

# The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

## What is In the Image?

There's been a lot of rejoicing in Catholic circles about the seventh Circuit Court's decision that Catholic schools, are immune from the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act. Catholic school administrators can break unions without any fear that the law of the land will be invoked to interfere — an ironic position for a church which has endorsed the right to organize since Leo XIII and used to proudly boast that Senator Wagner (who authored the original NLRA) was a Catholic.

There would be less rejoicing, however, if the bishops and their school administrators read the appellate court's decision carefully. The decision, which states that Catholic schools are so religious as to deserve immunity from the NLRA under the provisions of the "free exercise of religion" clause of the First Amendment, quotes a passage from Loraine Boettner's "Roman Catholicism," published in 1962 and cited by Supreme court Justice William O. Douglas in an earlier opinion to show how religious Catholic schools are:

"In the parochial schools Roman Catholic indoctrination is included

in every subject. History, literature, geography, civics, and science are given a Roman Catholic slant. The whole education of the child is filled with propaganda. That, of course, is the very purpose of such schools, the very reason for going to all of the work and expense of maintaining a dual school system. Their purpose is not so much to educate, but to indoctrinate and train, not to teach Scripture truths and Americanism, but to make loyal Roman Catholics. The children are regimented, and are told what to wear, what to do, and what to think."

Is that really how we want the law courts of the country to think about Catholic schools?

I dare say that none of the bishops who celebrated their victory over the unions bothered to check the Boettner book. Professor Douglas Laycock of the University of Chicago Law School did look up the volume and will report on it in a forthcoming article. (He has graciously permitted me to cite it in advance.) Among other things, Ms. Boettner thinks that practicing Catholics should not be allowed to teach in public schools or to hold high public office. Why?

Our American freedoms are being threatened today by two totalitarian systems, Communism and Roman Catholicism. And of the two in our country, Romanism is growing faster than is Communism and is the more dangerous since it covers its real nature with a cloak of religion.

The lawyers for Cardinal Cody argued that the Church's right to the free exercise of religion would be impeded by having to negotiate with a union. They won the argument (subject to Supreme Court review) in a judicial opinion which cited Ms. Boettner's volume. Ms. Boettner also says that an "undue proportion of gangsters, racketeers, thieves and juvenile delinquents came from Catholic schools . . . that three presidential assassins were graduates of Catholic schools, and that Catholics are taught by 'ignorant European peasants (who) often know nothing of American democracy, who cannot speak grammatically even in their own tongue . . ."

Is this the kind of person we want cited on our side? Do we want immunity from the law of the land when the arguments in favor of it fall back on legal opinions rooted in bigotry? Are we willing to have our schools written off as so permeated by religion as to be hardly educational institutions at all?

The cardinals and the bishops should ask what image of Catholicism was in the mind of Mr. Justice Douglas when he wrote the opinion which the Seventh Circuit Court invoked on their behalf. Would they be willing, for example, to accept the judgment that "90 percent of the teaching in the parochial schools is done by brainwashed nuns and priests who throughout their lives are kept in a rigid mental strait-jacket under the absolute authority of one man, the bishop of the diocese . . ."

## Academy of Religion To Meet April 14-15

The annual regional conference of the American Academy of Religion will be held at St. John Fisher College April 14 and 15. As many as 200 educators, writers and lecturers are expected, according to Nathan R. Kollar of Fisher, who is vice president of the organization's eastern international region.

on such subjects, as religion and culture, death and religion, world religions, and many others, Kollar said. Among featured speakers will be Michael Novak and Karen Laub Novak, who will collaborate on a free public lecture at 8 p.m. Friday, April 14, in 135 Basil Hall. Their topic is The Family and Faith.

Distinguished Professor of Religion at Syracuse University and adjunct scholar of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. He also writes a column for the Washington Star Syndicate. Mrs. Novak is an artist and essayist.

Program details may be obtained by calling Kollar at 586-4140, ext. 266, or George F. Haefner Jr., ext. 224.

There will be presentations

Michael Novak is Ledden-



### Baptism

St. Mark's Parish celebrates its first Family Folk Mass christening. James A. Nawrocki II, the son of James and Brenda Nawrocki is anointed by the celebrant of the Mass, Father Peter Bayer. He is assisted by Deacon Robert Werth. Father Joseph D. Donovan, pastor of the parish, welcomed the child into the Church during the rites.

## Auburn Group to Meet April 13

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—Single parenting of the adolescent, setting goals for a new life and the topic of the marriage annulment process will highlight the April 13th meeting of the Auburn Divorced and Separated Group at St. Mary's School at 17 Clymer Street, Auburn at 7:30 p.m.

