



McQuaid Benefit

Getting it all together for the McQuaid Mardi Gras Feb. 8 are (l-r) Mrs. William Heneyhan, reservations; Mrs. Kenneth Mangan, publicity; Mrs. Nicholas Nicosia, general chairman; Mrs. Michael Fomano, buffet, and Mrs. Adrian Prince, refreshments. Music will be provided by the "Beal Street Bandwagon." Reservations can be made by calling Mrs. Heneyhan at 436-9437 or Mrs. Philip DiPasquale at 482-9065. Proceeds will be used to renovate the cafeteria.

The Church 1975



Fr. Andrew Greeley

I can't figure out what's happening to the Episcopalians.

Of all the great non-issues about which silly and frivolous people waste their time debating, the ordination of women is far and away the first on the list. Of course, they should be ordained and that ought to be that.

I can understand why the Roman church with its archaic structure and procedures, its geriatric administration, and its frequently only semiliterate leadership would keep fumbling on this issue. But the Episcopalians, so civilized, so open, so candid, so skillful at compromise—how come they blew it?

I know about the legal bind they got themselves into; but Anglicanism has proved down through the years that it has great skills for avoiding legal binds. How come they didn't miss this one?

Mind you, I don't think that ordaining women would make much difference for Catholicism just now. The priesthood is in such sad disarray that I can't believe that any healthy and sensible woman would want into it. But there is no reason why women should not be ordained and the tiresome debate about the subject is distracting us from other and better issues.

The commission on women (made up mostly of men) recently reported to the synod about the "universal tradition" against ordaining women. This is baloney. The historic evidence is that women did receive sacred orders (if not the priesthood) and that women did exercise ecclesiastical jurisdiction—even over men—is overwhelming. If the lads on the commission missed this evidence, they must have had to try very hard to do so.

It may be even worse for Catholicism to get hung up on this issue. Anglicans have a long record for being able to squeeze out of tight places but Catholicism has a long if mixed record of providing women with more check signing power than any other institution in the world. We should have been in the lead in the women's movement instead of arguing, as did the Ukrainian bishop from Canada, that equality between the sexes was a Communist idea (heaven save us all!).

Most of the women college presidents in the United States are Catholics, as are most of the women hospital administrators. Catholic education probably has a higher proportion of women high school principals than does public higher education. Women make more important day-to-day decisions in the Church than in any other corporate body. Why then do we persist in looking bad by excluding women from the priesthood—and thus giving all the professional men-haters in the religious communities for women an excuse for snapping at the heels of every priest who walks by them?

But, if it is silly for us to blow a great opportunity, we have a splendid tradition of doing the same. The Anglicans do not have a tradition of making themselves look stupid on technical legal issues.

Maybe the reason is that Church leaders are appalled by the leaders of the "ordain women" drive. I must admit that I find them terrifying. Recently, I saw three such witches go after a couple of priests on TV. One of the two, who was there under protest, just shut up. The other foolishly tried to argue. He was dead wrong and they chomped him up into little pieces—and in the process lost all traces not only of femininity but of elegance, grace, and basic humanity. Adding the power of the office to such arrogance and nastiness would make them "tres formidables" indeed. The age of the old monsignorial tyrant would be upon us once again. Except now it would be "masignora." It wouldn't be much of an improvement.

But we still ought to have women priests. I couldn't vote for one for bishop, of course. But then I can't vote for a man for bishop either. In case you hadn't noticed, we haven't returned to voting for anyone in the Catholic church.

UNITY MASS

A Mass of unity sponsored by the North East Regional Liturgy Committee will be held in Holy Spirit Church, Penfield, on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. The celebration will be held for the various renewal groups in the region such as Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Charismatic Renewal and Teen Seminar. An invitation is extended to all parish families and clergy to participate in this celebration.

Clergy Warned Against Letter From Gallo Wine

Chicago [RNS] — The Christian Century magazine has asked U.S. clergymen not to be "taken in" by a letter they received from Ernest Gallo on his wine company's dispute with the United Farm Workers.

The letter has a "tone of injured innocence," and contains "specious arguments" and "rearrangement of facts," the ecumenical weekly said in a Jan. 6 editorial.

The Gallo company is the target of strikes and a boycott by the United Farm Workers, headed by Cesar Chavez.

"Poor Ernest!" the Century said. "He cannot understand how Cesar Chavez can be so cruel as to conduct a boycott of Gallo products and strike Gallo fields just because the wine company signed a contract last year with the Teamsters instead of UFW, which had represented Gallo workers for the previous six years."

"What he didn't report is that the company, which produces 37 per cent of this country's domestic wines, refused to conduct a secret ballot election and that 135 of its 185 farm workers went out on strike in protest."

The editorial said that the Gallo letter was "insincere" in calling for clergy support of a federal law guaranteeing farm workers the right to vote on union representation in secret.

"The truth of the matter," the editorial asserted, "is that both Gallo and the Teamsters have consistently opposed California legislation designed to secure those same rights."

AYM Board Expanded

Gordon J. Skinner, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Area Youth Ministry, Inc. has announced the following new board members:

Father Philip J. Billotte, associate pastor of Church of the Holy Family; John C. McCarthy Jr., executive vice president of the E. Clark Bennett Company, Inc.; Albert G. Krenitsky, attorney with the law offices of Antell, Harris, Githler and Calleri; Bert R. Maggio, youth program director of Maplewood Branch, YMCA; Rev. Nelson Tilton, pastor, Rochester Baptist Church; Mary M. Butere, housewife; and Annette Wilkinson, Northwest youth program director, YWCA.

The addition of these new directors is part of an AYM change in corporate structure which will increase the Board of Directors from 15 to 25 members.

RTL MASS

Gates-Chili Right to Life will sponsor a Mass for "the protection of the unborn and the preservation of family life" Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. at St. Pius X Church. Father Donald Murphy, pastor, will celebrate the liturgy which marks the second anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on abortion. The Mass is open to the public.

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday, edition.

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HOLY YEAR TOURS

Our Holy Father has designated 1975 as a Holy Year and urges more pilgrimages to the Holy Land. In accordance with his wishes, Catholic Near East is sponsoring weekly 15-day tours to Rome and the Holy Land at the attractive price of only \$978 per person. Please write for further information.

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