

A New Year: Are You Prepared?

The time is now — a new year, a new beginning, a new opportunity. All during Advent we listened to the Baptists' cry, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" The good news of Christmas shouts to us, "God made his dwelling among us!" And the liturgy of Jan. 1, World Day of Peace, puts before us some of the implications of Jesus' teaching when he dwelt among us, "You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:48).

As we frame our New Year's Resolutions, eight words come to my mind that seem, to me, essential for any liturgy committee if they are to be prepared to carry out their ministry effectively.

PRAYER. First and foremost, we must be people in touch with God's Spirit. As Bishop Hogan points out in his new Pastoral Letter, it is "the Spirit that gives us the vision and direction and strength we need." How foolish to think we can help others to pray if we do not pray ourselves. And this prayer needs to be communal, too. Personal prayer, though essential, is not enough. We must listen to God together and share our faith with one another if we are to become more fully a communion of believers.

RESOURCEFULNESS. Each of the

persons in any committee comes with God-given gifts and personal qualities which are the primary resource of the group. It is the task of the group to work together with truthfulness and love that calls forth the best resources of all members and knows when to supplement the combined resources of the whole group with outside help.

EDUCATION. A thorough understanding of liturgy demands continual study on the part of the committee and the entire parish. A committee worthy of the name "liturgy" will include time for common study of liturgy on its agenda, and any committee with a sense of its ministry will make provision for the continuing education of the larger parish by cooperative planning with the parish staff and education committee.

PLANNING. To avoid aimless activity and wasted energy, a liturgy committee needs clear, well-defined goals and objectives. Long-range goals, consonant with those of the parish council and other parish committees, should be set to guide and inspire the plans of the committee. The committee can then determine particular objectives for each year and specific

tasks to be carried out month by month. A well-planned program includes efficient organization of sub-committees and task forces so that all members understand their particular tasks and know what is expected of each in carrying out committee plans.

ACCOUNTABILITY. Good stewards of the Kingdom stand ready to be called to account for the quality and extent of their service. It is essential, within any committee, that the members be humble and responsible about fulfilling assigned tasks and communal decisions.

REVERENCE. A true reverence for one another as God's People and as members one of another is the sign of authentic Christian love. In order to sustain the unity of any group, the members are called to an honest, humble recognition of one another's gifts and of the ways they are dependent on one another.

EVALUATION. A good committee looks with critical eyes at its accomplishments and continually seeks to evaluate them in the light of its goals. Periodic surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and so forth will enable the committee to judge its work not only in the light of its own values but also of those they serve and others who have a diversity of experience.

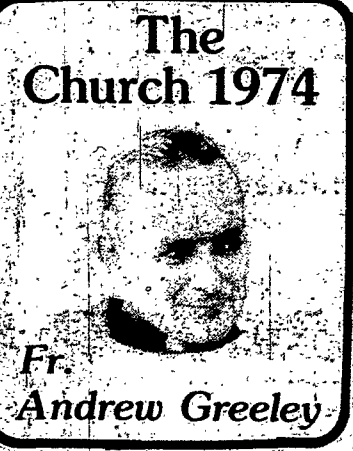
DIALOGUE. Ongoing, listening and discussing among the members and between the committee, the parish and the larger society insures growth. Dialogue is the unifying relationship that keeps a com-

church is fabulously wealthy. The far more responsible journalist, James Collin, in his careful book "Worldly Goods," argues just the opposite. He maintains that not only is the church not very affluent, it is even less affluent than many of its administrators believe it is.

In a chapter in our forthcoming report, "The Catholic Schools in a Declining Church," my colleague Professor William McCready makes some very careful estimates based on our empirical data about how much Catholics contribute to their Church and how much tuition they spend on their schools each year. He also estimates how much additional funds would be available for Catholic schools if vigorous pleas were made for their support. Finally, he has developed a model to explain the changing patterns of Catholic Church contributions in the past decade. I will not steal his thunder by leaking the findings beforehand. It is sufficient for the purposes of this column to say that there is nothing in McCready's data to suggest that Catholic giving is increasing or even keeping pace with the improving Catholic standard of living. As Jews became more affluent they learned to give more. Catholics have not done so.

