

Guild Gifts

Mrs. Marjorie Smith, immediate past president of the Kieran Guild of St. James Mercy Hospital, is shown presenting Sister Mary Rene, administrator, with a check and equipment for the pediatric department of the hospital. The gifts, a blender, three NipNaps, four blankets, ten training cups, three mobiles and a check for \$108, to purchase card holders for patients' rooms, were made possible by fund raising activities held by the Guild this past year.

THE CHURCH 1974

Editor: Andrew Greeley

"L'Osservatore Romano" — the Vatican's equivalent of "Pravda" — has recently delivered itself of a violent, though opaque, attack on priests who become involved in politics, psychology, and sociology. The problem with such involvement, "Osservatore" warns, is that priests become so entangled in their secular occupation that commitment to the priesthood slips away.

No one would deny that this sort of thing can and does happen. But to be fair the Vatican "viewers-with-alarm" ought to have noted that involvement in ecclesiastical administration has been known to despiritualize priests as much as sociology or politics. Indeed, one might wonder of such administrators — and some wear the sacred purple and even the sacred scarlet — whether there is anything at all of the priesthood left in them. Certainly their reluctance to give up office at retirement age would suggest that they might be something like the major in "Hogan's Goat": "If I'm not an ecclesiastical bureaucrat, I am nothing."

One could make the same observation about priests who teach in schools, or who write theology books, or who engage in psychotherapeutic counseling, or who edit newspapers. The warning is well taken: it is easy to forget what the priesthood is really about. But it is curious that one kind of clergy are selected for a special warning when the problem seems universal in the priesthood — and can even be seen not too far from "L'Osservatore's" own office.

Those who are skilled in translating the oracular comments of "Osservatore" into language that ordinary people can understand tell us that the person the Curial sheet had in mind was John McLaughlin, the hapless Jesuit who has been attempting to defend Mr. Nixon. A lot of things begin to make sense if this be the case. Father Cleary, the Jesuit Provincial who summoned McLaughlin to a week of prayer, may well have been responding to Vatican pressure. It could be that the "holy see" (which usually means someone somewhere in the Vatican who reads American newspapers) got alarmed at what was thought to be very unfavorable publicity in the American press.

In any event, whether the attack was aimed at McLaughlin or not, it comes with singular ill grace from the Curia, which has just escaped from one of the Church's most disastrous political interventions in recent history. There was a lot of opposition to

Italy's new divorce legislation, and there may well have been a majority of the Italian public who would have opposed it. If the Vatican had kept its mouth shut, the referendum would certainly have been close, but ecclesiastical spokesmen blundered into the battle and snatched defeat from the jaws of victory.

The proponents of the new legislation made the subject of the referendum not divorce but the Church's meddling into politics. They won in a walk. Most commentators thought that a substantial proportion of the vote in favor of the legislation was actually a vote against insensitive and crude Vatican intervention.

"But it was a moral issue," say the defenders of ecclesiastical intervention. Doubtless it was, but the point is that if you are going to intervene in politics at all, you must play the political game. Either you stay out of the arena or you enter it and follow a strategy that is designed to win. If you are going to get involved in politics and insist on a hard-line, insensitive approach that guarantees victory to your opponents, it would have been better not to enter the game in the first place. Most churchmen seem quite incapable of grasping this simple fact. Their political style concentrates on harsh self-righteous moralizing positively guaranteed to award victory to the opposition (this weakness is ecumenical, not limited to the Catholics).

Most politicians, therefore, are delighted to learn that the Church has entered the lists on the other side. It gives them a new issue to detract from the real ones, and it automatically provides them with a substantial bloc of votes from people who resent clerical dictation in politics. Indeed, a really smart politician would try to induce the Church (any church) to enter a campaign on the other side.

So "Osservatore" might some day write an editorial on priests who enter politics who have not bothered to learn political skills. I don't think, however, that the editors would grasp that in its own order such blundering is as much of a corruption of a human professional commitment as is the behavior of a priest who lets some other auxiliary role define his identity.

