

COURIER-CALENDAR

Southwest Golden Age Group — Meeting at 34 Monica St., 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6. Newcomers welcome.

Festival — St. Paul of the Cross, Honeoye Falls, 2-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7; CCD benefit.

Garage Sale — Gabriel Richard Institute scholarship fund benefit, Empire House, 1086 Empire Blvd., 6 p.m. until dark, Friday, Sept. 6; 9 a.m. until dark Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7, 8.

League Day — League of Women Voters, on voter service activities, 9:15-11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 5, Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover, followed by open house at new offices, 11 N. Goodman, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Hot Rod Show and Swap — Rochester Street Rods third annual, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8, Rochester Drive In, 1200 Scottsville Rd. Admission \$1.50; children under 12, free.

Barley School of Music — Registration for private lessons and classes Sept. 4-6, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., 31 Church, Fairport; 34 May St., Webster. Visitors welcome on these days.

Bristol Valley Playhouse, Naples — Dandelion Wine, The Day It Rained Forever, short plays by science fiction writer Ray Bradbury, ending drama season, 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, 3 p.m. Sunday, Hannover String Quartet, 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 1; Swamp Root String Band, 8:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

THE CHURCH 1974

Father Andrew Greeley

Sometimes we get so upset by the way authority is misused in the Catholic Church that we forget that other human institutions are also plagued with the abuse of power. Recent events at the National Council of Churches are an interesting reminder that we have no monopoly on the arbitrary exercise of power.

Claire Randall, it may be remembered, is the militant supporter of abortion-on-demand whom the council — in a burst of ecumenical sensitivity — made its new general secretary some months ago. Ms. Randall has now dismissed five of her top assistants — all of whom, as the New York Times observed, had a number of things in common: they were over 60, they were white males, and they had served the council for 20 years.

Their jobs were "abolished," but everyone fully expects that new people will be brought in to do the same thing they did and that these new people will be young, non-male (save for maybe a homosexual), and non-white. As evidence that this is what will happen, a sixth man whose job was "abolished" was permitted to stay on in another position. It turns out he was black.

Tough luck, fellas; you served long and well, but you don't happen to meet our current quota requirements, so out you go. Of course, you'll get a generous pension. What more should a white Protestant heterosexual male expect?

A Protestant friend of mine admitted that it was all too bad, and agreed with the nameless Episcopalian quoted by the Times that the style was all wrong. But, he observed, women and blacks had been excluded for a long time and some sort of expiation had to be made. Tough, of course, on the sacrificial victims.

One must understand that the confession of guilt and expiation is an essential of Protestant practice. I remember a meeting where virtually all the Protestants present were confessing guilt and demanding expiation. I asked an Anglican bishop sitting next to me why so much guilt and expiation. Drawing himself up to his full 6 feet and 2 of silver-thatched dignity, he responded with just a hint of a twinkle in his deep blue eyes: "Young man, obviously you don't understand what it means to be a Protestant."

I couldn't help think of the bishop when his church decided to pay "reparations" to James Foreman for what Anglicans did

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Addison — Christian Living program classes at St. Catherine's will begin Saturday, Sept. 14 for grades K through 6 and will last from 10 to 11 a.m. The year will open with a Mass at 10 a.m. for all the children.

to blacks. I was tempted to call him and ask if they were going to pay reparations to me for what the English did to the Irish for a thousand years. As far as I can remember, the Anglican church has never expiated for the million Irish who died in the famines of the 1840s. Nor am I holding my breath before they feel any collective guilt over that one.

Protestant guilt, you see, applies to everyone except Catholics — Jews, blacks, Chicanos, native Americans (Indians to you), young people, homosexuals. To all of these reparation must be made. But make reparations to Catholics? Don't be silly; they're lucky we let them in.

We were forced to live in slums, discriminated against in employment, compelled to give up our language, pressured to give up our religion, excluded from the best schools and the highest jobs, even for a long time, the presidency. Our convents and churches were burned. Our schools were denied support. Even today we are absent from the boards of the big corporations, the major foundations, the elite universities. Our schools are still refused aid to which they have a right (and by some of the most twisted legal opinions in history), and we can't be part of the senior faculty of major universities — unless we disaffiliate from the Church.

What's more, we have been blamed for war, racism and most of the other ills of the sixties, and our neighborhoods and our jobs have been turned over to other groups, more deserving of expiation than we.

If Ms. Randall and her supporters feel any guilt over this kind of past and present discrimination, they don't show it. On the contrary, many Protestants respond by suggesting that the Catholic effort to modify the abortion ruling is some sort of secret, evil campaign. Mind you, their efforts to get the ruling were just part of the normal democratic process. But our response has to be a dirty Catholic plot.

So, if there is serious intent on the National Council of Churches to make amends for the offenses of the past, I would imagine that a church-going Irish (or Italian or Polish) Catholic will be hired for one of the new jobs. Short of that, one will be tempted to conclude that there is more than a touch of hypocrisy about the whole thing, and that the National Council is on its way down the same faddish path toward becoming a freak show that Union Theological Seminary began to walk a few years ago. They'll make the Curia look like a paragon of efficiency.

What the ordinary Protestant churchgoer who picks up the tab might think doesn't really much matter. National ecclesiastical bureaucracies never pay attention to those who pay the bills.

Outdoor Mass, Dinner, to End Parish Jubilee

A Gates shopping plaza, where the original St. Theodore Church once stood, will be the site of a 50th anniversary Mass Sunday noon, Sept. 2. A commemorative plaque will be dedicated there.

Father Gerald Dunn, pastor, will celebrate the Mass outdoors, rain or shine, at J.M. Fields Plaza, near the present church on Spencerport Road. A building canopy overhanging the parking lot will shelter the altar.

The parish jubilee celebration will continue on the church grounds, or in the hall, with a chicken dinner, 1-5 p.m. A hard-cover souvenir book about the first half century of the parish will be ready for distribution by Christmastime.

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