

The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

More Insults To Catholics

A number of my readers have written to the secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Mr. Joseph Califano, protesting the comment made that HEW could no more have a Catholic head the White House Conference on the Family than it could have the pope's son at such a conference.

Mr. Califano has responded to all letter writers with a form letter, typed out on an automatic typewriter with a faked signature. In order to save the taxpayers money, I reproduce here the critical paragraph of the Califano letter. It is exactly the same, word for word, in all the responses.

"Like you, I deplore the anti-Catholic prejudice such a statement would

imply; however, I can assure you that I know of no such comment made by one of my aides. I would certainly be dismayed by such a gratuitous and offensive slur and would not permit such a statement to go undisciplined."

Mr. Califano is obviously the worst of the anti-Catholic Catholics in Washington. He's got to be kidding if he says the comment was not made by one of his aides. Mr. Califano's great and good friend, Mr. Ben Bradlee, told me that the aide who made it was Catholic. The next time Mr. Califano goes to a Washington Redskins game with his friend Mr. Bradlee and Mr. Bradlee's friends Ms. Sally Quinn and Mr. Art Buchwald, he might ask them about the name of the aide. (As if he didn't already know!)

Finally, for your anti-Catholic file, consider an item from the Daily Cardinal from the University of Wisconsin,

Madison, which purports to be an advertisement for a pope. The applicants are asked such questions as: "Are you infallible? Give references. Are you celibate — yes, no; if yes, list names and phone numbers with whom you have never had ... ahem ... relations. If no, explain. When did you last commit a mortal sin? Which one? Describe in detail. How many wafers did you eat in atonement? Has you-know-Who ever spoken to you? What did He say? Did you take notes? What do you most often pray for — deliverance, absolution, sacramental wine? Is there any history of Lutheranism or other deadly sins in your family? Please include a photograph of yourself in a tall, pointed hat. Co-sponsored by Welch's Grape Juice, an equal opportunity employer."

"The Daily Cardinal," I assume, is paid for by funds of the University of Wisconsin, which in turn come from the taxpayers in Wisconsin. So Wisconsin Catholics are subsidizing a newspaper which throws insults and ridicule at the church.

Hispanics Most Religious, Study By Gallup Shows

Huntington, Ind. — Hispanic Catholics place more importance on religion than do other Americans in the U.S., according to a Gallup Survey on religious and social attitudes of Hispanic Catholics.

The study was commissioned by Our Sunday Visitor, a publishing firm, and is the first attempt to provide objective data about the nation's Hispanic Catholics. The study found that 90 per cent of them feel religion is fairly or very important in their lives as compared to 84 per cent of all Americans.

The study also showed, however, that religion becomes less important as Hispanics move upward on the socio-economic ladder. The least well educated group, those with a grade school education, are most inclined to believe that religion is very important

in their lives. Similarly the study reveals that as Hispanics become more affluent, religion becomes a less important factor in their lives.

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By Ed Sulewski

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