



### Spanish Expression

On their way to the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua for the Marriage Encounter in Spanish Expression are, on the left, Pedro and Mary Rivero, a team couple from Weehawken, N.J., and on the right Joe and Crimilda Rosario, local coordinators for the June 9-11 weekend.

Photo by Susan McKinney

### The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

#### Lies About Catholic Schools

How long can you be friends with those who lie about you?



That's the question American Catholics must ask themselves as they ponder the future of ecumenical and interreligious cooperation in the face of the virulent attack on Catholic schools launched by the National Council of Churches and a number of other religious groups who have hastily thrown together a Coalition to Save the Public Schools, which is designed to defeat the tuition tax credit bill introduced by Senators Packwood and Moynihan. The coalition has stirred up all the old fires of anti-Catholic nativism. How can you talk to people who do that sort of thing to you?

It is necessary to be precise. I am not suggesting that support for Catholic schools is a condition for continued dialogue with the National Council of Churches. One would have hoped that American Protestants would have become more sympathetic to the role of Catholic schools in providing the only available freedom of educational choice, particularly for black Americans in the inner cities. However, the NCC is well within its rights in continuing the tradition of the Protestant stand against aid to Catholic schools. One can only

suggest that it would be nice if they looked at the historical roots of their opposition.

But political support on key issues ought not to be an essential prerequisite for continued dialogue. My point is much different. The NCC can oppose aid to Catholic schools if it wants to, but when it lies about them, it forfeits all right to be taken seriously as a dialogue partner.

The very title of the coalition is the first lie. Help to Catholic schools will certainly not destroy public schools. It may enhance somewhat, but only somewhat, educational freedom of choice. Is the Coalition conceding that in a free market place the public schools would lose? They're not good enough to compete? Or is the title "Coalition to Save Public Schools" an appeal to the old nativist bigotry that Catholic schools are somehow less "American" than public schools?

The ads inform us that tuition tax credit would benefit the rich. The implication there is that Catholics are somehow richer than other Americans. In fact, their income is about the same as white Protestants and less than that of Jews. American families, both Catholic and non-Catholic, who will benefit from tuition tax credit on the whole make less money than do the subsidized bureaucrats of the National Council of Churches. The tuition tax credit would be of special help to those black, non-Catholic parents who exercise their right of educational freedom of choice by sending their

kids to Catholic schools because they are so much better than most urban public schools.

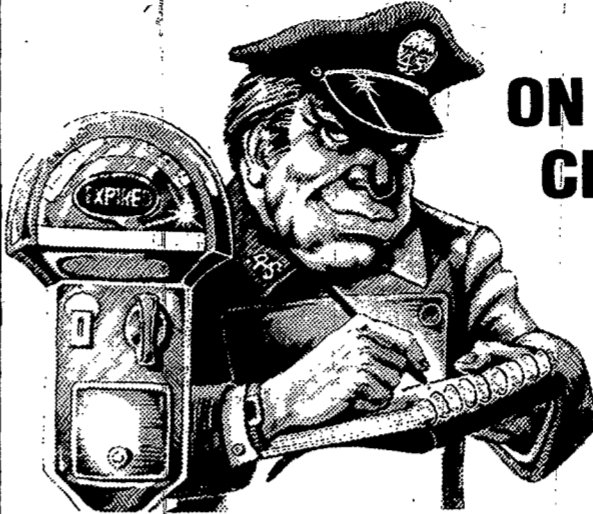
The ads also hint that parochial schools are "exclusive," that is, they don't admit everyone — hinting broadly that they are only for members of one religious denomination. This is another lie, as the large numbers of non-Catholic blacks in inner-city Catholic schools demonstrates.

Finally, and most vile of all, the ads suggest that Catholic schools are racially segregated. In fact they are not. Two-thirds of the Catholic students in the country are in racially integrated Catholic schools — far more than public school children. To call Catholic schools segregationist is an unconscionable lie.

It is an article of faith among American liberals, including the staff of the National Council of Churches, that Catholic schools are filling up with people fleeing the racially integrated public schools. (In fact, my colleagues and I recently had a research proposal turned down by the National Institutes of Education on precisely that ground.) However, the facts of the matter — though facts are of little interest to the Coalition or the NCC — is that white attendance at Catholic schools is declining, while black attendance — especially black non-Catholic attendance — is increasing sharply every year.

