

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Don't you think those bingo games are a disgrace to our Church?



Fr. Cuddy and service on the part of many workers.

But is bingo necessary for so many parishes?

Do you think the pastors and their associates have

bingo for their own recreation? Most parishes that have bingo are paying enormous costs to help give children and education rooted in the teachings of Christ. Our schools teach non-religious mathematics, English, science, etc. In justice, these costs should be paid by state taxes. It arouses my bile that the Government property owners, shell out and give us your money exclusively for the secular education of children. We certainly will not return any of it to teach mathematics or science to your children." If I were a

decent atheist, not to mention a decent Protestant or Jew, I would be vocally indignant at this injustice.

But bingo is sinful?

Says who? Nowhere does the law of God forbid simple gambling anymore than it forbids football. If all is conducted fairly and an investor keeps within his means, a person is free to purchase a chance of winning a lottery or a bingo game without offending God. Of course, to gamble beyond one's means would be sinful. But don't you know that bingo is an emotional balance wheel for many people?

Some people spend all their Social Security or welfare checks on bingo.

They do not. Some

spend part of it as a recreation — and as therapy; and they spend the rest on food, rent, heat, etc. Do you want to dictate how others shall live?

But why not pay for your schools from church contributions?

Few Catholics have been educated to tithing as in the cases of Mormons, Witnesses, Adventists, Baptists, etc. So Catholic pastors suffer the necessity of bingo and the like. They also suffer from pharisaical critics who thank God that they don't play bingo! These same raise no indignant voice that the Government gobbles school taxes from Catholic taxpayers while denying them any return to support their schools. Fire departments, veterans' lodges, nursing homes, synagogues have bingo. These are honorable groups which serve the public.

What is your conclusion?

That at the present time, since Catholics are deprived of a share in their own taxes and because few Catholics are tithers, bingo is a necessity. Rather than being snide about it, let us praise: 1) thousands of parish bingo workers who are generous and loyal in serving the Church and schools; 2) the badgered priests who endure this form of fund raising; 3) the players who find this simple game a satisfying therapy and recreation, and incidentally, who form a community of friendship which often surpasses the community of religious worshippers; 4) the fair-minded non-Catholics who recognize the injustice done to Catholic taxpayers and are willing to work with them to change laws which continue this meanhearted, discriminatory wrong.

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

Dear Readers,

During the recent Church Unity Week I was reflecting upon the fact that in terms of unity we probably need it more within the Catholic tradition than we do in relationship to other traditions. In the two decades since Vatican II there has been so much division and controversy that sometimes we present ourselves as a very divided Church. On numerous occasions I have been accused of being one of the perpetrators of disunity because I took a position which was far to the left of the traditional one, the one which was intended to be reformed pastorally in Vatican Council II. Of course, it would be just as easy for me to say that those who clung to the traditional forms were the real perpetrators of disunity since they had refused to come into the mainstream. The point is that either of these



positions is fruitless and unreal. If I have any regrets or feelings of guilt about causing disunity it may be because of the times when I was less than considerate about the feelings of those I felt were opposed to my position. It is one thing to disagree with someone else's position; it is another thing entirely to disregard strong feelings of hurt which arise from the differing. Maybe now is the time for us to simply recognize that there can be a plurality of positions within our own Roman Catholic tradition. Which is to say I go on record as not only being not opposed to the Rosary, but making it a part of my own daily personal devotions, while recognizing that many other people simply cannot accept it as a part of their personal devotions. I accept the Stations of the Cross as a very beautiful form of private devotion, recognizing that there are others who cannot do the same. I am not particularly impressed by the concept

of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, but I realize that for many people it is a very consoling and beautiful way of coming into contact with Jesus Christ. I respect the pain of people who think that many of us are treating the Holy Eucharist with disrespect. Yet I hope they will respect my statement that I have never felt more devoted nor more inspired by the Eucharist in my entire life. I can learn to leave people alone when they find it extremely difficult to give the Sign of Peace, because I feel that they give signs of friendship and love to their families but for some reason are incapable of seeing that there is a much larger family in which God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Brother.

In other words, I have come to believe that the arms of Mother Church are very wide and they leave much room for all points of view, provided that those points of view are honestly seeking the will of God in Jesus Christ. The time has come, I am sure, to agree to disagree as long as we all seek to share the Good News promised by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Moynihan Cites Anti-Catholicism

Brooklyn (RNS) — Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York has accused Catholics of tolerating a level of anti-Catholicism in official government circles that would be permitted by no other ethnic or religious group.

Addressing the Cathedral Club of Brooklyn, he attributed the defeat of tuition tax credit legislation to outright anti-Catholic bigotry. Muted, even mute, Catholic response amounted to a failure of advocacy, he charged.

Sen. Moynihan pointed out that the liberal credentials of the 34 organizations in the National Coalition to Save Public Education were allowed to go unchallenged and added that President Carter was allowed to renege on his promise of Oct. 19, 1976 "to find constitutionally acceptable means to help parents of non-public school students."

The senator said the defeat of tax credit legislation came only after intense lobbying by the national coalition and after the administration made its defeat a major legislative objective.

He quoted coalition assertions that tuition tax credits would lead to re-segregated and stratified schools, release public funds to fund sectarian principles and be in violation of the Constitution and American principles.

"That is an example of outright anti-Catholic

bigotry, historic bigotry," the senator declared.

Sen. Moynihan recognized the tuition tax credit support of the bishops, making special mention of Bishop Mugavero of Brooklyn. Some Catholic newspapers were militant and columnists Andrew Greeley and Michael Novak were outstanding, he said. However, evaluating the entire Catholic response, he cited Thomas O'Dea's 1958 observation that American Catholicism has failed to produce an appropriate intellectual life among its members.

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