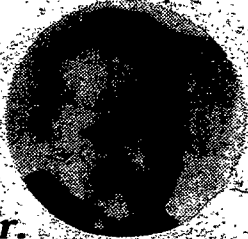


The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

The suit filed by a major liturgical publishing company against the Archdiocese of Chicago and a number of the more affluent parishes in the Archdiocese for violation of the copyright laws is one of the major scandals of our day. It exposes a hypocrisy and an insensitivity to human rights which are shocking and disgraceful. One gets used to phoniness from ecclesiastics but the copyright case recalls Jesus' condemnation of the scribes and pharisees.

I hasten to add that Chicago simply happened to be the target. I have no desire to defend either the diocese or its clergy who have tossed me out on my ear, for all practical if not canonical purposes. But fairness requires that it be noted that almost any city in the country could have been the target. In fact the plaintiff has warned all other bishops that they will be next.

There are two major enthusiasms in the church today — the "right to life" on the one side, and "liberation" on the other. Now I know personally enthusiasts of both causes who have not hesitated to Xerox or duplicate copyrighted materials. On the one hand, there has been no question of the right to a decent living for composers, nor any concern about liberating publishers from unjust oppression.

The plaintiff has argued that his loss because of violated copyrights last year was over a million dollars and that composers have been deprived of more than a quarter million dollars of royalties in a single year.

Let's be clear about it: this is robbery, indeed larceny on a grand and monumental scale. The clergy and religious who have violated the copyright laws have an obligation

in strict justice not only to stop what they're doing but to restore in full what they have stolen.

This month all the flaming liberal amateurs hied themselves off to Detroit to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our nation by attacking the injustices of American society — usually without bothering to understand any of the complex economic and social problems about which they so glibly pontificate.

They will not speak about "liberty and justice for all in the church." You go after the mote in the nation's eye but pay no attention to the beam in your own (save for confronting people about the ordination of women). The copyright suit reveals a huge scandal within American Catholicism. Will the Detroit meeting recommend restitution? Will it offer to send money to the defrauded composers?

Call the zoo, my friends, and see if this is spot-changing time among the leopards. If it hadn't been for the suit I'd not be surprised if there were pirated hymns sung at the Detroit meeting itself.

People whom I know who have engaged in these villations shrug their shoulders. "It's for divine worship, so it's all right." Or to paraphrase the late John Courtney Murray, they only steal for the good of the church.

The copyright thefts are one more example of American Catholicism's propensity to do things on the cheap. Amateurism costs less so you do amateur research, run amateur bicentennial celebrations, engage in amateur labor relations, mount an amateur political campaign. Professional musicians and composers cost too much so you run amateur liturgies — for the love of God, of course.

"Commonweal" recently carried an article which suggested that the liturgical revival had failed because people were not singing in church. Baloney. Church music has not been tried and found wanting; it's been found expensive and not tried. In those few parishes where the church has been willing to make serious long-run commitments to professional musicians, congregational singing has flourished.

Loyalty to Pope, Bishop Stressed

28,000 Charismatics Meet

By ROBERT L. JOHNSTON
Religious News Service

Atlantic City — While displaying a dynamic ecumenical outreach, the largest conference in the history of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal — drawing some 28,000 persons from the Northeast U.S. — reflected a posture that strongly affirmed a deep loyalty to the Pope and the Catholic bishops.

Throughout the three-day general regional conference, attended by six bishops and over 400 priests, it was emphasized that the

Charismatic Renewal is being "integrated" quite rapidly into the life of the Catholic Church and that there is a growing acceptance of the once suspect movement by the bishops.

It was pointed out by several spokesmen that the liaison between the charismatic movement and Church leaders and theologians is growing all over the world. Mention was made of a recent theological conference in Chicago sponsored by the leadership of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the U.S. and of meetings between that leadership and a special committee of the U.S. Catholic bishops.

Father John Randall of Providence, R.I., a well-known charismatic leader, estimated that 5 per cent of the nation's Catholics are somehow involved in the renewal movement in thousands of prayer communities across the country.

The Atlantic City conference, which had grown from 8,000 participants in 1974, included many non-Catholics and encompassed a special ecumenical luncheon-workshop for some 35 invited Protestant and non-denominational Christian guests. Protestant services, a non-Catholic Christian speaker and dwelt heavily on the themes of Christian unity and reconciliation.

At the same time, the conference for the first time included two major liturgies — both celebrated by bishops — and drew a strong response to calls for loyalty to the bishops and the Pope as "chief shepherds" of the flock. It also received endorsements from 12 East Coast prelates, including Cardinal Humberto Medeiros of Boston, Archbishop William Borders of Baltimore, Bishop Bernard Flanagan of Worcester, Mass., and Bishop John McGann of Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Missionary Efforts Discussed

New York — Future missionary efforts of the Church were explored during a three-day meeting of the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies here recently.

Aimed at creating awareness and support for the world-wide missionary efforts of the Church, the three-day meeting was hosted by Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York, and Bishop Edward T. O'Meara, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Among the dignitaries attending the 12th quinquennial meeting were Cardinal Agnelo Rossi, prefect for the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, and Bishop D. Simon Lourdasamy, secretary of the congregation.

(Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father Joseph F. Reinhart, diocesan missions director, attended the lectures, workshops and discussion groups.) Almost 150 diocesan directors from coast-to-coast participated.

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