COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednésday, June 28, 1978

On Ge Right Side

an

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

ecumenism, which is a betrayal of the honest

ecumenism of Pope John

and Vatican Council II.

When Vatican II was in

full swing, we had a galaxy

of Catholics, especially

priests and Sisters, who

were the special teachers of

our people, especially our

children, who enjoyed an

"identity crisis" which even involved their Faith.

O. How did they

A. Many suffering from

ego-anxiety, wanted to be

on the sophisticated boat.

So they read the National

Catholic Reporter, and believed it more firmly

than the Bible. They

soaked in its negative and

hostile spirit: I cannot

prove it, but I do believe

that the NCR caused more

Sisters to leave religious

life, and many priests to

abandon their vocations.

than any other single influence. Such is the

power of the press. Despite

some good things in it. it

ran weekly barbs against

the Institutional Church,

against the Holy See, bishops, traditional

devotions; scoffing at faithful conservative

Catholics. It was a kind of

Yellow Journal, dishing

out all the dirt with little

compassion for the weak

and stupid, unless they were socially and ethnically underprivileged.

It greatly influenced in-

fluential Catholics to think

of us as generic Christians

rather than as specific

Catholic Christians.

manifest it?

Ecumenism True and False

Q. What's going on in the Church? I read in the June 15 edition of the



reads: "A Fr. Cuddy bitter feud is dividing the Roman Catholic Church parish of St. Gregory the Great, Trenton, threatening the ouster of its priest who eliminated bingo, dropped some religious ceremonies, and welcomed non-Catholics at the Church school. The soft spoken 63year-old priest says he will not resign."

A. Yes. I have the article, and keep suspended judgement. News articles frequently are misin-forming. The article reads that the priest says his aim is to implement "the spirit of Vatican II" which called for "spiritual renewal and adaptation to the modern world, and cooperation and understanding among different Faiths "

Q. Hasn't that phrase: "the spirit of Vatican II," been used to cover many. aberrations?

Amen! And none Α. than fake greater

Q. Aren't yóu exaggerating?

A. No. Do read "Decline and Fall of Radical Catholicism', (Image Books) by Prof. James Hitchcock. This well documents the dreadful condition which prevailed all over the United States. Not in all parishes, but in many parishes and schools in all states.

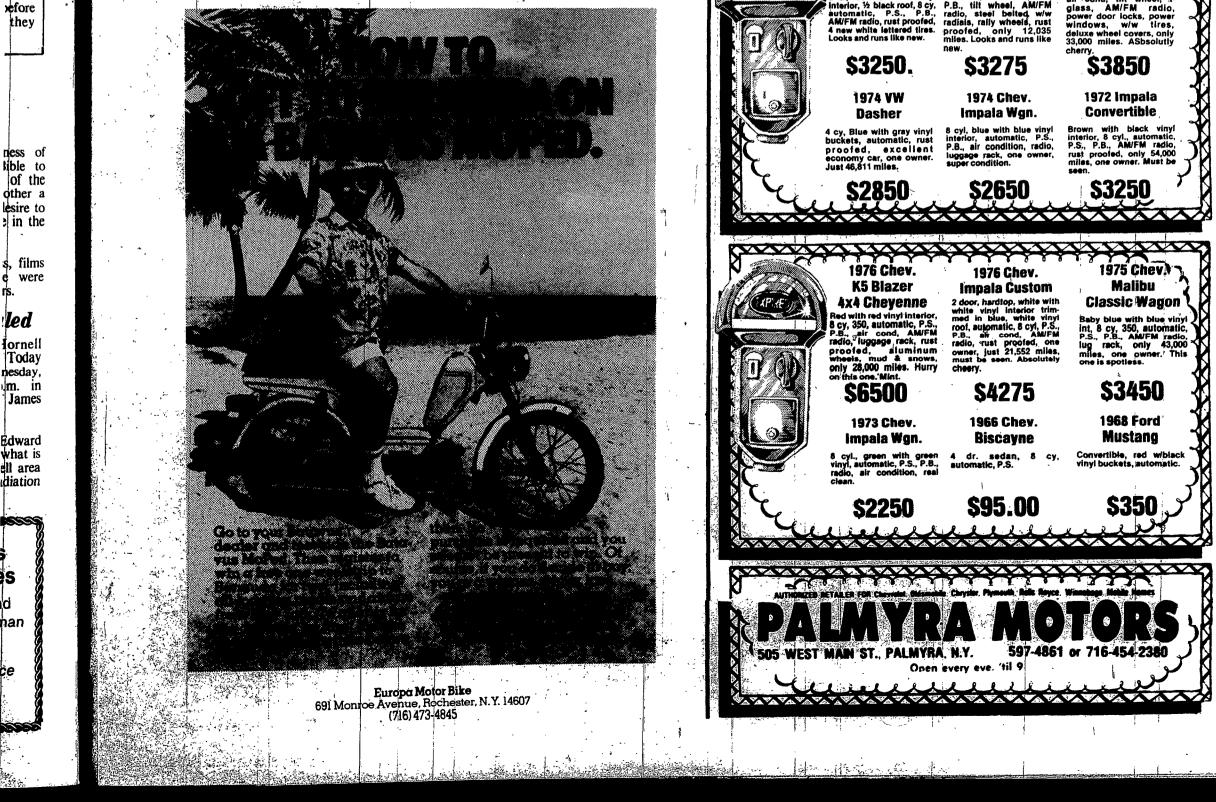
O. But doesn't ecumenism want Christians "to be one"? all

A. Of course. Such is the prayer of Our Lord (John 15). But have you read the Decree on Ecumenism, accepted by Pope Paul and the Council in 1964? It says: "... Nothing is so foreign to the spirit of ecumenism as false, conciliatory approach which harms the purity of Catholic doctrine, and obscures its genuine meaning"(11) That is why I feel so strongly about priests and Sisters who violate the spirit and law of the Church regarding ۱'ntercommunion, doctrine, practices which are clearly to be accepted.

Q. Who do you think is the outstanding ecumenist today?

A. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She is revered by non-Catholics and i non-Christians probably even more than by many Catholics. She presents the Catholic ideal: devotion to Christ in the Eucharist, daily hour of meditation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass; love of Our Lady and her rosary; love of the pope and the Catholic Faith: and all these concenter to bring her to a meeting with Christ present in the poorest of the poor.





8

ecific