

Making a Church Safe

By JOHN DASH
He doesn't want to scare worshippers in the newer Church buildings, but he does want to shake them up to make them more attentive to safety details, especially those problems that could result in fires.

Russell Phillips, a partner in Quallsafe, a security and safety systems firm, is a consultant on safety problems for the Diocese of Rochester.

He has been conducting seminars during the last year and a half for pastors and maintenance personnel, particularly

emphasizing fire prevention and detection.

"It's not just the older churches that have fire hazards," he noted recently, "some of the newer buildings also can burn just like St. Joseph's last year."

(St. Joseph's Church, a much revered house of worship in downtown Rochester, was destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of Friday, Oct. 18, 1974.)

Phillips lists the major causes of fires in churches as old, defective or improperly installed wiring; deliberate setting; "people carelessness", his own term for inattention while smoking, lighting candles, working with flame.

His seminars for pastors include an overview of the responsibilities of the Occupational Safety and Health Act; a presentation of record keeping for fire detection and home safety; a presentation of a safety inspection checklist and questions and answers on safe work skills, fire protection and safety.

According to John Norton of Lucas and Dake Co., Inc., with whom many of the diocesan buildings are insured, insurance credit may be granted churches

which have installed fire detection systems.

Phillips has been engaged in safety and fire prevention for most of his adult life. He has been associated with Monroe Community College in both academic and maintenance circles. He is working for his degree in safety management at present.

He is also a columnist for the Daily Record, the area's legal newspaper.

\$3,000 Given To Area School

Auburn — Dr. Michael Iacovino recently signed a check for \$3,000 which was given to Blessed Trinity School from the Home School Association. Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, principal, accepted the check.

Dr. and Mrs. Iacovino are co-presidents of the association which raised the money with membership dues, a candy sale and Christmas Bazaar.

AYM Names Madama

Patrick S. Madama of Augustine Street has recently been appointed to the Area Youth Ministry, Inc. Board of Directors according to AYM Board Chairman, Gordon J. Skinner.

Madama is currently serving his fourth year as chairman of the Holy Family Parish Council; as Extraordinary Minister and co-editor of the parish bulletin; Holy Family parish representative to the Northwest Regional Conference General Assembly and is on the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Rochester; and treasurer of the Monroe Community College Alumni Association.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Marijuana is dehumanizing. Yet control of it is seen by some politicians as an infringement on personal freedom. It is a stupefying drug which subtly erodes man's creative abilities, reducing its victims imperceptibly to moral and intellectual inferiority, yet academicians call for liberalized laws. It is many times more powerful and more destructive than alcohol, yet is readily available and cheap enough for a fourth or fifth grader to buy a couple of 'joints' with his weekly allowance. Its use has spread from the urban ghettos to the college campus to the grade school level and to the professional class.

Tons of it cross the Mexican-American border every year, millions of Americans use it regularly.

An infringement on personal freedom. What vestige of personal freedom or choice is there in the drug-conditioned brain? What fragment of informed consent to abortion, sterilization, perversion, euthanasia, suicide, and human experimentation can be reasonably defined as 'informed' if the brain has been literally shrunk by marijuana? What low degree of resistance will a drug-oriented society offer in the event of a military, sociological or moral attack?

Who will stand to defend that human life in prison (especially the co-ed prisons) from the harsh realities of medical research which requires informed consent? And what laws will spare the human life conceived within the marijuana-weakened mother?

Senator James O. Eastland's Internal Security Subcommittee held hearings on the marijuana epidemic just over a year ago. Last week we listed the Seven Scientific Findings disclosed by that subcommittee. This week we look at the Social Consequences. There are six:

1) A steadily decreasing amount of motivation is one of the first manifestations of marijuana/hashish use. If the epidemic continues to spread at its current rate, we may find ourselves saddled with a large population of semi-zombies."

2) "We may also find ourselves saddled with a partial generation of young people suffering from irreversible brain damage. Their ability to function may improve if they abandon cannabis (the plant from which both marijuana and hashish are extracted), but they will remain partial cripples, unable to fully recover the abilities of their pre-cannabis years."

3) The millions of users today may produce another partial generation who will never mature intellectually or physically "because of hormonal deficiency and a deficiency in cell production during the critical period of puberty. . . we may witness the phenomenon of a generation of young people who have begun to grow old before they have even matured."

4) There is also the possibility — which can be confirmed only by epidemiological (the study of the effects of epidemic diseases) results — "that marijuana smokers are producing far more than their quota of malformed or genetically damaged children."

5) There is "a growing body of evidence that marijuana use leads to indulgence in other, more potent drugs."

6) "If the epidemic is not rolled back soon, our society may be largely taken over by a marijuana culture — a culture motivated by a desire to escape from reality and by a consuming lust for self-gratification, lacking any higher moral guidance. Such a society cannot long endure."

None of those who testified spoke in favor of decriminalization of marijuana. All were against legalization. They spoke in terms of education.

And education must be guided from the kitchen.

Marijuana is dehumanizing. Decriminalization is not the answer.

Next week — the New York State marijuana laws.

Documentation sources available on request.

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