



Auxiliary Bishop Joseph C. McKinney
Charismatic Movement

'Like a Baby Starting to Walk'

By JOHN DASH

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph C. McKinney describes himself as the adventurous type, a characteristic that brought him to his knees almost five years ago in an event that was to alter profoundly his spiritual life.

The event was his introduction to the charismatic movement.

The genial and casual bishop from Grand Rapids, Mich., was in Rochester last week to lead diocesan priests in their annual retreat and spoke with the Courier-Journal on the movement, for which he is today regarded as a leading apostle.

"I think the key thing for people looking at this movement today is that it's not a finished product. It's a growing development. I think if you compare it to human life, you don't look at a baby starting to walk and expect him to be an adult out there, making a living and raising a family. There's going to be a lot of areas for growth and development, but I really think we've got a healthy child."

In August 1970, Bishop McKinney was in prayer with a group of priests. He had been challenged some time previously by a layman to present the central "theme" of the Church, and the bishop was looking for that theme.

In the course of his prayer he requested Father George Kosicki to pray over him, and at that point the bishop experienced the truth that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

"I found the answer to a key question and a direction for the development of my spiritual life that has enriched my life ever since," he once said of that moment.

The astonishing growth of the movement in the United States, where it originated, is a "surprise of the Holy Spirit," the bishop says. He wonders "whether this may not be our greatest religious export."

"Everything about this movement has developed in America," he says.

"In 1900 it started. We called them Holy Rollers and we laughed at them and we weren't going to roll on floors. In 1950 it hit traditional churches and they had a lot of resistance too. Some ministers were ostracized but it survived, and in 1967 it hit the Catholic Church."

The bishop notes that most people who are aware of pentecostalism, find the Catholic expression of it "the most beautiful, because it seems to be solid, it seems to be deeper and it doesn't seem to be as emotional. The whole tradition of the Church seems to be feeding it beautifully."

He says that many Protestant pentecostals note that Catholics have "got it together better even though we are the last ones on the scene."

He chuckles when he notes that the Church in Ireland has asked for information and speakers for the movement from the United States, pointing up the irony of the faith returning to the land from which a great deal of it came.

A significant development will draw the bishop to Ireland later this year. In Belfast there are Protestant-Catholic prayer meetings. The bishop said that he has heard of a militant Protestant minister's wife inviting Catholics to prayer, and the minister subsequently shedding his militancy.

"Dissension," he remarked several times in the course of the conversation, "is not of the Spirit."

The bishop sees a theoretical hope for serving the black community through the charismatic movement. A hope, whose fulfillment is not presently evident and which puzzles him.

His experience of the black community is through seminary days in Rome where he came into great contact with students from Africa.

He postulates that the the American experience of slavery and the subsequent rise of black power may have vitiated for the present the impact the movement may have.

Whereas, in Africa, he says, the movement is spreading "like wildfire."

While Bishop McKinney's first devotion is to his parish, St. Stephen's in Grand Rapids, his second love is to encourage his fellow bishops in charismatic renewal.

"Right now I don't know of an American bishop that's negative," he says. "I think the question is now how can I get them to take a closer look at it. I don't know of anyone who's taken a closer look and not come out shaking his head and saying 'It's good.'"

A Colorful Day For Msgr. Schmitt

"Father" George J. Schmitt of Holy Family wore his red-violet cassock at Mass June 8 to mark the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

That was the celebration — bringing out the cassock for the first time in three years. Its color indicates that he is a domestic prelate, a Right Reverend Monsignor. He doesn't use the title.

He doesn't celebrate anniversaries any more. The parish wanted to, "but I told them to forget it," he explained.

In his 86th year, he goes about the priestly business of, visiting the sick in hospitals, accompanying funerals to the cemetery, "and talking to the people on the street."

Msgr. Schmitt, the last Rochester priest from the St. Bernard's class of 1914, has lived at Holy Family for 24 years. He stepped down from the pastorate in 1966, to transfer its burdens "to younger shoulders." He

organized St. Ann's parish in 1930 and ran it for 20 years.

He has one major, annual project — the novena to Good St. Anne, July 17-25. This has been continuous in Rochester since 1884, he said, "and we really do very well with it."

ROOFING • SIDING LEAK SPECIALISTS

- Established 25 Years
- Check Our Reputation
- QUALITY WORK AT FAIR PRICES
- BONDED AND INSURED
- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
- FOR COURTEOUS FREE ESTIMATE CALL

JACK KENNY
881 MONROE AVE. 271-7239

A NEW CONCEPT IN WALL COVERING

PANEL WORLD CAN GIVE YOU ONE DAY INSTALLATION OF OUR BEAUTIFUL PANELING NO JOB TOO SMALL

Paneling

769 EMERSON ST. Call Day or Nite 458-2000

Family Rooms
Kitchens, Baths.
Ceilings, Basements
Remodeled

St. John of Rochester

Perpetual miraculous medal novena every Tuesday evening 7:30 Devotions, communion & benediction

Rt. 31 near Pittsford Palmyra exit 490 east

(ejoo-kā'shən lōnz)

RSB

A low cost education loan from Rochester Savings Bank. Just the answer for those upcoming college expenses.

Member F.D.I.C.
Rochester Savings Bank
"where your green grows"

Rochester (Main) 49 Franklin St.
47 W. Main St.
255 E. Main St.
Midtown Plaza
Irondequoit Office 2111 Hudson Ave.
Brookport Office 4617 Lake Rd.

Ridgmont Plaza
Pittsford Plaza
Eastview Mall
Webster Office 13 E. Main St.

IT'S YUMMY!

Leon V. Kofod

This woman is happy to have ample food, clothes, and a place to call home at a Catholic Mission Home for the Aged. Thousands of other elderly poor people in mission countries know only hunger, illness, and agonizing loneliness.

Missionaries want to reach out with their love to those yet in need. But they need YOUR help!

PLEASE help make the "golden years" happy years for others—send a special mission gift today.

I want to share in the work of today's dedicated missionaries serving the old and young wherever there is need. Enclosed is a special gift of \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ask about the Society's Gift Annuity Plan.

Salvation and Service are the work of

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Send your gift to:

Most Rev. Edward T. O'Meara
National Director
Dept. C, 366 Fifth Avenue
New York 10001

OR

Rev. Joseph F. Reinhart
Diocesan Director
123 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14604
716-454-2926