

## The Church 1974



Fr. Andrew Greeley

Let's add a few more horror stories to the growing list of manifestations of anti-Catholic nativism in American life.

**Item:** Richard Reeves, in his vile attack on California's governor Jerry Brown in the New York Times, attributes some of Brown's devious political tactics to his Jesuit training where he learned that "the end justifies the means."

**Item:** Columnist Marquis Childs laments the racism of the "Hail Mary praying" Irish Catholics of South Boston. Some way must be found to break through the bigotry of those devout Catholics who identify their religion with the defense of their neighborhood, he tells us. He does not bother to add that it was an Irish Catholic judge from a Boston suburb, who presumably says "Hail Mary" occasionally, who ordered the busing; nor does he add that the judge didn't bother to order busing for his own neighborhood and that he and his neighbors are not under assault as are the Irish in the city.

**Item:** "Chicago" editor Mike Greenberg, in an article in which he identifies the large community of Marquette Park with 200 Nazis, adds that on the following Sunday morning the Nazis will "receive the blood of the Lamb." Of course he offers no evidence that any of the Nazis are in fact practicing Catholics or that they will in fact receive communion the next day. But his limousine liberal readership hardly needs evidence to confirm its stereotype of the Polish and Lithuanian bigot. After all, they have "tidy homes" and "well kept lawns" in a "neat" neighborhood,

Mr. Greenberg tells us. What other evidence of fascism do you need?

**Item:** Professor Morton Kaplan, a very famous political scientist at the University of Chicago, justifies his attendance at Rev. Sun M. Moon's intellectual festival on the grounds that Moon's religion is no more objectionable than Roman Catholicism; all organized religion, Professor Kaplan notes, is kind of screwy.

**Item:** One of Professor Kaplan's colleagues in the sociology department tells his students that the Pope will change his teaching on birth control when God whispers to him that money can be made on birth control; that's how God operated, notes the Great Man, when he told the Pope to change the Church's teaching on usury.

**Item:** In the tragic Karen Quinlan case, the Church was depicted by the national TV news as a reactionary organization trying to deprive this young woman of her life and the attorney for Miss Quinlan as a crusading lawyer fighting the oppressive powers of the church. That the Catholic Church might have a liberal and humane attitude on certain kinds of "mercy killing" is simply beyond belief. Nor does any of the three national networks make the slightest attempt to explain the moral rationale behind the church's teaching on needlessly prolonging life. The spectre of the three black-clad priests behind the confused and not very affluent family is sufficient to appeal to the bigot's image of the working class Catholic being manipulated by his clergy. Who needs an explanation?

Reeves, Childs, Greenberg, Kaplan, the TV reporters would all claim that they are anti-Catholic. They are just telling the truth. Imagine trying to tell similar "truth" about blacks or Jews or Chicanos or one of the other fashionable minority groups.

But the real problem is not with journalists, columnists, professors and other bigots. The real problem is with us Catholics. We let people get away with that sort of thing.

# Neediest Cases

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gift for them would bring part of the outside world into their lives.

**84.** Mrs. D., 80, is determined to spend the rest of her life in the house in which she was born. With most of her family now living out of town, her days are long and lonely. Any donation you can make will help make this Christmas a merry one for her.

**85.** Mrs. M. is separated and on Public Assistance. Two of her five children ranging in ages from 6 to 11 are on disability. Recently her house burned and although no one was hurt, many of their clothes, furniture and possessions were destroyed.

**86.** Mr. and Mrs. R. are both ill. Their son works after school to help his parents whose only income is their social security check.

**87.** Mrs. Q. receives aid for herself and five children — all girls — ranging from two to nine years old. Mrs. Q. recently underwent surgery and although finally home she surely needs some cheering up at this holiday season.

**88.** The R. family recently moved to Rochester from Puerto Rico. After several months of unemployment Mr. R. has finally found a job but it hardly meets the needs for his wife and eight children, ages 2 to 12.

**89.** Mrs. D is a mother with two children. This family is in need of everything. Mother has had problems, been hospitalized, is on welfare and trying to make a home for herself and children.

**90.** Mrs. T. is elderly lady with two grown retarded children, a son 33 and a daughter 38. Their means of support is S. S. I. The mother is ill and this family would be grateful for help to make their holiday a pleasant one.

**91.** Mrs. S. recently moved to our area from out of town. The husband left the family, mother

## COURIER-JOURNAL Christmas Fund

and three children now on welfare. Their house is sparsely furnished.

**92.** Mrs. S. is a senior citizen of 90 on Social Security living alone in Rochester's inner city. Recently she was robbed by two men who forced their way into her apartment while she was there. Luckily she was not hurt, but the men took several prized possessions — even mail recently received from relatives in Italy.

**93.** Mr. and Mrs. F. are both on disability because of emotional and psychological problems. They have lived in the same house since they were married 20 years ago. It is the only home they have known together and has become a haven of security and peace. Now, they are being evicted because the building has been condemned. The situation has caused a great deal of pain and anxiety for Mr. and Mrs. F. they feel alone and afraid. They do not want to move nor understand why they have to.

**94.** Mrs. Grace M's husband deserted her and their two-year-old son. She is on her own and cannot find employment. She has been trying to get assistance but her case is pending. She has had to depend on friends and neighbors for handouts. There have been times in the last few weeks when there was only bread and coffee for her and her child.

**95.** Mrs. S. is a mother of eight children, on assistance with her husband in the V.A. Hospital. With the size of the family she often finds her family going without enough food or money for fuel and other necessities.

**96.** Mr. B. on SSI is chronically ill and alone, who before he came to this agency often was not able to look after his own needs. His personal life situation often deteriorated to one of neglect and illness. He lives alone and often feels the loneliness of a senior citizen, ill and passed by, by a busy world.

**97.** Mrs. P. on SSI who is raising her two grandchildren due to the death of their mother, has just suffered a heart attack. She is in the hospital and is expected to be there for some time. Her grandchildren are being looked after temporarily by a neighbor. This small family will be separated for the next few weeks, and Mrs. P. because of her illness has suffered great concern as to their future security together as a family.

**98.** Mrs. SW and her children are on public assistance. She has just had several serious operations due to cancer. In spite of her suffering and illness she has primarily concerned herself with the well being of her children.

**99.** Mr. T. came to Rochester from Puerto Rico. He expected to stay with a brother until he could find work. However, because of an unexpected crisis Mr. T. is not able to stay with his brother. He is not employed or receiving any kind of income. He is depending on strangers for handouts. He cannot speak English and cannot read or write. He is alone, stranded and needs much help.

**100.** Mrs. H., a mother of four, has been in and out of the hospital for the past year with cancer. Recently she had a brain hemorrhage and for several days was critical. She came home for a few days but now is hospitalized with new complications.

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The Bull's Head and Hudson Avenue offices will close Wednesday, December 24, at 1 PM and will reopen Friday, December 26, from 9 AM to 6 PM. They also will be open on Saturday, December 27, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

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