

Editorial

Upswing

Jesus says, "The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest."

That message from Matthew provides the foundation for the diocesan prayer-for-vocations campaign. Now entering its third year, the campaign, wherein people across the diocese pledge prayers and sacrifices to encourage those in religious formation, is apparently bearing fruit. Our Page 1 story reflects an optimistic upswing at Becket Hall.

Obviously, Father Gerald T. Connor, diocesan director of vocations, believes in the power of prayer. He feels that the prayer campaign, coupled with the World Day of Prayer in the Spring, "is paying off."

He also cites some other possible factors in the rise in vocations.

"The turmoil of the 60s is quieting down. In general, young people seem more interested in prayer and God."

He also feels that the programs at Becket Hall and our major seminary, St. Bernard's, contribute to the local increase.

"At Becket we have a flexible program giving possible future priests more freedom of choice in choosing their majors at this level. And St. Bernard's is just outstanding in its pastoral training, spiritual training programs—the deacon internship program is just way out front of other dioceses."

Another more subtle reason, the vocation director feels, is that "more and more priests seem to be manifesting excitement about the priesthood. They've probably felt this way. Now their joy seems to be showing more."

Vocations to the Sisterhood also give cause for optimism. According to Religious News Service, Sister Cathleen Toomey, RSM, director of the National Sisters Vocation Conference, says that the number of American women entering Catholic religious communities is the largest it has been in the past five years.

"And the encouraging thing is that the new entrants are staying" she adds.

Homilies on Sept. 14 will ask parishioners to make their pledges — in writing. They will be collected Sept. 21 or 28. Later, as has been done in the past, those in religious formation to be priests, Sisters and Brothers will be given the opportunity to read the pledges of support. The person-to-person aspect seems to bring an added dimension of support.

"That's why it is important that the pledges be written," says Father Connor.

Age is no barrier to making the pledges. Some of those from youngsters range from the poignant, "I will try to be a Good Samaritan" to the humorous, "I offer this sacrifice, I will play with my dog for three days."

Adult pledges can also be simple — "I will offer my trials as the mother of a two-year-old boy," to the difficult, "I will give up smoking and start praying."

We all know that prayer works. The diocesan campaign for vocations seems to be making that fact very clear.

The Quiet Man

The old order changeth.

Roosevelt. Churchill. Stalin. Chiang. Mindszenty. Adenauer. History book names.

Now add De Valera. Another of those overpoweringly strong and individual men — the kind, for better or worse, we no longer seem to produce.

Like most great men, DeValera also was amazingly simple. During his long career as prime minister, the "Chief" could be seen virtually every morning at Mass in Dublin's suburb of Blackrock.

William Butler Yeats wrote of this quiet man of fortitude, "He is a living argument, rather than a living man."

The man is no longer living but his qualities of independence and determination he brought to our world live on.

Opinion

Team Ministry Explained

Editor:

I refer to your article "Team Ministry at Mt. Carmel", p. 13 Courier-Journal, (8-20-75).

I suggest an article such as that one might well have appeared on the front page, since the title of pastor (you say that the two nuns are co-pastors which, to me, means that each nun is a pastor) may not be given, or his proper duties exercised, by anyone other than an ordained Priest. The exact wording of the Code of Canon Law is as follows: "Ut quis in parochum valide assumatur, debet esse in sacro presbyteratus ordine constitutus." That was, by the way, Canon 453, #1 and, as far as I know, that is at present the Church's Law. It says that, in order for the pastor to be named as such, he ought to be a Priest. (The word parochus is masculine in gender).

You also failed to let us in on the news: just who did appoint them? Your article states "Two pastoral assistants at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church have been named co-pastors." By whom? Please tell me when Rome gave such an indult as this? An old axiom of philosophy states "What is freely given, is freely denied."

In closing, please note that I was raised in Mt. Carmel parish; I lived in that parish til I was 21. I am now 28. My life and vocation were greatly influenced by the good priests of Mt. Carmel in days past. I don't think it is too much for a Priest of the Rochester Diocese to challenge such an article as yours. After all, we ALL belong, first of all, to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Rochester Diocese is only a small part of the Whole, though a vital part. That's why I'm concerned.

With prayers for unity, I am,

Father Ronald A. Antinarelli
St. Stephen's Church
Geneva, N.Y.

