

COURIER-CALENDAR

Make Today Count — Organization of cancer patients, their families and health professionals meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at Monroe Developmental Center, 620 Westfall Rd.; first discussion groups for children 9-12 and 13-17. Details: John Marks, Monroe County Cancer and Leukemia Association, 473-8230.

Labor Day Retreat — For men and women, Sept. 3-6, Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave., led by Father Albert Bartlett, SJ. Reservations: Sister Marie Halligan, 271-8755.

Classic Film Series — Three Mack Sennett two-reelers from early days of "talking pictures," 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Aug. 19, Rochester Museum Auditorium, 657 East Ave.

Bristol Valley Playhouse — The Rainmaker, 8:15 p.m. Aug. 20, 21; 3:15 p.m. Aug. 22, Seman Road north of Naples. Reservations: 716/374-6318.

Memorial Art Gallery — Arena Group show and Kent Bicentennial Portfolio, through Aug. 22.

Rochester Museum — Images from the Long House, continuing exhibition of Ernest Smith paintings, Eisenhart Auditorium; Gifts from the Creator, multi-media presentation with Ernest Smith illustrations, Polyhedron Theatre, 657 East Ave.

St. Boniface — Men's Club annual stag picnic, Sunday noon, Aug. 22, Powderhorn Lodge, Mendon Ponds.

Junior Tennis — Awards picnic, exhibition match, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. tomorrow, Orchard Grove Pavilion, Ellison Park, sponsored by Rochester Jaycees, town and city recreation departments, others. Public, 25-cents.

Leadership Meet Set in Boston

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious, an organization of the chief administrative officers of congregations or regions will conduct a national assembly Aug. 22-26 in Boston. Keynote speaker will be Mrs. Irma Mazelis, of the United Nations office of Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. She will speak on the interdependence that is required by the emerging concept of a planetary society. Sister Gertrude Foley, SC, will discuss the implications that interdependence will have for religious life.

Also scheduled to speak are Sister Barbara Thomas, SCN, president, and Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, president-elect of the conference.

Bishop Joseph Francis, newly consecrated bishop of Newark, N.J., Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate to the United States and Archbishop James J. Byrne of Dubuque have been invited to celebrate liturgies.

CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

St. Mary's Prayer Community in Bath has chartered buses to the Eastern General Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Atlantic City, N.J. for Oct. 22-24 and is taking reservations for bus seats. Round trip fare will cost \$20 and seats can be reserved until August 22 from Mrs. Frances Abbey, 12 Gansvoort St., Bath 14810, telephone (607) 776-6719.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

All the signs are that the Catholic church is entering a new period of repression. Professors are being removed from European Catholic faculties, books are being quietly taken out of circulation, suspicion of Protestants has increased as they are discreetly banned from teaching at Roman seminaries, a number of world famous theologians are under increasing pressures from their religious orders to give up their teaching positions.

The latest — perhaps the final attempt to end the period of openness begun by the Second Vatican Council is under way. My contacts in Rome tell me that it could be a very bloody time — as bad as the antimodernist era at the beginning of the century. The whole affair is still under wraps, but unless there is a change of policy (and currently Rome flops very quickly), the blood will start flowing in the autumn.

Will it work? The only answer is that it will not work, of course. Attempts to turn the clock back never do. One would be tempted to say that the curia cannot put the church back into the Dark Ages — save for the fact that there was a lot more intellectual freedom for Catholic thinkers in the Dark Ages than there was in this century before the Second Vatican Council. We are witnessing the last desperate gasp of a dying order. There was a Roman document forbidding even the discussion of vernacular liturgies only two years before the bishops of the world, with almost no opposition, voted the vernacular liturgies into practice. One can expect a similar end to this final act of curial repression.

But in the process a lot of people will get hurt — badly hurt. Furthermore the church, which has looked terrible in recent years, will look even worse — not merely to its enemies but to its friends and even to its own people. The corruption and dishonesty of the Roman curia — already an international scandal — will be even more of an obstacle to seeing the face of Jesus in the church.

The reasons the curia will ultimately fail are many. They no longer can invoke the states cooperation, they do not control the salaries of many they wish to get, they cannot command the consensus they used to be able to

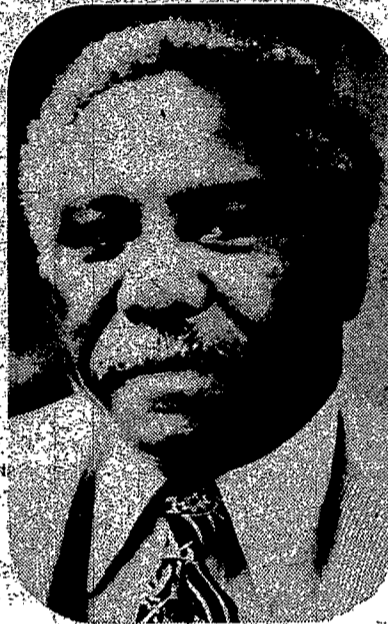
invoke, many people simply refuse to take them seriously, and most of those whom they are persecuting simply will not leave the church even if the curia tries to push them out.

It will not be an easy time though.

My guess is that after 12 years, the days of this column are numbered. Obviously no one can get it on doctrinal grounds, since I don't write about doctrine. (And despite people like Cardinal Carberry, I have gone no further than to raise the question of whether "Humanae Vitae" should be reconsidered — which it can be, of course, since no one claims that it is an exercise of the infallible magisterium.) But a period of repression is a fine time for settling scores. My crime is that I dared to criticize bishops. Of course the church strongly supports the right to criticize and dissent so long as it is focused outside the church.

To tell the truth, I'm surprised the column has lasted as long as it has. Only the courage of editors, the loyalty of readers, and the support of an occasional tough maverick of a bishop has kept it going. Time seems to be running out.

To report that the Vatican Council is not responsible for the decline in the church in the last ten years and that the birth control encyclical seems to be the occasion of the deterioration was the ultimate sin. Never mind whether the data are accurate and the analysis is sound. What, after all, is truth?



New Director

Alphonso E. Tindall Sr. is the new executive director of the Genesee Settlement House. He was honored at a reception last Friday at the settlement house which is at 10 Dake St. in Rochester. He was named director on July 15.

'BURN' BENEFIT

Elmira — Area firefighters are sponsoring a baseball night Aug. 26 to benefit the Burn Program at St. Joseph's Hospital. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. game at Dunn Field, between the Elmira Pioneer Red Sox and Newark, are available from area firehouses, St. Joseph's Hospital or at the Dunn Field Box Office.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FASHIONS

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Sincerely,

Vincent F. DiStefano, Administrator