and file were quite incapable of taking care of themselves in the chaotic times in which they lived.

In the Renaissance this lord-vassal relationship was modified somewhat. The lord became a Renaissance monarch with absolute power. The medieval lord and the medieval prior were controlled both by the customs of the community and by the possibility of removal. Indeed the medieval orders were extremely democratic in the sense that while the leader had immense power, he still was elected, and frequently for a limited term. The Renaissance bishop (and the pope) served for life, and no power on earth dared question him.

Now it probably isn't necessary

Blue Army Vigil At Holy Rosary

An all-night vigil in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary will be sponsored by the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Rosary Church beginning at 9 p.m. April 5.

Father Paul Cuddy will begin the vigil with a Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart at 9 p.m. Other participants include Father John Duffy, 10-11 p.m.; Father Frederick W. Bush, 11 p.m.-12 a.m.; (coffee break 12-1 a.m.); Deacon Stephen Krause, 1-2 a.m.; Deacon William Hodges, 2-3 a.m.; (coffee break 3-4 a.m.); Father Neil Miller, 4-5 a.m.; and Father John Poluikis, 5-6 a.m.

Father Robert Meng will conclude the vigil with a Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at 6 a.m.

to point out that there have been changes. Community is now not made up of serfs who are uneducated and who can barely read and write. The goals of community are no longer sheer survival in the face of barbarian hordes. The problem for any human organization is to find ways to release and support the creative energies of the strongly motivated, highly trained sophisticated professionals who constitute the group so that these professionals can address themselves to the complex, subtle challenges of the contemporary world.

The superior-subject relationship of the medieval world, with its notion of cessation of rights and absolute obedience, is simply unsuited to such a task. Secular organizations have long since learned this. The emergent structure is the consortium or collegium of self-motivated, mutually supporting professionals—presided over by a chairman who is a coordinator rather than a superior and who is elected for a very short term.

It is time that the Church structures move in this direction. To the extent that religious communities do this, they will survive. If they do not they will be no more appropriate for our time than would be a Roman senator reborn.

What I cannot understand about my Franciscan critics is that they are so eager to defend the medieval and irrelevant right of the superior to make, for example, all health decisions for his subjects. In a time when he was not simply the only one in the community who knew anything about health but probably the only one who could treat illness, such a responsibility would make sense. Now it's an anachronism, and to defend it indicates a lack of understanding of why it came into being in the first place.

It seems to me to be clear that many religious orders are moving rapidly towards the consortium or collegium structure in practice, but they are still afraid of making the theoretical jump necessary to underpin what they are doing. Hence the vigorous defense by some of my Franciscan critics of a concept of obedience and yielding "in part" (whatever that may mean) of rights to the superior. It is a theory that is followed rarely but must be defended because it is the traditional theory, however irrelevant it has become.

That's their privilege, of course, but the sooner they jettison the old theory and develop one that describes what they are actually doing the more likely they are to attract mature, competent young men to their numbers.

Honesty and completeness compel me to note, incidentally, that a reanalysis of the NORC priest study under way indicates the religious orders compare favorably with the diocesan clergy in coping with the problem of supervision. Religious under strong pressure to leave the priesthood are more likely to stay precisely because they have less of a supervision problem.

One final comment before I declare this controversy closed as far as I am concerned. Some Franciscan superiors—doubtless motivated by the spirit of their founder—have started a letter-writing campaign against me. (One tells me I am going to lose a "large following." Since I have never sought a following, that's not my problem but it may be theirs.) However, I have also been getting letters from Franciscans—and by no means all of them young—strongly supporting what I have written. They all plead with me not to mention their names.

Migrant Workers League Day Topic

The problems of migrant farm workers will be the topic for League Day sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Thursday, April 4, from 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at the Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover St. Guest speaker will be Dr. Gloria Mattera, director of the New York State Migrant Center.

Babysitting is available for children over 18 months at 75 cents per child. Coffee will be served at 9-15 a.m.

COURIER WANT ADS

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HELP WANTED

COOK: To serve prepared evening meal of religious community and alternating weekends. Experience not necessary, mature, good judgment prerequisite. Call 482-9442, 9:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

PART: Time work for Spring rush. Good pay, car necessary. Call 467-1466.

BUSINESS SERVICES

FLOOR: sanding, refinishing. Dependable service since 1921. Reasonable. Cy Callemeyn, 865-1353, 458-6685.

PAINTING and paper hanging, free estimates, quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 663-0827.

ODD Jobs: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters etc. 436-4421.

POCKET billiard tables recovered and refurnished. Complete line of supplies. 647-3300.

SEWING Machine Repairs. 30 years experience. All Makes and Models. Free Estimates. All work guaranteed for full year. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

CARPENTER work. Porch steps, small jobs, remodeling, paneling, wind damage repairs. Free estimates. ROBERT BULLUCK, 845-2448.