Editor's Note: The appointment of the Sisters was made through official and normal diocesan channels. Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi, diocesan vicar of urban ministry, commented: "At Mt. Carmel, the diocese is setting up functional team ministry for the sharing of pastoral administration by lay people as well as by those ordained. The priest-member, in this case Father Laurence Tracey, is designated as the canonical pastor, the only one empowered to carry on liturgical functions. But as matter of practice, wherever pastoral decisions are made, they are to be shared equally by all members of the team. With regard to such

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

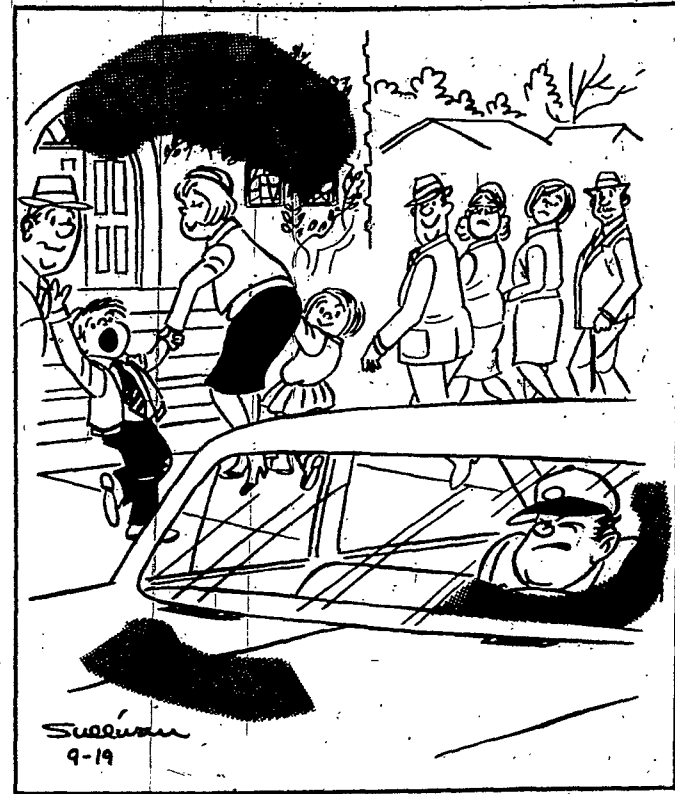
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organization, the motu proprio of Pope Paul VI, Ecclesiae Sanctae, has given ample authority to bishops to make new and innovative dispositions regarding administration of parishes in setting up this kind of functional ministry."

Fr. Ehmman Praises Book

Editor:

Years ago I had a column in your estimable paper to which I gave the name CUES AND CLUES. In it I was given free range for reviews and comments on Christian literature and culture, present and past.

It's not my purpose here to play that wicket again, but simply to cue your readers in to a timely, splendid book about Mother Seton, our new all-American Saint. It's called MRS. SETON. Beautifully written by Vincentian Father Joseph J. Dirvin, this biography takes one on a moving pilgrimage through a life of amazing grace and beauty. Generous excerpts from her letters reveal her as intensely human and lovable, warmhearted to all, and deeply in love with God. I've always known a few facts about Mother Seton. But this book helps me to know her for the beautiful person she was. I give thanks to God for the gift of her canonization during our country's Bicentennial. Mother Seton enhances for the whole Christian world the prestige of America the beautiful.

In hardback, this book is expensive: \$12.96. But it is available in paperback at \$4.95. At either price it's worth every penny. Perhaps parishes may be able to buy it and put it out for circulation. I'm quite certain the public libraries are carrying it, at least the Rundel Library downtown. I suggest, further, that parish programs for this coming season might include a lecture on Mother Seton, and help to unlock the inspiring treasury of this great American lady to as many people as possible. I, for one, will be available for this (and without fee).

Father Benedict Ehmman
7 Austin Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Mercy Sisters Grateful

Editor:

To the Mission-Minded People of the Diocese of Rochester:

Recently, the Sisters of Mercy received a very generous share of the 1975 Diocesan Mission

Appeal for the support of the mission work of our Sisters in Santiago, Chile.

Please know how grateful we are to each of you for this gift which enables our Sisters to bring the love and consolation of Christ to our Chilean brethren.

May the Lord match your generosity with His richest blessings!

Sister Mary Judith Heberle
Superior General of the
Sisters of Mercy

Parish Councils: Where Are You?

Editor:

Our direct request to parish councils of the Rochester diocese for participation of their members in the Educational Seminar and dinner of our 1975 convention has thus far been very disappointing.

The United States Catholic Bishops have clearly stated "that our system of government requires active participation, and in this (abortion), there is a moral imperative for political activity."

Unless we receive affirmative responses within the next two weeks from parish councils, a rare opportunity for the education and action of our area talented leadership will be lost. Just as the parable of the man who buried his talents, the fruits of lay leadership and religious direction will be lost in this instance unless parish councils act quickly and responsively.

I think every parish council in the diocese should be vitally concerned with this issue. At this late date we on the committee hope that every parish council should at least send a representative to the state meeting. Please contact Carol Reichert, 192 Rogers Pkwy., Rochester, N.Y., 716-342-8849.

William P. Polito
1975 County Chairman
Rochester Right to Life

More Letters On Page 6

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.