



Ed Newman should be a Catholic. In fact he probably has an obligation to become one if he really wants to save the English language.

Mr. Newman, you will remember, is the dour and acerbic NBC commentator who has written a couple of books trying to protect our language from the abuses to which journalists, educators, businessmen, and government bureaucrats have subjected it in recent years.

But, Mr. Newman, I'll tell you, the real enemy is the church, particularly the Catholic church, which has developed in its new post-Vatican version a form of unparalleled language destruction revealed in its communiques from all those wild-eyed meetings they're always holding.

This form of English is called Solemn High Late Byzantine Nunnish — "Solemn High" because of its pomposity, "Late Byzantine" because of its ornateness, and "Nunnish" because nuns excel in it (though they are by no means the only ones who do).

Take the recommendations from the "Call to Action" meeting in Detroit last year — an attempt by liberal ideologues and bureaucrats to take control of the church away from the bishops (would that it were as easy as they thought). Select at random any set of recommendations, say the one on "neighborhood":

"(We recommend) that the parish personalize its outreach into the neighborhood community to develop an increased level of human concern and positive interchange and intervention."

Now if that sentence means anything at all (and it may not), it probably is that the parish ought to be concerned about the people in the neighborhood. But you don't want to say that because then you don't sound serious and important.

Sample: "... we recommend that parish churches and other Catholic institutions recognize themselves as part of the

neighborhood in which they exist, and working with and involved with the multicultural, pluralistic situation of neighborhoods, assume responsibility for supporting, strengthening, and developing instruments through which people can determine their needs and improve the quality of their lives."

My guess is that Sister is here saying the same thing she did before — that the parish ought to be concerned with everything that goes on and with all the people in its neighborhood.

Sample: "... the parish and other Catholic institutions should be a rallying point for immediate person-to-person assistance, as well as a facilitator to work with the people to determine and find remedies for their problems."

There is a new note here. Not only should the parish be concerned about its people, it should actually try to help them. A splendid idea, though a lot of people who lived and worked all their lives in neighborhoods will wonder why you need a special meeting in Detroit to arrive at that insight.

Sample: "... neighborhood, its creation, growth, and development is a valid and viable concept for urban and rural living and it is the core concept which should give direction and purpose to all urban and rural planning and development."

I think what Sister means is that neighborhoods are good — an idea that not all city planners would go along with because neighborhoods mess up the pretty lines they make on their maps. It's nice for the church to take a stand for neighborhoods and against city planners, though I guess the folks out in the neighborhood didn't need a revolutionary meeting in Detroit to know that planning bureaucracies are their enemies. And, incidentally, the neighborhood is a "place," a "reality," not a "valid and viable concept" (a phrase that Solemn High Late Byzantine Nunnish has borrowed from Washingtonspeak). Still, when you use the word "concept" you really sound like an intellectual. It beats doing research.

Like most of the rest of the output of the Detroit meeting, these recommendations say nothing at all. But they sure sound impressive. And as for real neighborhoods, well, you put the people who wrote those resolutions and voted on them down in a real neighborhood and they couldn't find their way to the corner drugstore if their lives depended on it.

## Priest from Rochester Takes Public Office

Father Charles J. Dollen, a Rochester native who serves the diocese of San Diego, Calif., is the first Catholic priest to be elected to public office in that four-county see. He will join the Poway Unified School District board of trustees at its April 11 meeting.

Father Dollen was librarian at the University of San Diego for 15 years before he was named pastor a few years ago of St. Gabriel's, Poway. He is a brother of Father Bernard Dollen, pastor of St. An-

drew's, Rochester. Their mother is Mrs. Cecilia M. Kelly of St. Christopher's parish in North Chili.

The Poway school board is responsible for the education of 15,000 youngsters in 15 schools. Sixteen candidates vied for three seats on the five-member board in last month's election, and Father Dollen drew the greatest number of votes, according to the San Diego Union. His being a priest was not an issue in the campaign, he told the newspaper.

# Bishops Unit Opposes Right to Die Proposals

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A U.S. Catholic bishops' report has warned that "unnecessary legislation" on the right to die "opens the way to serious violation of human rights" and may be the first step toward "active euthanasia and... selective killing" of the unfit.

Issued by the bishops' Pro-Life Activities Committee in response to euthanasia legislation, the report criticized the California Natural Death Act as "unsound" with an "undue bias in favor of allowing the patient to die."

The report was sent to

Respect Life coordinators, Pro-Life coordinators, state Catholic conference directors and Right to Life committees across the nation.

Earlier, Msgr. James T. McHugh, director of the committee, said the so-called "death with dignity" laws should be "actively opposed by Church agencies and should in no case be endorsed or promoted."

He said the major objection to the proposals is that such laws are an attempt to "relieve society of its responsibility to provide legal protection for human

life at every stage of its existence and in every circumstance, even if the enjoyment of life is limited or qualified."

"To remain silent or take a position of neutrality on pending legislation is to accede to the legislative trend — to accept tacitly passive euthanasia," he said.