McCready's chapter will provide the best information ever available on Catholic giving, and the most accurate explanation yet produced for the trends of the past decade. But it is still a preliminary investigation of an area about which almost nothing is shown. We know very little about why Catholics give, why they give what they give, and why they don't give more — especially now that they are at an economic level where they can give more. Nor are we likely to find out the answers to any of these questions, mostly because those who are responsible for the fund-raising think they have all the answers (on all possible subjects).

But I would submit and it is a speculation which might be examined if anyone should care to do research on it, that there is nothing wrong with the generosity of Catholics and a good deal wrong with the mentality and style of those in charge of fund-raising. Quite simply, the Catholic population has not been challenged to the kind of giving of which it is now capable. It has not been educated to the needs of an upper-middle-class church in modern America, and it has not learned the responsibilities of church finance by being given a full share of the tasks of exercising these responsibilities.

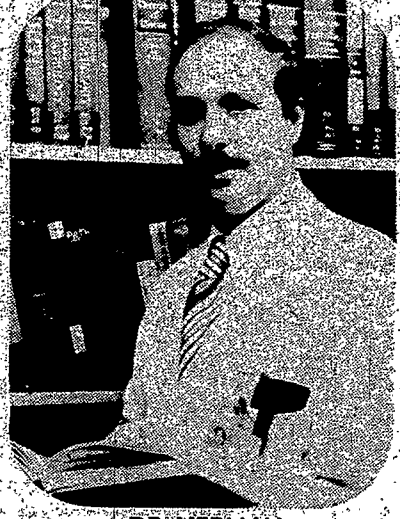


The Church 1974
Fr. Andrew Greeley

Like Sherlock Holmes, I am intrigued by one reaction I haven't heard about the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) study of the economic success of Catholic ethnics in the United States. No one, but no one, has said, "If they have so much money, how come they don't give some of it to the church?"

It is well known that the Jewish approach to charitable contributions has been amazingly effective, and that Jewish financial generosity is very great. Almost a billion dollars a year, it is estimated, goes to support Israel out of the pockets of American Jews. Fund raising in the Jewish community is extremely well organized, and response to the fund-raising is open and enthusiastic.

Quite simply, why don't Catholics give like Jews do if they have almost as much money and are eight times larger in population size? We know very little about the economics of the American Catholic church — not because those who know are trying to hide the truth but because no one knows what the truth is. Sensationalist author Nino LoBello would have non-Catholics believe that the



DR. LIEBMAN
Pathologist Joins Staff at St. Joseph's

Elmira — Jacob Liebman, M.D., joined St. Joseph's Hospital as associate pathologist on Jan. 1. A native of New York City, Dr. Liebman was educated at the University College of Arts and Sciences of New York University where he was editor of the school publication and a campus radio announcer. He attended medical schools in Germany and Switzerland, earning his medical degree from Basel University, Basel, Switzerland.

He was an extern in Genesee Hospital in Rochester and in North Shore Hospital in Manhasset. His internship was spent at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, a residency in anatomic pathology, July 1970 to June 1972 at North Shore Hospital, with a residency in clinical pathology July 1972 to June 1974 at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore.

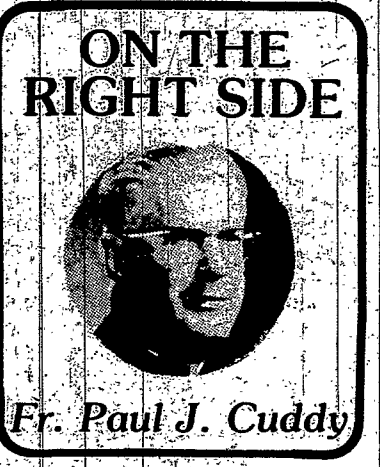
Dr. Liebman, his wife and three children, will reside in Horseheads.

