



with the world as the modern trend of today seems to be the practice. I believe the original message and its meaning in both the Old and New Testaments is the same today as when the words were first written. The message and the spirit of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount can not be improved upon.

Signed, C.N.

Dear C.N.,  
I am glad you have been able to put up with impatient teachers and associates. You have furnished many fine questions which I am sure are a help to many people. Your conviction that the mission of the Church is to change the world (or redeem it if you will) is quite accurate. Actually it is Jesus Christ who changes it and redeems it but we are His instruments. I think when you make the statement that the Church should not change with the world there is a chance for some misunderstanding. Jesus Himself said that the Church is not of the world although in it. But if the Church changes on behalf of the needs of people who are in the world or even those who are of the world and who need to be saved, I do not consider it to be false to its mission. It would be false to its mission only if it were to retreat from those basic principles and original message of which you speak. It is true that the original message and its meaning in Old and New Testaments is the same today. But the expression of that original message can certainly change in order to clarify it for less contemporary listeners. The message and the spirit of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount cannot be improved upon in essence but certainly can be improved upon in explanation, application and rationale. I guess what I see as a dangerous possibility is being locked into certain forms and categories which do not allow for change when in fact changes are called for. The whole problem today is trying to distinguish the essential message of Christ and His Church from the accidental and peripheral items which have adorned it through the centuries. It seems to me that most of the people who get very, very upset about the changes in the Church are not getting upset over substantial changes but rather over adornments and peripheral items that have no central importance.

Dear Father,

With your permission, I would like to submit a few more questions that keep my mind at unrest. From childhood, I have been taught to question and to consider what I hear and read, and was encouraged to voice questions and ask for more explanation. This life-long habit can be a source of irritation to impatient teachers and associates. One reason more people do not ask more questions, I think, is that they fear ridicule or are made to feel that they are "not with it." I still am convinced, as I was very long ago, that the mission of the Church is to change the world and not change

**Readers Named At Seminary**

St. Bernard's Seminary was the site for the Rite of Institution in the Ministry of Readers recently for 17 men representing various dioceses. Those installed in the Office of Readers are specially commissioned by the Church to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly.

From this diocese the following were installed: Daniel Almeter, John Jagla, Joseph Larrabee, Timothy McCluskey, Charles Prindle, Michael Schramel, Gary Schummer, Michael Sullivan. The Diocese of Worcester was represented by Timothy Brewer. From the Diocese of Providence were P. Henry Leech, Francis O'Loughlin, Mario Papitto, Alfred Ricci, Joseph Kutipurath, Andrews Vallomthail, John Velikkakan, Tomy Velivil were students from India, studying for the Order of Our Lady of Mercy in Leroy.



This column is for parents of boys who despair that the tide will never turn.

It was All Saints Day and everybody had filled their obligation to hear Mass with the exception of the nine-year-old.

"It's okay, Mom," he said shortly before the six o'clock Mass. "Drive me over and I'll sit with Eddie. His family hasn't gone yet."

And I did so, telling him I'd pick him up shortly after seven in order to bypass the worst of the traffic leaving the parking lot.

Shortly before 7 the phone rang. It was a man from the parish whom I knew only by name.

"It's about your boy," he began. "He sat with us in church."

Fear clutched my heart, trepidation set in.

What now, I thought, I believed we were long past the monkeyshines which had characterized his church-going for the first six years of his life.

At one year he had outshouted a priest during the homily at the little mission church his grandmother attended. Each time the priest had raised his voice to drown out our son, the latter would go a half-tone louder. As I rose with him in my arms to make a quick exit I was stopped in my tracks by the priest who informed me and the entire congregation that the "baby wasn't bothering anybody" and to sit down. Redfaced and chagrined, I did.

When he was two, we had visited a neighboring parish not far from

home and placed the known troublemaker in the nursery just down the hall from the church. At the Consecration we heard commotion and turned to find our son racing into the church with an understandably discomfited nun giving chase.

At age six he distinguished himself (and us) at the children's Mass on Christmas eve by singing ribald versions of Christmas carols — and from the very first pew yet.

All this flashed through my mind in a second as the telephone caller continued.

"I asked my own son who the boy

was who sat with us and he told me he was yours. (Obviously our son had not found his friend and had chosen a pew with friendly faces.)

"I just wanted you to know how impressed I was with him," the man continued.

"He followed the Mass in his missal and was so caught up with everything that was happening on the altar I just had to call you."

"You must," he finished, "be very proud of him."

The caller could not possibly know just how much.

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