In September, California became the first state to enact a death with dignity

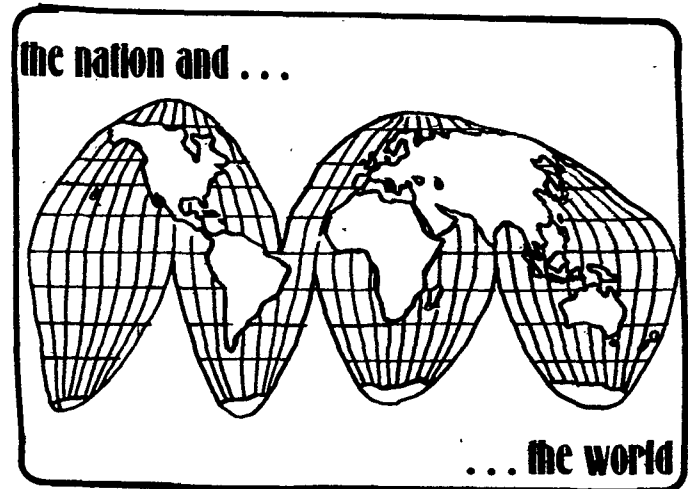
law which provides for the signing of a "living will." The law states that "any adult person may execute a directive directing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures in a terminal condition."

The bishops' report questioned whether the law places too large a burden on the individual, expecting the person to predict the kind of medical care he or she would receive in the future. Unlike a traditional will, a "living will" is uncontestable after death.

The report says there are no guarantees that the person who signs the "living will" has full knowledge of acts with true freedom.

**BE-MAR INC.**  
Roller Skating For Schools  
Any Afternoon or Evening  
... Our 20th Year ...  
4815 Clover, Honeye Falls  
Call Collect (716) 624-1626

**Contemporary Scandinavian Furniture**  
Now Open — Roch. Newest most exciting display of imported contemporary furniture.  
— Tecum Furniture —  
Ridgmont Plaza  
Greene, N.Y. 225-4890



Amnesty International, the London-based organization which investigates the conditions of political prisoners around the world has charged that there are between 5,000 and 6,000 people being held as political prisoners in Argentina, and that torture of such prisoners is widespread under the country's state of siege. On the investigating team that made the charges was Father Robert Drinan SJ, U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts ... In the Philippines 54 Catholic clergy and laymen — including the American-born bishop of Tagum, have been brought before a military tribunal and accused of being subversives and Communists ... India's new minister of health and family planning, Raj Narain, has announced the end of compulsory sterilization in the country.

Cardinal John J. Carberry of St. Louis has appealed to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation leadership conference for prayers regarding "Communion in the hand" — a topic to be taken up by the U. S. Bishops at their upcoming spring meeting. The Cardinal has been in the forefront of moves to forestall approval of the practice in the U.S. ... Msgr. James T. McHugh, a Newark archdiocesan priest and executive director of the U. S. Catholic bishop's Committee for Pro-Life Activities has been named to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Laity and the related Committee for the Family.

And one last item: A bishop of the Episcopal Church, who was made an honorary member of the Roman Catholic Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Graymoor, N.Y. said he believes that the Catholic Church is close to officially recognizing Anglican orders and that both Churches are on the path to reunion. Bishop J. Stuart Wetmore, Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, asserted the three "agreed statements" on Eucharist, ministry and authority worked out by an Anglican-Roman Catholic international commission have paved the way for "eventual reunification of Rome and Canterbury."

**TANDOI PAVING CO.**  
"TOPS IN BLACKTOP"  
• RESIDENTIAL  
• COMMERCIAL  
• Asphalt Driveways  
• Resurfacing  
• Excavating  
• Parking Areas  
FREE ESTIMATES  
647-2448 248 STENSON ST., ROCHESTER

**TEENAGE SUMMER PROGRAMS**  
... a new approach to a teenager's summer ... cross-country camping/educational programs ... college-awareness program ... bicycle and backpacking courses ...  
Departures from Rochester  
For our FREE BROCHURE write: HIGH PEAKS  
10 Colvin Avenue  
Albany N.Y. 12206

LIMITED TIME ONLY —  
**CARPET CLEANING** 10% OFF  
RESIDENTIAL—COMMERCIAL—INDUSTRIAL  
SOIL IS EXTRACTED—NOT SCRUBBED DEEPER INTO FABRIC!  
**STEAMEX OF NEW YORK**  
309 SUNNYSIDE DRIVE  
CALL 473-5858

**PLAN YOUR PILGRIMAGE NOW TO FATIMA SHRINE**  
only a short ride from Niagara Falls on Swan Road off Rt. 18 between Lewiston and Youngstown, New York

Open year round - a place of beauty, art and prayer - an outdoor Cathedral with gardens - a translucent dome representing the world - colorfully lit at night - a unique Souvenir Shop and cafeteria services.  
Eucharistic Services, Marian Devotions, special services for groups and parishes.

Write to: **FATIMA SHRINE DIRECTOR**  
YOUNGSTOWN, NY 14174  
(716) 754-7489

For:  Shrine Brochure  Calendar of Events  How to Plan a Pilgrimage

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Rochester, Courier-Journal '77