

The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

Time To Write President

Despite the lies propagated by the PTA and the National Council of Churches, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed and sent to the Senate a tuition tax credit bill.

The Senate will pass it by an even larger margin. President Carter has been persuaded, however, by that vile, turncoat wretch, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, that Catholics don't care about their parochial schools. He will veto the bill with impunity.

Mr. Califano has made

the crusade against the Catholic schools into a personal holy war. The day the House passed the bill, he vowed that "not a single penny of such unconstitutional aid will ever get to the parochial schools." In the enthusiasm for his sacred cause, Mr. Califano apparently has forgotten that constitutionality is determined not by the secretary of HEW but by the Supreme Court.

Arguments against the constitutionality of aiding Catholic schools have been the traditional weapon of the religious bigots. Apparently Mr. Carter and Mr. Califano don't mind if they identify themselves with the heritage of bigotry. Mr. Carter will almost certainly veto the bill.

Unless we stop him.

The Catholic bishops met in Chicago and didn't even mention tuition tax credit; the National Catholic Education Association met in St. Louis and failed to undertake a campaign of support of tuition tax credit. Catholic schools are at a turning-point in their history, and they are abandoned by both their ecclesiastical and professional leadership. Meanwhile, the opponents of the bill are using newspaper ads to assert that Catholic schools are havens for rich racists.

So the only thing left is for the Catholic clergy, laity and religious to protest on their own. Every reader of this column who does not sit down and write a letter to the president telling him that he will never vote for him again if he vetoes tuition tax credit will have no legitimate right to complain about anti-Catholicism, the closing of

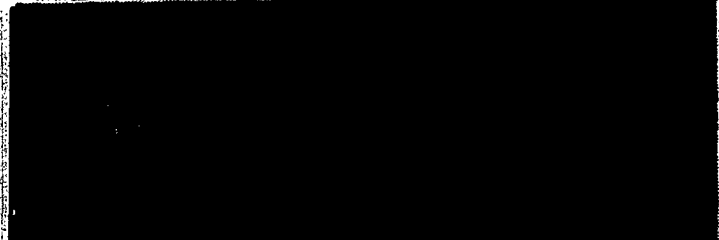
Catholic schools or the high cost of Catholic education. The Packwood-Moynihan-Roth bill is the last chance for Catholic schools: If President Carter is permitted to veto it in the mistaken notion that Catholics don't care, it is his fault, of course, but it is your fault, too.

And those priests, religious and laity who work in black parishes should get every parent of a black child in Catholic schools—whether the child be Catholic or not—to write their congressman in outrage. Virtually every member of a black congressional caucus is against the tuition tax credit. Apparently these congressmen, beholden to Mr. Califano for the veto he has given them over HEW action, think they can vote against Catholic schools with impunity. If they think so, they are mistaken. It is their fault; but it is also your fault to let them get away with it.

Carmel Feast

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate the Eucharist and preach at the yearly observance of the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at

the Carmelite Monastery on Jefferson Road, Sunday, July 16, at 9:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.



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Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Seed, Soil, Harvest!

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 13:1-23. (R1) Is. 55:10-11. (R2) Rom. 8:18-23.

This year the Sunday gospels will be chiefly from Matthew. Matthew was a bookkeeper. He divided his gospel into neat categories, as he probably did with tax returns.

For the rest of this month the Sunday gospels will be from the 13th chapter of Matthew, where he has gathered together seven parables of our Lord. The first of the seven is the one on the sower. (R3)

I sometimes just can't get over the genius of Our Lord in comparing His word to seed. This comparison bears the incredible potential enclosed in every tiny seed.

For one thing, the comparison suggests tragedy. The sower sows seed in a field. In Scripture a field symbolizes the Gentile world. Whenever Israel is represented it is as a vineyard. (Is. 5:1-7) The parable hints that the gospel will be preached to others, because all but a remnant of Israel reject it. Thus when Jesus speaks this parable, it is from a boat on the sea, which also signifies the Gentile nations.

