

The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

New Vocation In Church

I've discovered recently that there is a new vocation in the Church. In addition to directors of religious education and directors of clinical pastoral education, we now have Fr. Greeley directors of field education. A "field educator," I find, is somebody who is responsible for the "field" education of seminarians. This is something distinct from, in addition to, or at least broader than "clinical pastoral" education. The director of field education is the one who supervises the "practical" intern experience of the seminarian when he wanders away from the seminary to find out what life is like in the "real" world.

Seminaries have very elaborate field education programs to parallel their clinical pastoral programs. At the same time, they offer one course in homiletics, maybe two at most, in which the future clergy is allegedly taught how to preach. We have, in other words, taken over, lock, stock and barrel, field and clinical pastoral approaches from our Protestant brothers without acquiring their respect for the preached word. It boggles the mind.

I do not question at all the diligence and the sincerity of the people involved. I should like to observe that I think it is all foolishness. The time spent by seminarians running around to hospitals, religious education centers,

catechetical programs and even attending the much-touted "deacon year" is merely a way to escape the serious responsibilities of intellectual development and the serious acquisition of the most important ministerial function, preaching the word.

What does it profit your parish priest if he is duly certified as a skilled educator and can't preach worth a hoot? What does all his practical experience in the "real" world avail him if he has nothing much to say on Sunday morning because he doesn't know very much, because he hasn't learned much theology and scripture in the seminary since he has been too busy running around in his practical experience interludes when he should have been studying theology and scripture? All the time, energy and effort wasted on practical experience, which is often "slumming" and not all that practical, ought to be devoted to the intellectual development of the future priest and to his training as a preacher.

It will be said that one can do both. Perhaps, though it may take a miracle to make available the number of hours in a day required to do both. But in the present world we are doing one and not the other. The laity's dissatisfaction with sermons grows worse presumably because all the field education in the world can't make a person a good preacher.

Preaching is an act of intellect and creative imagination. It is an act of intellect in that it deals with ideas, and it is an act of imagination in that the ideas must be clothed in

imagery that makes them vital in human life. Ideas are acquired in books through study; skill in imagery is acquired through exposure to great works of the imagination and through practice.

No one should be ordained who has not read the plays of Shakespeare and the poems of, let us say, Hopkins and Thompson. Young men who have not been exposed to literature and ideas are semiliterate at best. Small wonder they can't preach a decent sermon. If the choice is between Shakespeare and teaching catechism to teenagers, then one must come down solidly on the side of Shakespeare.

The years after the second Vatican Council produced a wave of pop psychology that swept the American seminary system, taking vigor, confidence and assertiveness out of the lives of many of the men and driving others, who were strong, vigorous males, out of the seminary system. What we have now is a vague, diffident, pop-Rogerian counseling style with a heavy emphasis on feelings, usually inarticulate, and vague verbal meanderings which bear only a remote resemblance to English. All of this was done without asking the lay folk who pick up the tab and without making any effort to determine that the results might be even worse than those produced by the old authoritarian seminaries in which at least you knew who your enemies were.

It is time someone put a stop to all this and insist that a) priests are supposed to be leaders, b) leaders are supposed to be strong and vigorous and c) they are also supposed to be able to talk intelligently and imaginatively for at least 10 consecutive minutes.

Catechists' Workshop

A catechists' workshop on the Christ Our Life series published by Loyola Press will be held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 10, at St. John of Rochester School, 10 Wickford Way, Fairport. All religion teachers, program coordinators and parents are invited. Sessions will run from 1:30 until 6.

Four Sisters of Notre Dame, all experienced

classroom teachers, will come from Chicago to give the instruction as representatives of the publisher. Co-sponsors with the Fairport parish are Holy Rosary and St. Patrick's, Victor. Reservations should be made with Lenora Denninger of St. John's, 248-8850; Linda Iwanski of Holy Rosary, 458-4422, or Sister Perpetua McHale of St. Patrick's, 924-2800.

For the finest in Contemporary Scandinavian Furniture Complete Display

- Living room
- Dining room
- Bedroom
- Den/Office
- Wall Units
- Lamps
- Area rugs
- Accessories

Imported Teak & Rosewood tecum furniture
225-4800
Ridgmont Plaza
2833 Ridge Rd. W.

AN IMPORTANT Announcement

FROM WHITE HAVEN MEMORIAL PARK

- The Gardenia Court of the NEW ATRIUM MAUSOLEUM is nearing completion.
- The lower costs which have been in effect during construction will soon be withdrawn.
- Prices will be increased to the regular level in the very near future.