The Coalition to Save the Public Schools is lying; and it knows it's lying. The National Council of Churches is supporting lies and knows it's supporting lies. It is appealing to ancient anti-Catholic bigotry and it knows it's appealing to anti-Catholic bigotry.

# TIME IS RUNNING OUT



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| <b>1974 Olds Omega</b><br>4 dr. cream with brown vinyl interior, brown vinyl roof, 6 cy. automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, economy plus, only 30,970 miles. Real Clean.  | <b>1977 Plym. Fury Sport</b><br>2 dr. ht. white with brown, split bench interior, 1/2 beige top, 8 cy. automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, rust proofed, only 19,184 miles. Real Sharp & Sporty. | <b>1974 Chev. Pickup Custom 10</b><br>6 cy. blue with blue vinyl interior, standard shift, radio, step bumper, deluxe cap on rear, only 31,375 miles. Used as second car.       |
| <b>\$2650</b>  | <b>\$3950</b>  | <b>\$2550</b>   |
| <b>1975 Dodge Dart</b><br>4 dr. cream with beige vinyl interior, vinyl roof, 6 cy. automatic, P.S., radio, rust proofed, only 31,000 miles. Looks and runs like new. | <b>1976 AMC Gremlin</b><br>2 dr. grabber, blue with blue vinyl interior, 6 cy. automatic, power steering, radio, rust proofed, only 20,289 miles. Hurry on this one.                       | <b>1974 Chev. Caprice Classic</b><br>4 door, hardtop, red with black cloth interior, white vinyl roof, automatic, P.S., P.B., air cond, 4 new w/w tires, one owner. "Spotless." |
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|--|--|---|
| <b>1976 Ford Mustang 2+2 Mach I</b><br>2 dr. red with black vinyl interior, 1/2 black roof, 8 cy. automatic, P.S., P.B., AM/FM radio, rust proofed, 4 new white lettered tires. Looks and runs like new. | <b>1973 Dodge Coronet Cust. Wgn.</b><br>Brown metallic with brown vinyl interior, 8 cy. automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, luggage rack, only 46,182 miles, absolutely mint. (Hurry.) | <b>1974 Chev. Custom Deluxe C20 4x4</b><br>8 cyl., green with green vinyl interior, automatic, P.S., radio, 4 new 6 ply tires, just 56,449 miles. Never used for plowing. |
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| <b>1975 Pontiac LeMans</b><br>2 door, blue with blue vinyl interior, 8 cyl., automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, one owner. Good condition.  | <b>1974 Chev. Impala Wgn.</b><br>6 cyl., blue with blue vinyl interior, automatic, P.S., P.B., air condition, radio, luggage rack, one owner, super condition.                   | <b>1972 Impala Convertible</b><br>Brown with black vinyl interior, 8 cyl., automatic, P.S., P.B., AM/FM radio, rust proofed, only 54,000 miles, one owner. Must be seen.  |
| <b>\$2950</b>  | <b>\$2650</b>  | <b>\$3250</b>   |

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|---|--|---|
| <b>1970 MGB</b><br>Dark green with black vinyl interior, 2 tops, hard top & soft top, never been used, 4 speed, 1 owner, actually owned since new by elderly woman, 34,842 original miles, needs some body work, mechanically like new. | <b>1976 Chev. Impala Custom</b><br>2 door, hardtop, white with white vinyl interior trimmed in blue, white vinyl roof, automatic, 8 cyl., P.S., P.B., air cond., AM/FM radio, rust proofed, one owner, just 21,552 miles, must be seen. Absolutely cheery. | <b>1973 Chrysler Town &amp; Country Wagon</b><br>8 cyl., green metallic with green vinyl interior, wood grain panels, automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, t-glass, only 50,750 miles, good condition. Runs excellent. |
| <b>\$1650</b>   | <b>\$4275</b>  | <b>\$950</b>  |
| <b>1973 Chev. Impala Wgn.</b><br>8 cyl., green with green vinyl interior, automatic, P.S., P.B., air condition, real clean.   | <b>1975 Chev. Pickup C-20</b><br>6 cyl., blue with blue vinyl interior, automatic, P.S., P.B., radio, one owner.   | <b>1976 Chev. Chevette</b><br>Red, 4 speed, black vinyl interior, 17,000 miles. Mint.   |
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