

TOWARD TOMORROW



Fr. Henry Atwell

Bishop Hogan has stirred up another hornets' nest. This time he has endorsed the boycott against Gallo wines. Many people, including Catholics, can't understand why he can't stick to religion and stay in his own back yard.

One of his critics even pointed out, quite accurately, that the Gallo problem is 3,000 miles away. If you go much further around the world than that you start coming back around and getting closer to home again.

The next thing we can expect from the Bishop is a plea to welcome the refugees from Vietnam. Not only are these people homeless and jobless, they are guilty of the ultimately wholly unAmerican error of losing a war. Americans have a long tradition of cheering on the underdog — but never the loser.

So the underdog farmworkers forfeit our concern because they are 3,000 miles away, and the Vietnam refugees forfeit our concern because they are losers.

What about the Americans who are close by who are out of work, living in high-rent tumble-down stinking houses and apartments? Most of us clean-living hard-working people know that those kinds of people have blown numerous opportunities for decent jobs and homes and are quite content to live off welfare anyway.

We don't even need absolution any more. We're not guilty of anything. We're just plain lily white and innocent and

exonerated from all responsibility to care or be concerned for these other kinds of people in need.

Whenever I'm tempted to think thoughts like these, I shudder when I remember what Jesus said to people who think this way, "Hypocrites, the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." I also remember he was concerned for me — even though I would live 2,000 years and just about 3,000 miles away from him. I further remember that my grandparents came as immigrants to America, unable to speak English.

Then I realize that by baptism and by the blood that is in me, I cannot turn away from people in need simply because they are different or distant from me.

The clear teaching of Jesus is that we must love our neighbor whoever and wherever he may be and that God measures our love for him in precise proportion as we love our different and distant neighbor.

When I compare what Jesus said and did with what the bishop's critics say and do, I discover that the bishop is immensely more Christlike in his stance than are his critics. And that is undoubtedly the very reason why the hornets are out to sting him!

CYO Assists Bike Hike

Coordinating the thousands of bicyclists at the Bike Hike checkpoints at Culver/Ridge Plaza and Durand Eastman Park on Sunday, June 1, were 50 youths that the CYO lined up from youth groups at St. Ambrose, St. Salome, St. Thomas and Holy Redeemer parishes.

This is the second year that CYO has assisted YOUTH-A.R.C. (Youth Organized and United to Help the Association for Retarded Children) with the Bike Hike for the Handicapped. Money that is raised is donated to local, non-profit organizations that work with the physically, mentally and economically handicapped.

Cenacle Slates Summer Retreats

The Cenacle Retreat House has slated three retreats for the summer season.

Father John Walchurs, SJ, will lead men and women in a General Retreat June 6 through 8.

A retreat for separated and divorced women will be conducted by Father James Young, CSP, June 27 through 29.

A five-day retreat for sisters and laywomen will be led by Father Charles Major Aug. 9 through 13.

Further information is available through Sister Marie Halligan at (716) 271-8755.

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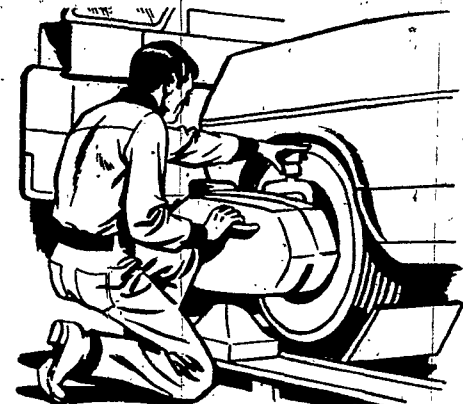
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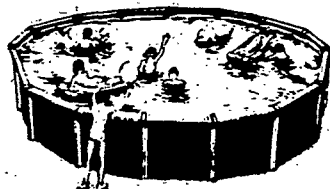
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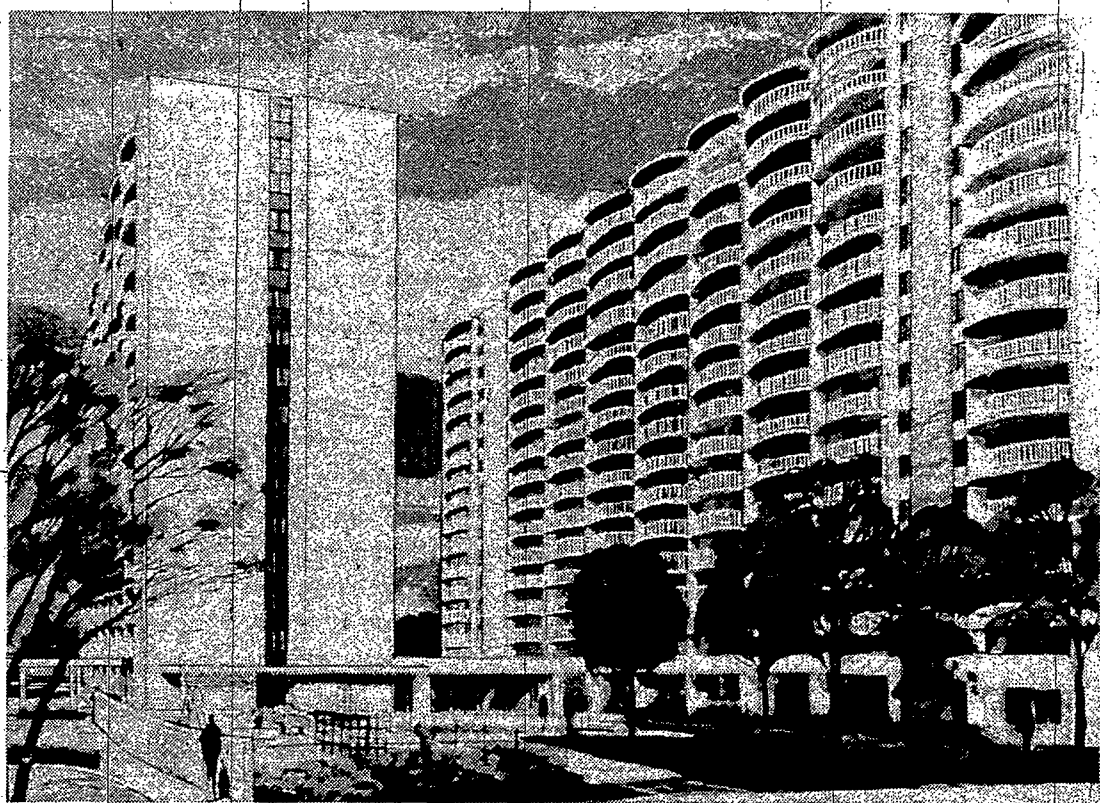
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