

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

An Interesting Little Story

I have a story to tell that you may want to reflect upon while debating the communications collection.



Fr. Greeley, U.S. Catholic Conference, like so many other USCC offices, is staffed by bungling amateurs.

I've been working for a number of years on a book about the papal election. For three years I have interviewed, studied, collected data, taken notes, clipped newspapers and magazines; indeed, I have over 1000 pages of notes and several large boxes filled with research material.

When I began writing the book after the election of the first John Paul, I asked the publisher if he could get "post-release" dispatches from the major wire services so I could check factual details and make sure that the final volume was as precise as possible. The publishers said it was standard journalistic practice to make such "post-release" materials available. Sure enough, such material came from the Religious News Service and from the Associated Press with letters wishing me well on the book. I wrote back assuring them that I would acknowledge their assistance and cite any quotations from them in the book, though neither agency requested it.

From the NC News Service we heard nothing. Finally, a member of Universal Press Syndicate called Richard Daw of NC News. The young man was utterly staggered by Daw's response: "Let Greeley do his own research."

Now, of course I had done my own research and was only seeking to verify facts from the wire services of record and could easily have gone into any Catholic newspaper office in the country and looked over their materials (which I ultimately did).

The president of the publishing company called Mr. Daw, who continued to refuse to make the materials available, finally agreeing only if Universal Press Syndicate was willing to enter a year's subscription (at \$700) to the NC News Service. Eager to facilitate the book, the publisher agreed. When I heard about the arrangement I went through the ceiling. I was not about to see 70 cents, much less \$700, paid to the NC News Service. I sent the materials back through the mails, though it took NC News Service a couple of weeks to realize that they were coming back (as a matter of fact, they sent me not one but two sets of releases every day, demonstrating how efficient they really are).

Leaving aside the fact that I have spent countless hours in my office at the National Opinion Research Center answering questions for NC reporters, Mr. Daw's behavior was simply mind-boggling.

I called the former director of NC News Service and asked him what he would have done under similar circumstances and he informed me that he would have done exactly what AP and RNS had done with the hope that maybe we'd mention them in the footnote. "The publicity we'd get would be worth the paper and postage involved."

James Andrews, president of Andrews and McMeel, then wrote Mr. Robert Beusse, head of the USCC's office of communication and Mr. Daw's superior, formally protesting Mr. