

The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

I write this column because there are times when one must tell the truth no matter how risky it may be.

For several years I have been sending survey results to Jewish community leaders that indicate a rise of anti-Catholic feeling among Jews. The data do NOT show a grave crisis situation nor a dramatic surge in Jewish anti-Catholic feeling; it is merely a minor problem. I have not, however, gone public with most of these data because I do not think such problems ought to be dealt with except by responsible bipartite discussion and research.

Recently I was asked by my friend (I thought) Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum to comment on these problems at a national meeting of the American Jewish Committee. I went public then only because I was asked to (and at considerable inconvenience to me in time and travel). Rabbi Tanenbaum reviewed every word of the paper and suggested changes — all of which I followed. The AJC reaction was mixed but not unfriendly. Then the New York Times asked to excerpt the talk in its Op/Ed page. I neglected to insist that they mention it was excerpted from a paper commissioned by the American Jewish Committee.

Well, the roof fell in on me. The Times carried a page of angry letters that linked me to Hitler, pogroms and the Inquisition; attempts were made to terminate the funding of my research center and to get me fired. It seems that even the mild suggestion that there might be a tiny minority (my exact words) of Jews who are less than moral perfections on the subject of prejudice was enough to unleash the Furies. (Let me hasten to add that I don't take this to be representative behavior of American Jews.) Unlike the Catholic bishops, some Jewish leaders play real hard ball.

What about my friend Rabbi Tanenbaum? Well, he issued a statement denouncing me in which he never mentioned that virtually word for word my Times piece had been excerpted from a paper he had commissioned and had reviewed before its presentation.

I challenge Rabbi Tanenbaum and the leadership of the American Jewish Committee to launch bipartite research on this problem. If they continue to betray their friends instead, they will eventually have to deal with enemies.

Regents Asked to Back Nonpublic Schools

Albany — The State Board of Regents has been asked by representatives of Catholic education to back their long-standing vocal support of nonpublic schools by action in three areas.

In testimony before the Regents, the highest educational policy-making body in the state, Father Lawrence Deno, Ogdensburg Diocese Catholic Schools Superintendent, urged the board to:

1. Back support for nonpublic school students on both the state and federal level as in accord with the "American ideal"

2. Back the disadvantaged nonpublic school students now receiving federal "catchup"

But not all Jews agree with Rabbi Tanenbaum and those who went after my research center. Consider the words of Adam Walinsky in a letter the New York Times did not get around to publishing.

"The recent response (July 1) to Andrew Greeley's article on Anti-Catholic Feeling Among Jews is disturbing in the extreme. For it suggests that Fr. Greeley's fears are close to fact: that many Jews, understandably concerned with their own interests, cannot or will not respond in any constructive way to the concerns of those who have, in America, long been our closest allies.

"Jews, I believe, should be particularly mindful that without the long-standing support we have received from the urban Catholics who are the bulk and muscle of the Democratic party of the North, none of our present achievements would have been possible — specifically including the enormous American support for the creation and survival of the State of Israel.

"Therefore, when our best friends tell us that our support for their causes has been 'less than reciprocal, we have an obligation to listen. But for the last ten years or more, a liberal-professional-intellectual elite, much of it Jewish, has been perceived not only as actively hostile to Catholic interests but as partaking of a self-righteousness that treats defeats of those interests as triumphs over the devil. Aid to parochial schools is pictured not only as unconstitutional, but as the work of a conspiracy operating out of the local chancery; we hold banquets to celebrate our judicial victories. Abortion is not only a woman's right, but the occasion for moral condemnation of those who oppose it; no credence is given to the moral imperatives of the anti-abortionists, which even if defective would seem entitled to respect.

"Israel we expect to be a moral cause for Americans regardless of religion; but we have little sympathy, and much suspicion, for those who ask us to extend similar concern to oppressed Catholic peoples in Eastern Europe and Northern Ireland. Closer to home, it may be unpleasant to remember, but we cannot forget, the noisome undercurrent of anti-Italian jokes that accompanied the mayoral election of 1969, or the Polish jokes that still make national television. Were those gibes anti-black — let alone anti-Semitic — we can imagine the storm of protest; our actual silence speaks volumes.

"Father Greeley did not ask us to beat our breasts in apology, or ourselves embrace anti-Semitism. All he asked was that we be a little more sensitive, a little more aware of Catholic concerns. For this he was reminded, by one writer of the Inquisition, I hope I speak for more Jews than myself when I say that we should and will strive to be better friends to those, especially and notably including Fr. Greeley, who were and are our best allies in a difficult and uncertain world."

remedial assistance by coming in on the students' side in a court case which claims helping them is "unconstitutional."

3. Set up a task force to promote diversity in education, needed because the style today seems to be total conformity which goes against the very reason parents exercise their constitutional right to choose religious-related education for their children.

Testifying on behalf of the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents and the New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the eight dioceses of the State, Father Deno indicated that he was speaking for some 486,000 students in 1,150 elementary and secondary schools with more than 23,000 teachers.

