

Electronic Religion

From 16

Religion that competes against the biblical faith wherein Christ exists for us today in community, in the members of the Body he heads."

Will the television watchers be inclined to attend the local church, Dr. Marty asks, after watching "the ruffled-shirted, pink tuxedoed men and the high-coiffeured, low-necklined, celebrity women who talk about themselves under the guise of Born Again autobiographies?"

"Are they to turn-off that very set and make their way down the block to a congregation of real believers, sinners, off-key choirs, sweaty and homely people who need them . . . to ordinary pastors who preach grace as well as calls to discipleship, to pleas for stewardship that do not come well-oiled?"

"Never. Well, hardly ever," Dr. Marty answers.

Father Nadolny says that the viewer needs to watch religious programming with a discretionary eye.

"Just listen to the way speakers quote scripture out of context to condemn everything and anything," the priest advises.

He also accuses some broadcasters of building up guilt feelings. "An elderly lady called," the priest reports, "and she was crying because the TV host told her she had arthritis because she did not have enough faith."

"This attitude does tremendous harm to people," he maintains. "After 10 years of working in radio and TV, I find very few religious programs are truly Christlike," he says.

In a related area, some of the increasing number of ads "selling" Christianity are also feeling the heat of criticism.

Writing in The Reformed Journal, Emma R. Talen points to an ad urging people to attend church so that they will "feel better." But the church that produced the ad, Ms. Talen says, does not accept "feeling better" as being a very important reason for church attendance.

"An unfortunate discrepancy thus exists between the message and the technique for getting it across," she states.

Ms. Talen offers some advice. "When it is time to advertise on television, churches must be ready first with a thoughtful statement of standards, and after that, their best technical and artistic efforts."

Burns would apply the same principle to all religious broadcasting. "We would be foolish if we did not make use of all the media in our efforts to evangelize. But if we recognize the subtlety and complexity of the Word, we will realize that we cannot present it facetiously," the editor declares.

"The Holy Spirit writes where he will. He doesn't make command performances."

Family Violence Victims To Receive Assistance

The New York State Legislature has allotted \$300,000 to the state Department of Social Services for "special services and programs to assist adults who are victims of domestic violence," according to a social services release.

Persons with questions regarding proposals may call 1-800-342-3715, ext. 31901, toll free.

Social Workers Seek Donations For Camperships

The men and women who work in the Monroe County Department of Social Services are passing the hat for money to provide a little camping experience for some of their clients' children. Last Summer they raised about \$3,000.

Donations from individuals and organizations supplement state funds. Last year, 820 children referred by caseworkers attended 21 day camps and 12 overnight camps, Gabriel T. Russo, department rector, reported. The Community Campership Fund is a joint project of the department and the Federation of Social Workers. Checks should be written and directed to the fund in care of the Monroe County Department of Social Services, 111 Westfall Road, Rochester 14620.

The money will be used to provide "several types of projects" to people who have been victimized by family violence as well as those who perpetrated the abuse.

The programs will include shelters for mothers and children, alternative residential service, counseling to "both victims and batterers" as well as their families and legal advocacy programs.

The Department of Social Services has asked some 80 groups interested in sponsoring such projects for proposals on what can be done in these areas.

The proposals, which must be submitted by July 15, will be reviewed by the agency and grants will be awarded on August 1, 1978.

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