ACT NOW ... save two ways

1. Lower original cost
 2. Pre-pay 95% of future burial costs at today's prices.
- No interest charges and low payments make it possible to reserve your crypt now.
 - White Haven trust funds will maintain your crypt forever at no additional cost.

Drive out to White Haven visit the Mausoleum—see for yourself how many thousands of Rochesterians have taken advantage of this modern money saving program. Visitors welcome every day during daylight hours. Free booklet and information available simply call 584-5250 or send a card—of course there is no obligation

WHITE HAVEN Memorial Park



210 MARSH ROAD, PITTSFORD, N.Y. 14534

School Awarded \$905

St. Pius X School has been awarded \$905 under the ESEA Title IV C Mini-Project Program, for a project of Pupil and Program Assessment and Accountability for Children with Handicapping Conditions.

Sister Francella Quinn, principal of the school, stated that Sister Theresa will

supervise individual instruction for 25 children three times a week in the Learning Disability Class.

She further stated that "Special auditory and visual motor programs will be utilized to remediate perceptual problems. New materials will be added ... to strengthen listening skills and build reading skills."

Bridal Corner

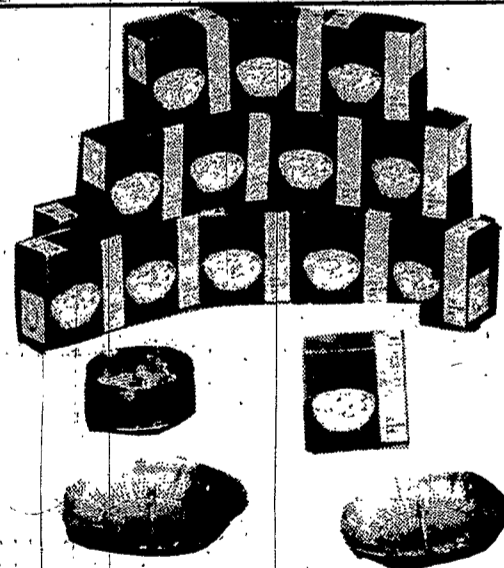
BAKERY 1688 CLIFFORD AVE.
near Goodman

3 tier serves up to 100, \$29 **PHONE**
4 tier serves 175 to 200, \$45 **482-1133**
4 tier fountain cake, \$80
3 tier whipped cream, custard filling serves up to 100 \$45 **We Deliver**

Decorator cakes, whipped cream & strawberry, lemon, pineapple, custard filling 1/4 sheet, \$5.00; 1/2 sheet, \$8.00; full sheet, \$15.00. Decorator cakes, butter cream frostings, half sheet \$7.00, full sheet \$13

BURT SHAPIRO
Photography Studio
WEDDINGS
from \$99
Phone 244-3554

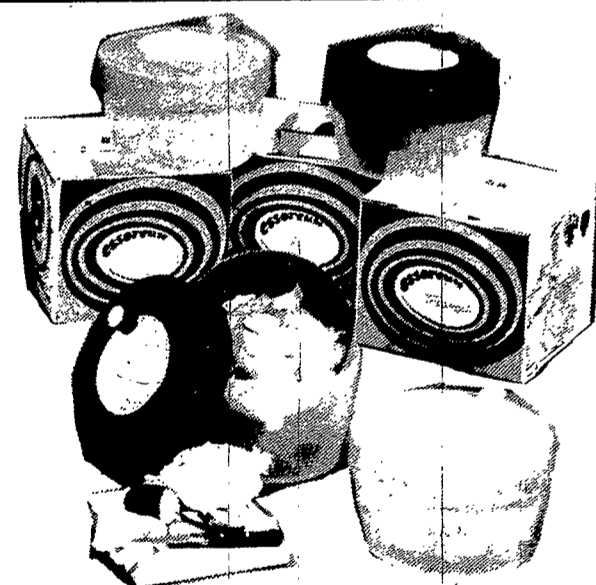
FOR RATE INFORMATION
CALL 454-7050



STAINLESS STEEL HEALTH STEAMER

The modern, healthy way to prepare vegetables, meat, and fish.

Regularly 3.50
CABLE-WIEDEMER'S PRICE 2.95



SPINNING SALAD BASKET

The best fruit and vegetable dryer available.

Regularly 15.00
CABLE WIEDEMER'S PRICE 12.95

Cable Wiedemer

2179 MONROE AVE., BRIGHTON
PHONE: 271-1789