Canterbury Hopes 'Tensions' Will Become 'Strengths'

Minneapolis [RNS] — Dr. F. Donald Coggan, the 101st Archbishop of Canterbury, said here that he was "profoundly grateful" for the "spirit" of the debate at the Episcopal General Convention regarding ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate.

But he acknowledged that the decision had left "tensions" and "wounds" and expressed the hope that they could be used creatively and turned into "power" and a "source of strength."

The 64-year-old primate of the Church of England gave his views at a news conference and in two addresses to the two branches of the Episcopal convention — the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.

At the news conference, Archbishop Coggan said that women's ordination, handled rightly, could lead to enrichment of the Church.

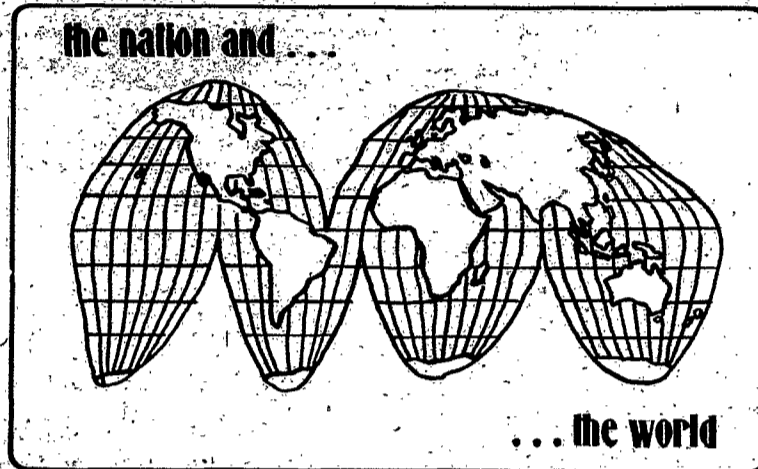
In answer to a question, he said he would be willing to celebrate the Eucharist with some of the 15 Episcopal women irregularly ordained in 1974 and 1975 if they would get their ordinations regularized.

Archbishop Coggan told reporters he thought "too much has been made about maleness and femaleness" as a basis for deciding the issue of women priests. From a theological point of view, he said, "when the Lord ascended He took into the Godhead not maleness, but humanity."

In his talk to the House of Deputies, Dr. Coggan described the Episcopal Church as "less timid" than the Church of England for deciding to allow the ordination of women. He said his Church is still debating the issue, and remarked, "We English people haven't been as bold as you."

Archbishop Coggan told reporters he takes "with utmost seriousness" a letter Pope Paul sent to him in response to his message advising the Pope that some Anglican Churches were contemplating ordaining women.

In the letter, the Pope said that ordaining women would be regarded as a setback to the efforts to unite the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches but would not disrupt negotiations.



One of the priests ordained by the suspended traditionalist Archbishop Marcel LeFebvre is travelling the country celebrating the Mass in Latin according to the Tridentine form. Following a Mass in St. Louis, Father Daniel L. Dolan, said he would "welcome" excommunication by Pope Paul VI. . . . 50,000 persons gathered at the Washington Monument to hear Rev. Sun Myung Moon's last scheduled U.S. address. Moon is at the center of the controversial Unification Church. His theology implies that he is a new Messiah. . . . And Catholic University this fall reports its largest increase in enrollment in 10 years — 15 per cent more than the reported last year.

The Papal Nuncio to Argentina and six prominent Argentinians, including the editor of a Catholic magazine, have been placed on a death list by the Argentine National Socialist Front, a right wing terrorist group. . . . Shane Paul O'Doyerty, a 21 year old Irishman who sent a bomb in a hallowed out bible to Bishop Gerard W. Tickle, the Roman Catholic bishop to Britain's Armed Services, has been sentenced to life imprisonment in London.

RARE BOOKS

About 36 dealers in rare books will set up shop Saturday, Oct. 2, in Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester. Booths will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. in the reserve reading room, featuring materials ranging from 15th Century books to modern first editions.

VIGIL, LATIN MASS

An all night vigil will be held at Holy Rosary Church on Friday, Oct. 1. Bishop John McCafferty will say a Latin Mass. Mrs. Robert Lazekski will direct the Latin Choir.

Father Frederick Eisemann will officiate at the Holy Hour to be held from 11-12 in the evening. Father Robert Meng will conduct the 6 a.m. Mass on Saturday, Oct. 2.

SUNDAY DINNER

Van Etten — The people of St. Pius X Church will put on a smorgasbord this Sunday, Oct. 3, from 1 until 4 p.m. in the parish hall on Main Street. "All you can eat of a very extensive and delicious buffet" is promised for \$3.50. The price for children under 12 is \$1.75; pre-schoolers will be guests.

PROGRAM ON VALUES

Friday evening, Oct. 1, at 7:45, Guardian Angels Parish will offer the first in a series of Adult Education programs with a presentation on "Values Clarification" by Father Robert Gaudio and his team. The program is open to the public and all adults and teenagers are invited.

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