

Squabbling

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Resignations of two key planners of the White House Conference on Families have led the administration to postpone the gathering from 1979 to 1981.

In announcing the postponement, Joseph A. Califano Jr., secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, cited the resignation of Wilbur Cohen, conference chairman, for health reasons and of Patsy Fleming, executive secretary, as a result of a policy dispute.

Ms. Fleming's resignation has stirred a controversy over the role of religious groups in providing input and advice for the meeting. When her appointment was announced, it drew fire from syndicated columnist Father Andrew Greeley because she is a divorcee.

Father Greeley said that most people tolerate divorce, but "however sympathetic they may be to the plight of an individual, they find it ridiculous for a president strongly committed to the sanctity of marriage to have a conference presided over by a woman for whom that bond has been broken."

Califano subsequently asked Ms. Fleming, who is black, to accept a white Catholic male "from an intact family" to serve as co-director. She refused and resigned.

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

God Rewards The Giver

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 10:37-42. (R1) 2 Kgs. 4:8-11. 14-16. (R2) Rom. 6:3-4, 8-11.

The theme for Sunday's liturgy is hospitality. But today we have motels, inns, campers—so who needs hospitality? What is more needed is generosity—to the Church.

Catholics drifted away from bible-reading three hundred years ago in reaction to the heretical contention that the Bible is the sole rule of Faith. As a result they also lost the biblical concept of tithing.

Our diocese is launching a Stewardship program, which is primarily educative: to help Catholics spiritualize their giving to religion.

God, of course, could run the Church on miracles. He who fed 5,000 with five loaves, who lit the sun and gathered the waters into ocean basins, could easily free his churches from food, gas, electric and water bills.

But God will not, for two reasons. First, He wants to give us an opportunity to do something for Him. Secondly, He wants to detach our hearts from materiality. Greed is the root of all evil, said St. Paul. What havoc the unbridled desire for money has wrought on Judas, Ananias, and on the Church (simony).

God wants us to give to religion: to give freely, cheerfully, and generously—to give of our time, talents and treasures.

When we do, God rewards us. How richly Elisha repaid the woman who had given him a place to eat and sleep! (R1) Our Lord promised he would always so reward generosity. (R3) On the

contrary, God withholds His blessings from those who are ungenerous to His Church.

Today we work around the clock—as hard as any other people. We work two jobs. And yet we have almost nothing to show for it. It is like putting what we earn in pockets with holes. And why? Because of inflation? No! Because we have put the Church last in our budgets, because so many begrudge the little they give to the Church, so that to make ends meet it must have recourse to Bingo, to festivals, to Las Vegas Nights and so on.

In my parish Mr. Lenzi of Detroit came and asked my parishioners to give a fair share of their income to the Lord. Here is a letter from someone who did.

Dear Father Shamon,

I am writing to tell you how abundantly we have been blessed by our Lord since we started giving to Him more generously in our Sunday offering.

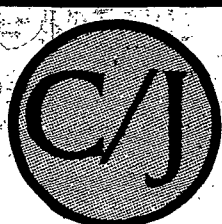
When Mr. Lenzi came here to St. Mary's and spoke to the parish about giving, my husband and I seriously discussed the matter. By my insistent prodding and a little extra sermonizing about faith in the Lord and how He will always take care of us, and that we always receive more than we give Him, we agreed upon a generous offering.

Well, since then our financial status has changed and we are better off than we have ever been.

We have received much more than we give and not only in financial ways. We have received many spiritual blessings that far surpass any monetary gains.

We have such a great God and we thank him for being so loving and generous to us.

You see, God is true to his promises, even today.



Calendar

NATURE FILMS— At Rochester Museum's Cumming Nature Center near Naples, 8 p.m. every Saturday, July 1-Sept. 2. Free road maps available

at Museum, 271-4320.

CLASSIC FILM SERIES— At Rochester Museum auditorium tomorrow, 2 and 8 p.m., Born Yesterday, 1950 Judy Holiday movie.

MODERN DANCE— Randalyn Zinn, Stewart Smith (from NYC) at MIMeworkshop, 50 Chestnut Plaza, 8 p.m. June 30, July 1.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE— Tic-Toc Players at Nazareth Arts Center in The House at Pooh Corner, 2 p.m. July 1, 2, 5.

GAY NINETIES— There'll Be a Hot Time in

the Old Town Tonight, A revue performed by Arts Center Theatre Company in The Playhouse Theatre, 3797 Rush-Mendon Rd., Mendon, 8 p.m. July 1; 2 p.m. July 2.

MASS TRANSIT— Public hearing at Monroe County Legislature, 7 p.m. tomorrow, to consider findings of legislature's Blue Ribbon Committee on financing mass transit.

LAWN FETE— At Sacred Heart Church, Summer Street, Batavia, 5 p.m.-midnight June 30, July 1; noon-midnight Sunday, July 2, with

chicken barbecue and golabki dinners. Live music Saturday, Sunday nights.

RED CROSS BLOOD BANK— Special Summer campaign for donors opens Monday, July 3, at 50 Prince St. with extended hours—9 a.m.-8 p.m.

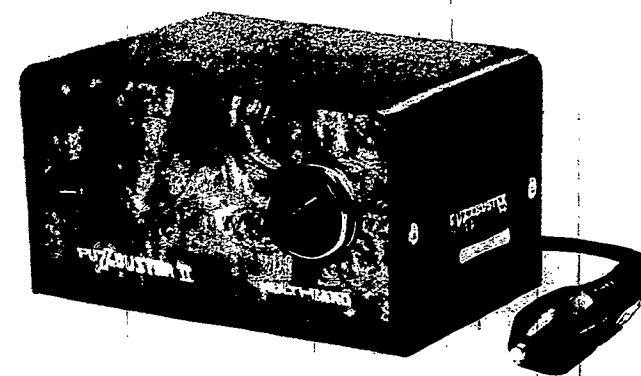
WOMEN IN THE CHURCH— Prayer meeting tonight at 7:30, U. of R. Interfaith Chapel, concerning exclusion of women from permanent diaconate. Sponsored by Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church. Child care provided. Public invited.

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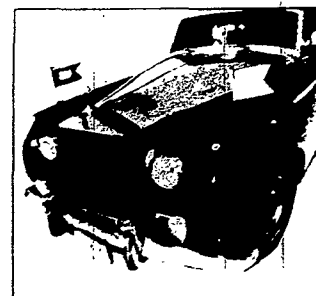
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