

Taxpayer Revolt Urged Over Court Decision

The Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State (CSAA) has urged a "massive taxpayers' revolt" in response to the recent Supreme Court ruling restricting state material and services for certain programs in non-public schools.

The high court said that the state may not provide instructional materials or equipment, or such auxiliary aids as counselling, psychological services, speech and hearing therapy and remedial programs to pupils in nonpublic schools.

The court decision, overturning Pennsylvania legislation, threatens some programs in this state, but does not automatically apply to them.

The CSAA in a statement by its 16-member executive committee accused the high court of "prejudice" and said that a rebellion by taxpayers is the "only argument" that would have weight with it.

The CSAA is a dues-supported, independent, professional association with a membership of more than 1,000 administrators representing approximately 800 of the state's Catholic elementary and secondary schools. Its executive committee in its statement, released Tuesday, June 17, declared:

"The time has come for Catholics and all Americans who believe in freedom in education to search for effective means of

promoting a massive taxpayers' revolt to show their determination to maintain some effective control over the education of their children

"The present majority of the Supreme Court have shown that they will go to any length to forbid aid to nongovernment school children, even to the handicapped among them. They will even say that a secular service is not safely rendered by state-hired, state-paid professionals unless it is rendered in a state institution."

Though calling for a tax rebellion, the statement said, "We do not pretend to know the details of what and how it should

be undertaken. Perhaps one means could be to withhold school taxes. Other forms may be directed at exemptions and deductions on state and federal income taxes."

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Displays and Demonstrations

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ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

The week before leaving for the Rome-Ireland pilgrimage, I thought: "On other trips, Father Lane brought his army Mass kit, with his shrapnel-dented chalice for daily Mass. He won't be with us. What to do?" Father William Cosgrove had sent me an ad for a Mass kit which he used at the Hornell Nursing Home. I sent for it. It was eight pounds in weight, \$134.50 in cost, and so compact that it is just fitted in the center of my hand-luggage.

Now, ideally Mass is best celebrated in a church or chapel. But in travelling that is frequently impossible without upsetting the local parish schedules. Also it must fit into the travelling schedules of the day. I belong to the Near East Association with the privilege of celebrating Mass in any fitting place. So we had daily Mass usually in a lounge of our hotel, and Sylvester McGinley of Piffard was sacristan and server. There were two exceptions.

In Rome: there was a beautiful hospital back of our hotel. I am always interested in the sick and in hospitals. So about 9 p.m. I collected Dorothea Butch and Elizabeth Kliik. "You are nurses. Let's go over to see what an Italian hospital is like." A Sister let us in and I explained, using my limited Italian plus sign language that I was "un capellano d'ospedale di St. Giacomo in the United States." Sister darted off and returned with the Superior, a precious Sister Immacolata Mignola who spoke English rather well. She explained that there are 24 Sisters for their 40 bed clinic, which specializes in maternity and surgery. Seven Sisters are registered nurses, guaranteeing a religious Sister to serve the patients on each floor, along with the lay nurses. Other Sisters are in dietary. Some are technicians, and several elderly and retired Sisters are in residence. They are Holy Cross Sisters from the Italian canton of Switzerland. Five came in from a journey about 10 p.m., chattering and happy, and headed for the kitchen for a

snack. What impressed us especially was a large davenport in each room which could be made into a bed. Sister Im explained: "This is so a relative or friend can stay the night with a sick patient. Sometimes the presence of a loved one is the best kind of medicine." The gem of all was the chapel: new, modern, made to serve the new form of the Mass. The one questionable object was a modernistic statue of Our Blessed Mother. I said: "I don't like it, Sister." "Neither do I." I suppose some patron gave it, and the hospital is stuck with it.

We got permission to celebrate Mass the next morning in the hospital chapel. All the pilgrims were delighted with this special treat.

At Assisi: by happy Providence we were able to have Mass at the very tomb of St. Francis. Not only our own group was there, but also other pilgrims. A nice Friar set up the altar and vestments for me, and correctly took up a collection at the Offertory.

In Dublin: after the flight from Rome to Dublin we arrived at the new Burlington Hotel about 5:30 p.m. Our rooms were beautiful and large. We agreed: "Mass in my room at 6:15. Dinner at 9 p.m." As our group coalesced, the Mass Liturgy expanded. Each had a missalette, compliments of Holy Trinity, Webster. Following Fr. Lane's dictum, homilies were rare. The Lord's Prayer, all chanted. And at Communion the familiar: "Jesus, My Lord, My God, my All . . . was sung. After Mass a cleaning maid met me in the corridor. "Father, did you just have Mass in your room?" The way she said "Mass" reminded me of Moses in the Presence of God at the Burning Bush. It spelled devotion, awe, utter Faith: "Yes: We are from the States." "Ah, I wish I could have been there for Mass."

I have pondered much over this simple incident, and have concluded that the strength of the Church comes from Faith and devotion like this. And the weakening of the Body of Christ comes from a fearsome sophistication which has sucked the marrow of simplicity from the bones of Faith. "Amen I say to you, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. Whoever makes himself lowly, becoming like this child, is of greater importance in that heavenly reign." [Mt. 18:3] People with this kind of Faith do not have to be prodded by "meaningful liturgies." They know the holy rite and know that it is the most perfect act of adoration in the world. Such is The Mass.



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