

# More Opinions

## We Must Be Obedient

Editor:

In answer to Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret's long harrangue against the "authority" of the Church, I quote our dear Lord:

"Unless you become as little children you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Good children are, first of all, obedient.

The Catholic Church has been called "Holy Mother Church", a beautiful and fitting name. We cannot go wrong, obeying her.

We can go very far astray, if in our pride, we insist on following our own will. Christ knew this. That is precisely why he established the Church and gave it a head, St. Peter, and his successors, the popes, and gave them the supreme authority.

Mrs. Arlene O'Connor  
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## ERA Reduces Woman Rights

Editor:

What is the purpose of the State Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)? It reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State of New York or by any subdivision thereof on account of sex."

Some say it means equal pay for equal work. However, that is already guaranteed under:

(1) The Civil Rights Act of 1964, subchapter VI: Equal Employment Opportunities (42 U.S. Code 200e-2).

(2) The Equal Opportunities Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-261) which applies to hiring, pay and promotion and establishes the enforcement agency called the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Thus, the ERA won't be needed to provide equal employment laws.

However, if it is passed, the ERA could invalidate existing laws that protect women from strenuous and dangerous jobs in industry.

ERA also is not needed to provide women full educational opportunities or make it easier for them to get credit. The Education Amendments of 1972 and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974 already insure these rights.

On the other hand, ERA might take away some rights, benefits and exemptions that women now possess. For example, the right to stay home and take care of their children instead of going to work to provide 50% of their family's financial support could be lost.

Young women, under the national ERA also may lose their draft exempt status.

The state ERA doesn't seem to grant any new equality to women. In my opinion it just takes away some of the rights women have had all along.

Barbara Pokalsky  
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## Women Priests Prohibited

Editor:

In your Oct. 1 issue, a correspondent asked the silly question that "since a woman can become a saint, why can't she

become a priest?" The question is silly because the issues are, of course, unrelated.

The writer of the letter could, in fact, have mentioned that not only is the first native born U.S. citizen sainted (Elizabeth Seton) a woman, but the first American saint (Rose of Lima) and the first U.S. citizen sainted (Mother Cabrini) are also women.

But to answer the correspondent's question: the reason that a woman can't become a priest is that the Church prohibits it. The Church prohibits women priests today just as it did in the days of St. Joan of Arc or St. Catherine of Siena. And, as Catholics, we are bound to obey the teachings of the Church, just as the saints referred to did. I'm sure that none of these women spent much time agitating to be priestesses.

Robert Knille  
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## Gay Rights Defended

Editor:

I have read with interest the succession of letters dealing with homosexuality and have been greatly impressed by the open channel your newspaper offers for dialogue. Such is not the fortune in most dioceses.

Father Stuart Hogan has emerged in the letters as a strong spokesperson for homosexuality as "a grave sin, unnatural, an abnormality, one of the most disgusting of all sexual aberrations."

There is no doubt in my mind that Father Hogan is a good, well-meaning man of God who is speaking strongly out of the tradition in which he was raised. For him to remain silent when his conscience told him to stand up and speak would be "a grave sin, unnatural, an abnormality," for him as a priest.

But the tradition in which Father Hogan was raised is changing with our new understanding of self, of nature and sexuality.

For instance, the most conclusive study so far conducted by anthropologists and zoologists (Ford and Beach) indicate homosexual behavior in every species of mammal. In fact, their study shows that the incidence of homosexuality increases in the species at the rate the brain develops.

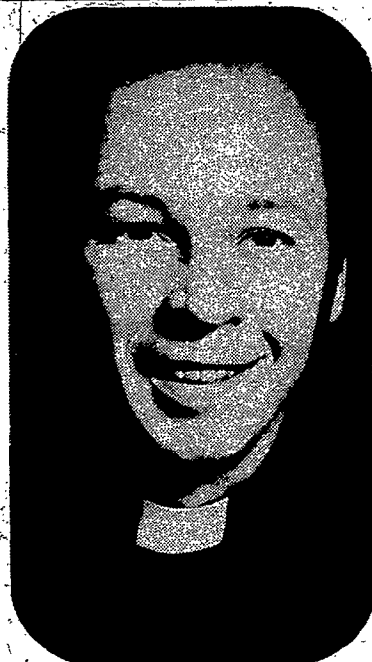
But Father Hogan insists homosexuality is unnatural. What is our criteria?

