

Two things are beginning to emerge from current research on the American church. First of all, Catholics are highly selective in what they define as the essentials of Catholic behavior. Secondly, the dynamics which lead one out of the church are different from those which lead to a low level of religious practice.

The first point is made by the communal Catholic model. Catholics can consider themselves loyal to the church and engage in high levels of devotional practice while refusing to accept the right of the church to lay down rules as to how they must behave in matters of politics, race relations and sex. The left would say that they are inconsistent because they don't leave, the right would say they are inconsistent because they don't obey.

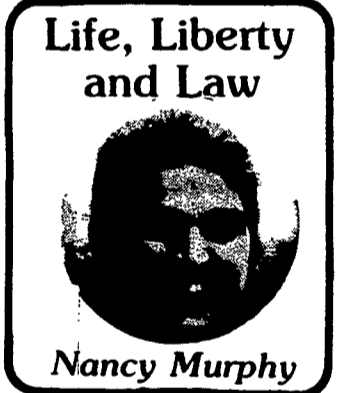
Inconsistent they may be, but they still stay and they still do not obey.

The other point is even less clearly understood. Men and women may drift to the fringes of the church because of dissatisfaction with church authority, but such a drift does not cause them formally to leave. Nor is leaving merely a question of just a little more drift — not for most of them at any rate.

Almost 3/4 of those who were raised Catholics but who no longer practice are those who entered religiously mixed marriages. The decision to stay or leave is associated — either before during or after — with the marriage and is not related to present religious problems. Another way of putting it is that only about 4 per cent of those who married born Catholics no longer consider themselves Catholic while 30 per cent of those who married born non-Catholics are no longer Catholic. The mixed marriage may not have caused them to leave. Indeed the departure may have antedated the marriage decision. (Most Americans seem to make up their religious minds in the late teens or early twenties. They then confirm these decisions or revise them at the time of marriage.)

By no means do all mixed marriages lead to defection from the church. On the contrary, some of them lead to conversions to the church. Americans play a game of musical chairs at the time of marriage in which wives or husbands join each other's religion (or join no religion at all but together) for the sake of peace and harmony in the family.

If one is thus trying to evangelize those who have left, one is dealing for the most part with two decisions which were made a long time ago — to enter a mixed marriage and to defect from the church (without the order being specified). If one is trying to evangelize those who are still Catholic but lax in their practice, one is dealing with a decision which is continuing in the sense that whatever else the person may think, he still actively defines himself as Catholic.



The Vatican Declaration on Sterilization in Catholic Hospitals, continued:

"2- The congregation, while it confirms this traditional doctrine of the Church, is not unaware of the dissent against this teaching from many theologians. The congregation, however, denies that doctrinal significance can be attributed to this fact as such, so as to constitute a 'technological source' which the faithful might invoke and thereby abandon the authentic Magisterium, and follow instead the opinions of private theologians who dissent from it (Lumen Gentium et al).

"3- Insofar as the management of Catholic hospitals is concerned: a) Any cooperation which involves the approval or consent of the hospitals to actions which are in themselves, that is, by their nature and condition, directed to a contraceptive end, namely in order that the natural effects of sexual actions deliberately performed by the sterilized subject be impeded, is absolutely forbidden. For the official approbation of direct sterilization and, a

fortiori, its management and execution in accord with hospital regulations is a matter which, in the objective order, is by its very nature (or intrinsically) evil. The Catholic hospital cannot cooperate with this for any reason. Any cooperation so supplied is totally unbecoming the mission entrusted to this type of institution and would be contrary to the necessary proclamation and defense of the moral order. b) The traditional doctrine regarding material cooperation, with the proper distinctions between necessary and free, proximate and remote, remains valid to be applied with the utmost prudence if the case warrants. c) In the application of the principle of material cooperation, if the case warrants, great care must be taken against scandal and the danger of any misunderstanding by an appropriate explanation of what is really being done.

"This Sacred Congregation hopes that the criteria recalled in this letter will satisfy the expectations of the episcopate in order that with the uncertainties of the faithful cleared, the bishops might more easily respond to their pastoral duties." (All emphasis added.)

Sterilization in a Catholic hospital is absolutely forbidden unless there is an existing and immediately life-threatening pathological condition in the patient, a condition that will be cured by the procedure, thereby indirectly causing sterilization. Such indirect sterilizations can be performed in Catholic hospitals, and personnel can cooperate in these, because there is no moral objection. (Continued next week.)

Legion of Mary Reports On Projects

By LUCILE KUNZ

(The writer is president of the Rochester Comitium, Legion of Mary.)

It is not difficult to find Our Lord's injunctions as stated in the Beatitudes put into daily practice when you examine the semi-annual report of the Legion of Mary.

This organization has the twofold aim of personal sanctification and apostolic work. There are active groups in more than 50 parishes in the Rochester Diocese. The members meet weekly for prayer, discussion and reports. They also devote at least two hours to assigned apostolic work each week.