If priests are to be politicians (and I rather think they ought not to be), the least they can do is to be good ones, which is to say they should win elections, not lose them.

Alas! Pigeons on the Grass Pose Problems for Nuns

St. Cloud, Minn. (RNS) — The Sisters of St. Benedict at the Zardetti Convent here finally got fed up with the pigeons.

Early in the morning and late each night hundreds of the birds made a racket and during the rest of the day they made an awful mess on convent window sills.

The nuns bought rubber snakes at a dime store and tied them in strategic places about their century-old building, hoping the ersatz serpents would scare away the birds. They didn't.

At one point, the Sisters considered raiding the nests, cooking the eggs, and replacing them so the pigeons would continue trying to hatch the

hardboiled eggs rather than lay fresh ones.

Finally, the convent's 14 nuns sent a letter to the City Council asking for a municipal pigeon-control program. The result: One of the biggest controversies in recent years for St. Cloud and one that promises a continued public furor in coming weeks.

So far, the City Council has authorized and then rescinded a pigeon-control program. Political groups have threatened court action to stop "pigeon poisoning." Grade school pupils have circulated petitions to save the birds. City officials face the political nightmare of a public debate over killing feathered creatures. And City Hall

telephones have been ringing at a record pace.

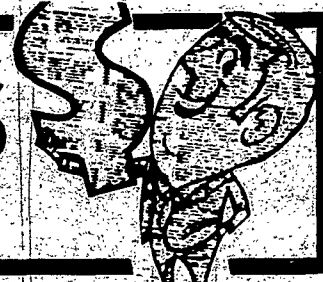
The nuns at the Zardetti convent, unaccustomed to participating in a public controversy, report receiving telephone calls and irate letters from townsfolk regarding the pigeons. As a consequence they are trying to stay out of the spotlight as the debate continues.

"Every window ledge is thick with goop," according to one report about conditions at the convent. "Some Sisters can't open their bedroom windows because of the stench."

Father Robert J. Voight, pastor of Holy Angels Parish which is served by the convent, suggested that defenders of the pigeons take turns harboring them.

COURIER WANT ADS

pay off



HELP WANTED

LIGHT Housekeeping in exchange for board and room. Could have other job. Write box 14 in care of this paper.

BABYSITTER needed three evenings a week. References. 244-8316.

HOUSEKEEPER for suburban rectory. Good salary & benefits. Ideal opportunity for right person. Be independent and useful. Very nice apartment and amiable surroundings. References required. Call 381-4294.

PART time business, excellent income, no regular hours, price reasonable. Box 30, this paper.

ASSISTANT to Director — Diocesan Office of Human Development. Responsibilities: Screen social issues for Diocese, systematize internal and external reporting, regional development of social action committees, help with public relations. Qualifications: Academic and experiential credentials, belief in social mission of Church. Salary — \$9,000-\$10,000 and benefits. Applications due August 5th. Call or write Office of Human Development, 750 W. Main Street, Rochester, New York 14611. 716-328-6400.

BUSINESS SERVICE

FLOOR sanding, refinishing. Dependable service since 1921. Reasonable. JCV Callmeyer, 865-1353, 458-6685.

PAINTING and paper hanging, free estimates, quality work. Dan Burmaster, 663-0927.

CARPENTER work. Porch steps, small jobs, remodeling, paneling, wind damage repairs. Free estimates. ROBERT BULLOCK, 865-2448.

MASON Work — Patios, chimneys, brick steps, garage floors, sidewalks, planters. 27 years experience. Free estimates. DiNapoli Brothers, 458-3566.

ROOFING — Re-roofing, patch work, chimneys. 27 years experience. Free estimates. DiNapoli Brothers, 458-3566.

CARPENTRY: Kitchens, garages, additions, bathrooms. Check our Reputation. DiNapoli Brothers, 458-3566.

CHIMNEYS: Rebuilt, pointed, patched, cement coated. 27 years experience. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Brothers, 458-3566.