Participants will have a choice of attending sessions on the annulment process and teachings of the Catholic Church and the single parenting of the adolescent.

Father Gennaro Ventura, Pastor, St. Francis de Sales, Geneva has conducted annulment workshops in his parish. He will lead a discussion on church teachings.

Dr. Stephen Coleman, psychologist, will discuss some of the unique problems and ways to handle parenting of the adolescent.

The focus of the program is to provide information and direction to the divorced and separated individuals or their families as well as to introduce programs which can be sponsored by the Auburn Area Divorced and Separated group, said Mrs. Betty Myers, group spokeswoman.

"It is the desire of the group to provide avenues of communication from the church to the divorced and separated person for the purpose of reconciliation. We also recognize the individual needs a person has and work to provide avenues

to enrichment of their personal lives," she said.

The executive committee of the Auburn Area Divorced and Separated Group hosting the program is available to those individuals who feel they need to talk with someone who has been through the experience or need information on resources.

Mrs. Myers indicated that the group is interested in developing a family oriented outreach to include the children, as well as to show their concern for the adult who finds himself or herself a single parent or on their own without family commitments.

St. Mary's School is located on Clymer Street which runs west from South Street.

## Teen Sex To Be Topic

Dr. Eugene S. Diamond, a practicing pediatrician for 23 years in Palos Park, Ill., will be the principal speaker at the Academy of Medicine at 1441 East Ave. at 8 p.m. Monday, April 17, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild.

His topic will be "The Casualties of the Sexual Revolution — Teenagers and Parents."

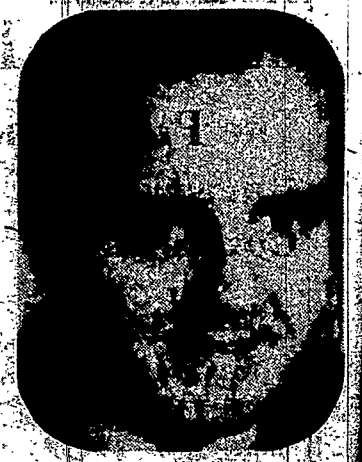
A professor of pediatrics, Dr. Diamond is acting chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Loyola University, Stritch School of Medicine. He is president of the Illinois Academy of Pediatrics, chairman of the Committee on Nutrition of the Illinois Medical Society, chairman of the joint committee on physical fitness of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and member of the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The father of 13, Dr. Diamond is the co-founder of Chicago Birthright, along with his wife Rosemary.

He has appeared and debated on numerous radio and television programs on the subject of teenager

sexuality. In his recent book, "This Cigarette for Hire" he deals with those teenagers and their parents who have suffered from the so-called "modern sexual revolution." He emphasizes that parents must have a highly meaningful role to play in making the important distinction between sex and love, and the necessity of stressing the positive value of chastity in teenager development.

The public is invited at no charge.



DR. DIAMOND

## City Hall Looking for Volunteers

The City of Rochester is looking for volunteers to work as tour guides at the new City Hall.

Volunteers must attend a training class, three of which will be conducted — from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, at the Statesman's Club in the First Federal Building; from 10 a.m. to noon,

Monday, May 1 at the Statesman's Club, and from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 2 at the B. Forman Store.

Information may be obtained from Mrs. Ann McQuay at 456-4715 or from Mrs. Marie Donatelli, 482-2511.

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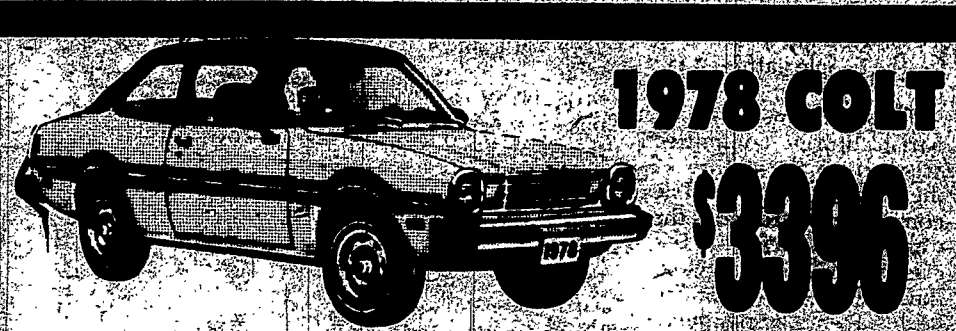
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