



Names in the news: Former president Richard M. Nixon once thought about converting to Roman Catholicism, according to convicted Watergate conspirator Charles Colson. In a forthcoming book, Colson quotes Nixon as saying, "You know, Chuck, I could be a Roman Catholic. I honestly could. Except if I converted, everyone would say it was some political gimmick — Tricky Dick making a pitch for the Catholic vote. But you know, it's beautiful to think about it; the fact that there is something you can really grab hold of, something real and meaningful. How I wish sometimes we could all have it — something really stable. All this business about Catholic schools, you know, it's not politics. I believe. I believe." And the biggest bookie in Britain believes that Auxiliary Bishop Alan Clark of Northampton will become the next Archbishop of Westminster. Ladbrokes, the betting firm, has listed it a 7 to 4 shot that Pope Paul will name Bishop Clark to the post, succeeding the late Cardinal John Heenan. And John Cogley, former religion editor of the New York Times and former editor of Commonweal, who a couple years back published his personal farewell to Roman Catholicism, was ordained an Episcopalian deacon last week.

In the Up-and-Coming Department: Mother Teresa of Calcutta, famed missionary to the sick and dying, will be among the major participants in the 73rd annual National Catholic Educational Association's convention in Chicago, April 19-22. She will be joined by Sargent Shriver, Msgr. Geno Baroni, Sister Jose Hobday, and Father Andrew Greeley, among others. Non-Catholics have been invited to take part in 41st International Eucharistic Congress slated for Aug. 1-8 in Philadelphia. The committee for such participation in the predominantly Roman Catholic event includes Bishop John Allin, an Episcopalian; Archbishop Iakovos, a Greek Orthodox; and Dr. Robert J. Marshall, a Lutheran.

In New York, three top United Church of Christ officials have called on church members to resist Catholic efforts to modify the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion. They claim that "any attempts to overturn" the 1973 decision are "a serious threat to the first amendment guarantee of freedom from establishment of religion." They further claim that they are not advocating abortion but "most emphatically support freedom of choice for women." In Washington, the president of the U.S. Catholic Bishops has urged the U.S. government to maintain a position of "disinterested and constructive diplomacy in the Middle East" as a means of easing the critical situation in Lebanon. Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin said that "Palestinian involvement in negotiations" of course, is conditioned upon the Palestinian Peoples' and their representatives accepting explicitly the right of Israel to exist in the Middle East as a sovereign state within secure boundaries.

THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Reader,

Last week we commented on a letter from a woman who wanted an explanation in detail of the sacrament of Penance. We told her that we would try to give an outline of what was happening in the weeks ahead. Today I would like to answer the following:

"I have heard that you confess only when you are burdened with mortal sin. Does this mean that when you stand in line you are, in effect, saying 'I must confess grievous sins? Shades of the past when public confession was the order of the day!'"

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has been changed from the past in the last 400 years nor will it be changed in the New Rite of Reconciliation. In the past there was an obligation to confess only mortal sins. No one has been required to confess anything but mortal sins. However, one was encouraged to confess lesser sins in order to become more perfect. In the revised Rite of Reconciliation individual confession will still be required for mortal sins. However, not only those who have committed mortal sins will be encouraged to go to confession but those who wish to enter more completely into a relationship with God and with their fellow man.

In other words, individual confession will be necessary for those alienated from God and Jesus but encouraged for those who wish to come closer to God and Jesus. Hence no change. There will be no way of knowing, therefore, who is guilty of serious sin and who is not, since both kinds of penitent will be individual confessions.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Trumansburg — Parishioners from St. James the Apostle Church participated in an ecumenical service for Christian unity on Wednesday Jan. 28, at the Presbyterian church. Most denominations participated in the service.

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National Unit to Study Dismissal of Editor

Camden, N.J. (RNS) — The board of directors of the Catholic Press Association (CPA), at its February meeting in New Orleans, will discuss the firing of a diocesan newspaper editor and may explore the possibility of formulating guidelines to define the roles of editors and publisher-bishops in the diocesan press, it was disclosed here.

The Catholic Star Herald, Camden's diocesan newsweekly, said in its Jan. 23 issue that James A. Doyle, executive director of the CPA, said that the dismissal last November of Father Edward Byington as editor of the Fall River, Mass., diocesan weekly and "similar incidents in recent years," has forced the issue into prominence.

Father Byington was fired as editor of The Anchor by Bishop Daniel A. Cronin of Fall River after the priest objected to a memo sent by the diocesan chancellor, Msgr. Thomas Harrington, directing him to withhold from publication any correspondence that might be received from a certain layman active in the Charismatic Renewal.

Although Father Byington has claimed he was fired because he refused to submit to a policy of prior censorship, Bishop Cronin denied that any censorship was imposed on the editor and said Father Byington was dismissed only after he refused to follow a "suggestion by the chancellor in an exercise in prudence."

The prelate also accused the priest of challenging his authority as bishop and publisher to oversee the newspaper's operation.

The Star Herald quoted the current president of the CPA, Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM, editor of the St. Anthony Messenger, Cincinnati, as stating that "in terms of CPA involvement (in the Fall River issue), and in relationship to including bishop-publishers in a fair practices code, the case is unprecedented and, perhaps, long overdue."

He said that under normal circumstances a problem such as the one in Fall River could have been

Catholic Schools Observe Week

Catholic schools across the diocese will be opening their doors to the community at large next week, demonstrating the unique contributions Catholic education has made in United States history.

According to Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, newly named superintendent of schools, most schools are planning open houses, programs and enrollment promotions to note Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 8-14.

She noted the responsibility of Catholic educators and school administrators to "maintain the quality and uniqueness of Catholic schools," and to "communicate those values to the community during the week."

[That sentiment echoes Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's Pastoral Perspective this week on Page 3.]

Personages from American history who were instrumental in the establishment of the Catholic school system will be celebrated during the course of the week. They include St. Elizabeth Seton, Mother Katherine Drexel and Bishop John Carroll, according to Sister Roberta.

worked out equitably between the bishop and editor. However, he added, "anomalies like Fall River are cropping up with more frequency" and the time has come for the CPA to define for its members what good journalism standards should be followed.

"Most Catholic editors know these standards," Father Harrington pointed out. "Perhaps — and I hope this is the case — what is needed now is simply learning experiences on the part of the publishers."

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