



### Kearney Parents

Planning activities for Bishop Kearney High School Parents Club 1976-77 year are from left: Mrs. Cyril (Christine) Plasschaert, Mothers Club president and Brother J. Matthew Walderman (vice principal), moderator; John O'Neill, president of the Fathers Club and Brother William M. Stoldt (principal), Fathers Club moderator.

### The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

The new emerging leadership of the American Catholic church must face the fact that it has two choices: If either deals with blunt but competent moderates or it deals with the far-out flakes.

The Detroit tent show makes it clear that thus far the leadership has chosen the latter. You can wonder why.

But as they do the post mortem on the Detroit disaster at the upcoming administrative board meeting, they might ask themselves how the secretariat of the U.S.C.C. (or part of it) was captured and co-opted in such a venture. They might wonder how such a group could persuade the cardinal archbishop of Detroit that they spoke for the Catholic "people."

How many Irish political leaders, Italian lawyers, Polish real estate men, German bakery owners, Slovak engineers, Croatian architects, etc., etc. were represented at the Detroit fraud? The answer is that they were not — and that they are the American church in much greater part than those who were at the meeting.

Do I sound arrogant? OK, I am, if that's the way you want it. I will be more arrogant. My colleagues and I have spent the last 15 years studying the American Catholic population. We know about it in more minute detail than anyone in the country. You exclude us from your medicine shows — that's all right; we've got other things to do.

I don't much care personally. I don't like going to meetings and I have long since given up any hope of having an impact on the Church for the rest of my life. I am too blunt for the bishops and too sane for the crazies. That's all right; there are other things to do.

But I am furious when I see the Catholic tradition and the Catholic population sold down the river, humiliated, disgraced, and betrayed by untrained, incompetent zealots who do not know a damn thing about the past history or the present greatness of American Catholicism.

I suspect that the NORC finding on the ordination of women was

never quoted in Detroit because no one there had read it. Who cares what the ordinary laity think?

I am arguing that the bishops should care — because now it is either the ordinary laity or the kooks, the researchers who can study the ordinary laity or the visionaries who hear voices in the night.

But was "Catholic Schools In a Declining Church" really worse than Detroit?

The Postal Service has advanced its suggested Christmas mailing deadlines for domestic parcels and letter mail to Dec. 3 and 10 respectively, in anticipation of an exceptionally high mail volume.

Citing the impact of greatly increased mail volumes generated by the 15-state United Parcel Service strike in the East and South and its residual effect on other parts of the country, the Postal Service said it is compelled to ask the public to mail even earlier than normal.

Parcel volume has already more than doubled in the strike area and

### Postal Service Advances Deadlines

is up significantly nationwide, and letter mail is also on the rise, the Postal Service said. It said most of the increase, to date, has been from large volume business mailers, who presort their mail and deposit at

scheduled, non-peak hours in plants prepared to handle it. For example, the service said it is working closely with shippers of perishable goods to handle millions of gift packages normally moved by other shippers.



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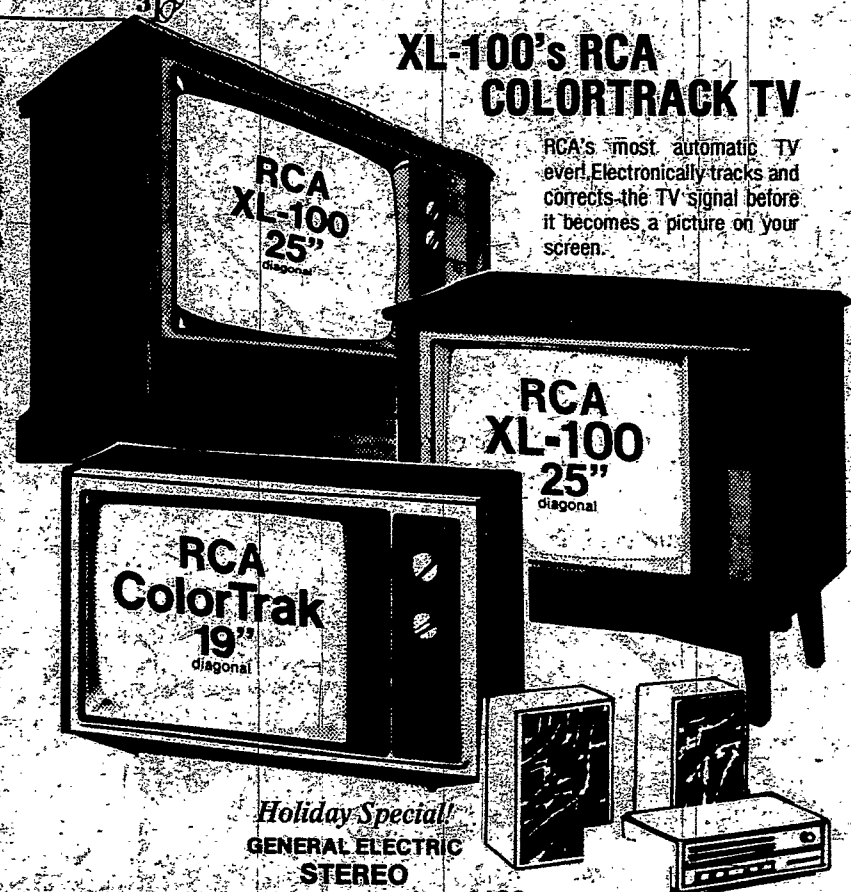


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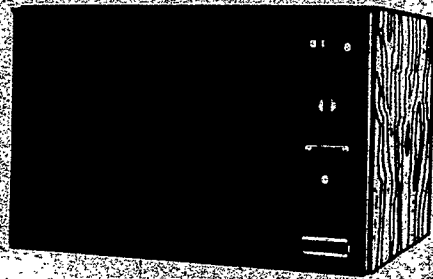
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