The seed stands for the word of God. Like seed, God's word is not a dead letter in a book. "Word" suggests a speaker speaking. Jesus is the Word of God. Not a dead Word. But One ever living. When Scriptures are read, it is He who speaks. His word, therefore, is living here and now. Thus we conclude every Scripture reading with "This the word of the Lord," not about the Lord.

Because it is His word, because it is He who

speaks, His word has the power of rain and snow. (R1) How powerful rain is that softens the hard earth and makes it wonderfully productive. How protective the snow that blankets the cold earth and prevents the seeds nesting in its bosom from being destroyed by permafrost. Similarly, God's word can soften the hardened heart, change sinner into saint. It can be a shield against the fiery darts of the wicked one.

But to grow into the mind of Christ, we must listen to His word. Listening to God's word is not so much hearing it or analyzing it critically or even trying to apply it to practice. "Listening" means accepting the word, taking it to heart, as if one's very life depended on it.

The point of the parable is precisely this, that the productivity of God's word depends on our listening, our receptivity, as seed depends on soil. So often

we say "yes" or "no" to God's word, to His call in our lives. We say yes and no to the demands of love or goodness. It depends on whether or not our heart is rock-hard or preoccupied with thorny interests or given over to predatory evil.

What a beautiful example the virgin mother Mary has given us in regard to God's word! When Gabriel came to her, how open she was to His word—as open as a virginal womb! When Gabriel left her, she was filled with Christ and went forth to serve Elizabeth.

We must be empty like the womb of Mary, hungry to receive the word, in order to conceive Christ in our lives. And then, like mother Mary, we must bring Him forth and make Him visible by service to others in His name. "The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest." (Response)



INDIA: FATHER MICHAEL'S MISERY

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

"To preach the Gospel to the poor was my reason for becoming a priest," Father Michael says quietly. "I too am penniless, as you can see. The Gospel is my people's only hope." His parish in Battagundu, India, encompasses 60 square miles and includes 25 villages with a total population of over 80,000, of which only about 3,200 are Catholics—all of them extremely poor. Father Michael's church, built 75 years ago, is pitifully small. It can accommodate only 250 worshippers. Most of those hearing Mass are forced to stand outside in blistering heat or drenching rain. Moreover, the ancient chapel is on the verge of collapse. Father Michael has plans for a new church, substantially built of concrete and hardwood. From his poor parishioners, from his diocese and from other sources, he has collected a fund to begin work—but \$4,000 more is needed to complete the church. Build it yourself in memory of your loved ones? Mail today at least as much as you can afford now (\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$2) for every penny will help him preach the Gospel to the poor. He prays you will help.

HE NEEDS A CHURCH

THE HOLY SOULS

Do you have a loved one deceased whom you wish remembered? Our missionary priests will be pleased to offer promptly the Masses you request. Send us your intentions now. Write for information on Gregorian Masses.

ONE LAST THOUGHT

After death your savings don't belong to you. Share them now to make the world a happier place. Mention the CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE Association (our legal title) in your will. Stringless bequests are used by the Holy Father where needed most.

Dear Monsignor Nolan: ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____ RJ

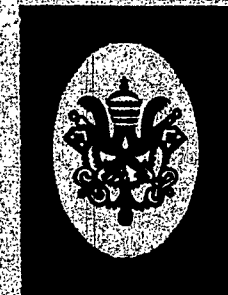
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Athletes Honored

The Aquinas Athletic Booster Club paid tribute to 100 athletes at their sports banquet, June 11. Varsity letters were presented to all the athletes and recognition given to outstanding performances in the four Spring sports: baseball, tennis, golf and track.

In track, Dave O'Sullivan was chosen as the most improved runner. John Bopp showed the most improvement in field events while the most outstanding man in field events was Tom Centron. Jeff Huber received a trophy for the most outstanding runner and Jerry Gallipeau was declared the most valuable in field events. Randy Benjamin received the most valuable runner award.

In tennis, Dan Kuhman was chosen the most improved player while Joe Magoffin was declared the

most valuable tennis player. In golf, Dave Abbate was selected to be the most improved golfer while the trophy for being the most valuable player went to Jim Rolwing.

Terry Marks was named the most improved baseball player while the most outstanding award in baseball went to Gary Sciarata. Mike Visconte was named the most valuable player on the baseball team.

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