Likewise the American Psychiatric Association has taken homosexuality off their list of psychiatric disorders, stating that homosexuality "is a form of sexual behavior" and like other forms of sexual behavior which are not by themselves psychiatric disorders, is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders.

But Father Hogan insists that homosexuality is an "abnormality, one of the most disgusting of all sexual aberrations." By what standards?

Scheduled to be released next year is the study by the Catholic Theological Society's Committee on Sexuality. Preliminary reports of that committee indicate a strong shift in approach toward the "sinfulness" of homosexuality.

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Deacon

Daniel W. Casey, Jr., who has studied at St. Bernard's Seminary and has served as pastoral assistant at St. Mary's, Auburn, was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Syracuse Friday, Oct. 10, by Bishop David F. Cunningham of Syracuse.



Entertainers

Ruth Fleischmann and Adele Kent, musicians, will perform a musical review "The Life and Times of Nathaniel Rochester" for the residents at St. Ann's Home on Saturday, October 25, at 1:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Catholic Women's Club.

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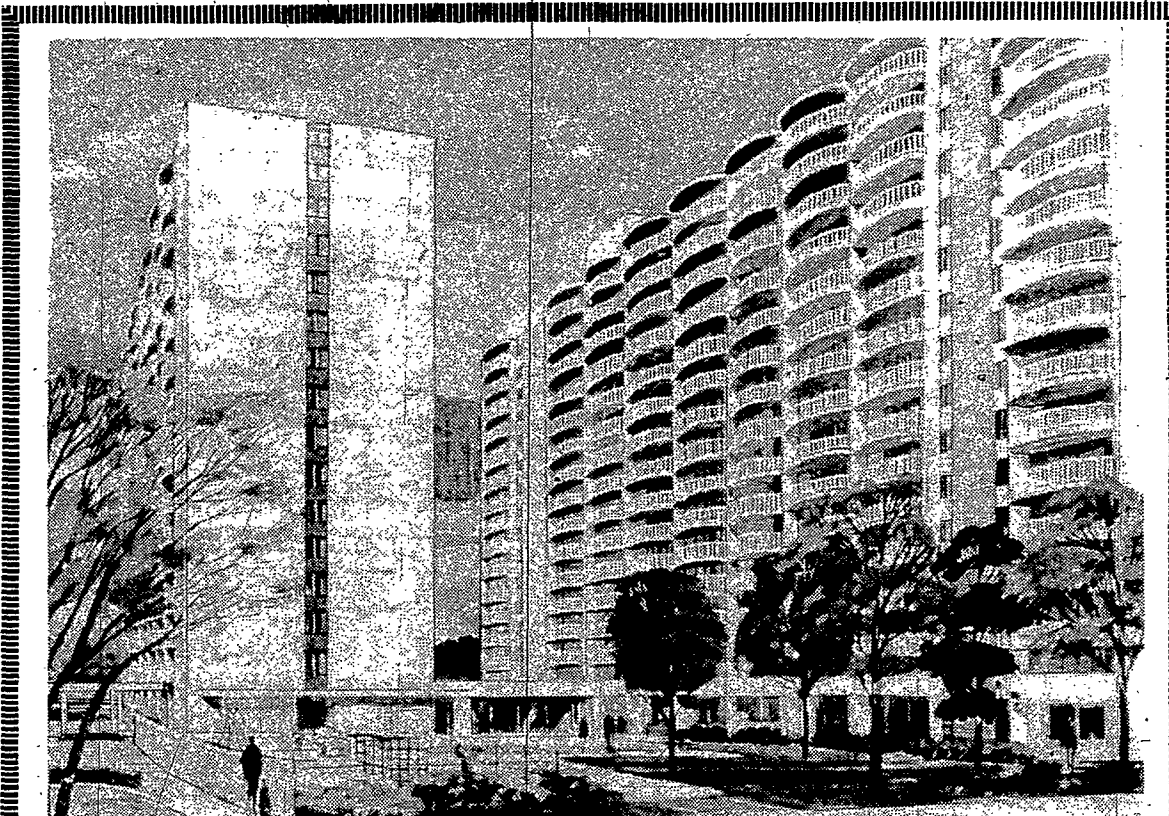
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