Twice a year the Rochester officers travel to New York City to present a report to the Senatus, the Legion's headquarters for this region. This report highlights the works of the Legion throughout the diocese. A few excerpts from the report just recently presented to New York show some of the activities in which members are engaged.

We spend many hours helping to serve meals at St. Joseph House of Hospitality, a Catholic Worker house where destitute men and women can find a hot and nourishing meal. We offer them spiritual encouragement and invite them to join in the Rosary after the meal. We must help their bodies in order to reach their souls. We ask nothing of them, but just try to give them a little dignity.

We continue to work with the Legion group which we have established at the Auburn Correctional Facility, encouraging our members to make monthly visits there. A couple of statements made recently reflect the good being accomplished by this group: a prison Legionary said he had never prayed before, but now he can't wait to be able to teach his children to pray; a prison guard said that the Legion of Mary is one of the good things they have in the prison.

Visiting inmates of the Monroe County Jail is an important part of our Legion activity. We help them in whatever way we can and, where feasible, we contact their families by phone, letter or personal visit.

Much work is done in visiting the patients in an alcoholic rehabilitation unit of the Monroe Community Hospital. Members of the Junior Legion are becoming involved in the Monroe County Drug Program. They will be trained by the drug authorities as speakers for the drug abuse council.

Much is accomplished in the Right to Life area. Legionaries help man the telephones and counsel girls contemplating abortion, and refer them to sources of help. There are many known cases where an abortion was averted as a result of this work. Many Legionaries fast

and abstain on days when legislation is being voted on.

In addition to working in such specialized fields, the regular basic works of the Legion are continued — house-to-house visitations, teaching CCD classes, visiting the sick and elderly, making census calls, manning a Legion booth at shopping malls and fairs, organizing Bible study and prayer groups, working at migrant camps, serving as Eucharistic ministers, etc.

These are just a few of the items that the Rochester Diocesan Legion of Mary report includes. The primary work of the Legion is and

always has been house-to-house visitation. It is in this area that the members have an excellent opportunity to be of greatest help to the priest by making personal contact with the people, welcoming new members to the parish, visiting the sick, both at home and in the hospital, and much more. More than one pastor has said that he doesn't know how he could get these calls

made without the help of the Legion of Mary members.

All interested in becoming actively engaged in this work are urged to contact their parish priests. If there is no branch in your own parish, you may contact Miss Lucile Kunz, 168 Grecian Garden Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14626 (716-225-7821) for information as to the nearest group.

Rosetto
PRE COOKED
FROZEN CHEESE RAVIOLI

MAKES A LOW COST LUNCH OR DINNER

Takes only minutes to make a delicious, fresher-tasting dinner. Costs you less because it comes precooked without sauce. Use the coupon. Save even more.

ROSETTO COUPON

30¢ OFF

Rosetto
COOKED RAVIOLIS
50 count
30¢ OFF

The purchase price of a 30 oz bag of frozen **ROSETTO 50 PRE COOKED CHEESE RAVIOLI Without Sauce SAVE MONEY BUY A PACKAGE TODAY**

DEALER: Rosetto Foods, will redeem this coupon at 67 Deep Rock Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624 for 30¢ plus 5¢ handling, provided coupon is taken in exchange for a package of frozen Rosetto precooked Cheese Ravioli, in accordance with terms of our agreement. Cash value 1/20th of a cent. This coupon void if taxed, prohibited or restricted by law. Expires Sept. 30. R.C.J.

WINTER POOL COVERS

Pre-Season Prices ON THESE RUGGED LONG LASTING 6 MIL POOL PROTECTORS

COVER PRICES INCLUDE ALL THESE:

- THREE YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL COVERS
- COMPLETE CLOSING CHEMICALS
- POOL COVERS DRAINER (A Siphon to drain cover in the spring).

All sizes available to fit your pool—Round-Rectangular

COVERS ARE "SOLID DIRT PROOF" 6 MIL POLY AVAILABLE IN VARIOUS SIZES—IN LIMITED QUANTITIES

CLOVER POOL FAMILY FUN CENTERS

West 1227 Ridgeway Ave. 254-0300 Daily 10-9; Sat. 9-6; Sun. Noon-5 P.M.	North 3721 Dewey Ave. Mon.-Fri. 12-8; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-4	East 1612 Ridge Rd. E. 342-9787 Daily 10-9; Sat. 9-6; Sun. Noon-5 P.M.
---	---	--

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH
Prescriptions
Carefully Compounded
MANDELL'S PHARMACY
OF ROCHESTER INC.
Mal Wheeler • Hy Mandell
467-0879
467-0785
DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES
Portland Ave. at Norton

MUZET, INC.
Musical Instrument Rental Plans FOR YOUR CHILD

Recommended by Music Teachers throughout Western New York State

Fast Delivery, Repair, Brand Instruments

ARTLEY
Ludwig
CONN
Evette & Schaeffer
Gemeinhardt
Evette

Reynolds
SELMER
BUFFET

Rentals, Sales, Service Repairs, Sheet Music

290 MONROE AVENUE 454-2141
"The School Music Service"