END PAINTING FOREVER. We apply aluminum trim cornishes, gables, windows, doors, insured. Expert applicator. 328-2827.

ROOFING-SIDING. New, repairs, insurance cases. Expert applicator, insured. Free estimates. 328-2827.

CHIMNEYS — NEW rebuilt, repaired. Expert Mason. Free estimates. Insured. 328-2827.

YOUR Wedding Album. Tastefully Done. Jack Tripp Photography. Portfolio shown on request. 288-5569.

WHIRLPOOL Kenmore Washers, Dryers repaired. (Rochester, surrounding and near by towns) Normal service call, \$8.95 flat rate plus parts. If needed and tax, 271-2652, 266-2129.

PAINTING, interior, exterior. Done by experienced painter. Fair prices and free estimates. 594-4724.

P & P Painting and Decorating Co. Interior and Outdoor painting. Courteous estimates. Peter Morse, 223-1876.

CARPET Cleaning — Professional cleaning rates, designed for your budget. Residential, commercial, industrial. Call anytime. 235-0464.

STORM windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters, etc. 436-4421.

ANTIQUE Repair Shop — Repairing, refinishing, upholstering. Free estimates. Antiques and accumulations bought, 352-6800.

PAINTING, exterior. Free estimates. Excellent workmanship. Reasonable. Ray Weber, 342-9066.

WINDOWS, doors, siding, trim, roofing, gutters. Free estimates, excellent installers, fully insured. 342-0875 after 5 p.m.

WHO can you call to Professionally Recover a leather or vinyl chair or sofa? MASTER'S UPHOLSTERING, 482-7770. Free pickup & delivery.

PIANO tuning. Experienced tuner, reasonable. Jerry Gallagher, 482-4061.

ENTERTAINMENT

JAN Cursio Orchestra, dance music, weddings, parties, banquets, 654-8714.

FREDDY Beck Orchestra, finest music, weddings, parties. 247-6328.

FOR RENT

UPPER apartment — 4 room, elderly couple preferred. Near busline, Holy Redeemer. 544-4394.

APARTMENT — 3 room, furniture. Adult preferred. Holy Redeemer, near busline. 544-4394.

FOR SALE

3M 209 automatic roll copier. Excellent condition, less than 1 yr. old. Book and sheet copying, up to 25 copies. Reasonable. Inquire: Courier-Journal, 454-7050, Lynn Camilleri.

TWO 67x14 Tires with rims, 3000 miles, \$40 or best offer. 467-3214.

GARAGE SALE. Glider, glasses, desk, folding chairs, collectibles, bedroom, stereo w/speakers. 521 Culver Pkwy.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

AFGHAN CROCHET. Many patterns. Labor. 518-899-9184.

INSTRUCTIONS

TUTORING all subjects. Qualified teachers. PROFESSIONAL TUTORING SERVICE. 244-9155-271-7707.

RADIO-TV

SERVICING: TV Stereo Transistor. Foreign and U.S. Free estimates. "Commercial" 288-2371.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES, entire or partial contents of old homes, attic accumulations. Marie Wallner, 663-5573 — 663-0288.

SPINET Piano wanted. Call 482-7933. After 5 p.m.

SILVER. Buying U.S. and Canadian Silver Coins. Paying 100 per cent premium on American and 100 per cent on Canadian. 467-5476.

PRIVATE COIN COLLECTOR, will buy gold & silver coins, call 464-8846.

RESORTS

GENEVA on the Lake Ohio. Vacation land. Family rates. Fishing, golfing, motel, and cottage. Write to Chamber of Commerce 44043.

VALUABLE COUPON

***1.50 for a 10 Word Want Ad**

Only with this coupon

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

10¢ Each Additional Word — Deadline Friday Noon

Print One Word in Each Box									

Enclosed Find \$
Please Run My
Want Ad For _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO: COURIER-JOURNAL WANT AD DEPT.
67 Chestnut St. Rochester, New York 14604
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COURIER-JOURNAL

Subscriber Special