NOT FORGOTTEN
Canandaigua — On Sunday, Dec. 14 parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena parish visited their former pastor, Msgr. William Roche, pastor of St. Mary's here. Msgr. Roche was given a watercolor of St. Catherine's, by Martha Chacona, and a volume of letters written by his parishioners.

INSIGHTS On Pastoral Liturgy

mittee from isolating itself from those it intends to serve. Even though it can be tedious and abrasive at times, dialogue well-used becomes a real channel through which the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit keeps us alive.

Prayer, Resourcefulness, Education, Planning, Accountability, Reverence, Evaluation and Dialogue: attitudes and actions that will help you be prepared for your ministry this coming year. It's a big challenge — but that is the gospel for you!



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Letter from Michigan:
Dear Father Cuddy, Have meant to write to you for some time regarding your COURIER JOURNAL column and your promotion of the Abp. Sheen tapes. My sister, Esther Jubus, sent me a note saying you were in and she told you how much she enjoyed the set of tapes I sent her and her husband on their 25th wedding anniversary. That note reminds me to write to you.

At the same time I ordered a set of tapes for a neighbor lady from Ireland, who has helped us in many ways when my wife was sick. You might be interested to learn that she enjoyed them so much she ordered several more sets, and sent them to: 1. An Irish Bishop in Africa; 2. Relatives in Ireland; 3. Friends in Canada; 4. Her husband's (a devout convert and local surgeon) relatives in Newfoundland; 5. Her sister, a Nun in California, who passed hers on to an Anglican monastery in California; in addition her set is now on loan to a Reformed Christian minister. Just remembered that she sent another set to some nuns in Australia.

I loaned my set last June to a former neighbor, who at 44 had never been baptized. He is now a member of the Catholic Church. We are subscribers to the COURIER, and my wife and I read your column with interest each week. It was through your column that we became aware of the tapes. After ordering our set we knew that we wanted to share them with others. During the past two years I have used my set during quiet time at my annual retreat. Thanks for letting us know about them.

Response to Mr. Hogan:

If there is a lamentable apathy on the part of some of the members of the Church, there is also a glorious enthusiasm on the part of many others, and this is expanding. Your letter indicates another reason why we daily say: "Let us bless the Lord." When your letter came I kept looking at the name and address on the outside, wondering: "Who might that be? I know a lot of Hogans, but not in Muskegan, Mich." Your letter resolved the mystery, and brought joy to my soul.

Since your Irish lady and yourself are so apostolic, I am sending you a few tapes as a gift. All I ask is that they be kept circulating. After feeding the multitude, Our Lord said: "Collect the left-overs lest they be wasted."

The tapes are: 1. An Ecumenical Service in Washington, where Mother Teresa of Calcutta is guest speaker. 2. Devotion to Mary — by Rev. Jordan Grooms, a Methodist pastor devoted to Our Lady. 3. The Decline of the Sacred — by Dr. James Hitchcock, who is also the author of a fine book: "Decline and Fall of Radical Catholicism." 4. The Eucharist: Source of Spiritual Life — a conference given by Abp. Sheen to the Consortium Perfectae Caritatis, a Federation of Sisters who have preserved traditional religious spirituality. 6. The Sanctification of the Church — by Father John Hardon, S.J. He is the author of the new Catholic Catechism, which is an orthodox exposition of Catholic teaching. 7. The Mass of St. Francis, sung by 110 children of Cork, Ireland, in the Church of St. Francis. The composer Philip Green, is an Englishman who emigrated to Ireland, embraced the Catholic Faith and developed a profound love for the Mass. You'll love it!

The lines from Longfellow certainly apply to your Sheen Apostolate: "I shot an arrow into the air. It fell to earth, I know not where. Your arrow seems to have landed into Ireland, Africa, Canada, Newfoundland, California, and doing ecumenical work with the Anglicans and the Reformed. So let us praise the Lord."

Sheen tapes can be gotten by sending \$20.30 to me at Holy Trinity Church, Webster, N.Y. 14580. Prompt delivery.

all you can eat WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY

New England
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French Fried Clams or
Beer Batter
Dipped Haddock
French Fries
Creamy Cole Slaw
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