INCOME TAX SERVICE. Call for Appointment. Gary Proud, 454-6573.

PAPER hanging & painting. Good service. Edelson 271-4788 or 473-7925.

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CARPET Installation, Repair. Free estimates, reasonable. Expert workmanship. Guaranteed. 244-9651.

WEDDING INVITATIONS: Accessories from \$1.50 per hundred. Free "Planning your Wedding" book. CHARLOTTE WEDDING SERVICE, 845-2644.

WHIRLPOOL: Kenmore Washers, Dryers repaired. (Rochester, surrounding and near by towns) Normal service call, \$6.95 plus parts if needed, and tax. 271-2652, 266-2129.

SINGER Sewing Centers are proud to announce that new technological research has now developed a new knit conversion kit for most early Singer models, which will greatly improve performance on knit fabrics. Special introductory offer this week only. Call or inquire at the Singer Company Midtown Plaza, 732-2347.

CHILD Care available. Pre-schooler. Seneca-Longacre area. 467-3906.

ENTERTAINMENT

WILL Babyait — My Home, 321 Ravenwood Avenue. Walking distance Good Counsel. 436-7134.

PIANO Tuning, Experienced tuner, reasonable. Jerry Gallagher, 482-4041.

JAN Cursio Orchestra — Dance music, weddings, parties, banquets, 454-9714.

FREDDY Beck Orchestra, finest music, weddings, parties 247-4358.

FOR RENT

WANTED TO RENT: Unfurnished, 2 bedroom, utilities, by couple with 1 child. Gates, Chili, Spencerport area. \$125-\$150. month. 594-2167 or 426-1846.

22 WARD — Seven room house, two car garage. Available April 6, after 6 p.m. 467-7228.

ST. Francis Xavier Upper apartment, adults preferred. Call for information. 482-2159.

LARGE front bedroom near Church — Stores — Bus — 482-4522. Reasonable. Irondequoit.

FOUR Rooms for rent — 248 Spencer Street.

NORTHEAST Section: Unfurnished, six room apartment, adults preferred. 266-1697.

GARSON-CULVER SECTION: Three rooms, bath, heated, parking, references. 482-3908.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

HELP FEED POOR — Send store coupons. St. Mary, 208 Livingston St., Elizabeth, N.J. 07204.

WALSWORTH Family Type home for Adults. Ideal, pleasant, all conveniences. Residents must be ambulatory. 8176 Dr. Creek Road, Nunda, N.Y. 14517. 468-2465.

WANTED: Retired gentleman to live in with same. Reduced rent, large house, yard. References. Write box 16 in care of this paper.

MEMORIAL Weekend in M.H. Our Lady of LaSalette. Leaving May 25th returning 27th. Annual Canadian Pilgrimage to St. Anne, Our Lady of the Cap. St. Joseph's Montreal, also Our Lady of LaSalette in Enfield, N.H. For any information call Mrs. Mary Colavecchia, 190 Independence St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. BE-3-8134.

SWIMMING Pools. Buy direct from manufacturer and save. We accept recreational vehicles as trade on our own pools. (campers, boats, snowmobiles, motor cycles, trailers or what have you) Call collect (716) 381-6421.

FOR SALE

1974 CONSOLE Stereo. Damaged in shipment. AM-FM Radio, 4 speed turntable, built in 8 Track. Will sell for \$139 or terms arranged. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

1973 GOLDEN Stitch & Sew sewing machine. Brand new, never been used. Full size, heavy duty. Makes button holes, bairns, monograms, automatic bobbin winder. 25 year guarantee. 1 year free sewing instructions. Full price, \$31 or 3 monthly payments of \$13. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

1973 HOOVER Vacuum. Brand New with attachments. Will sell for \$59 or terms arranged. Call Mr. Needle, 288-2100.

BILLIARD Tables. Custom built to your specifications. Call or stop in. 500 Lyell Ave. 458-5220.

1973 CHEROKEE. 180 Amp. pilot, omni-tracker transponder, boom mike, 190 flight hours. Box 20 in care of this paper.

FORD Mustang, 1967 Automatic. Very little rust. Good body, transmission, motor. Very good snow tires. 106 Vayo St. Off Empire Blvd. 482-7933. After 3 p.m.

175 CZ Road & Trail. 45 mpg. only 312 miles. moved to Fla. Excellent! \$495. 482-1626.

BABY crib, good condition, complete, \$16.50. 454-5493.

CHROME Patient lift for invalids, like new. \$200. 467-7468.

GARAGE Sale. 2452 Dewey Avenue. April 5-7, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Clothing, furniture, etc.

1966 CHEVY convertible, 8 cyl., runs good. Call 467-3418.

PRETTY 5 room home for sale. Finished basement. 12 years old. 643-4526.

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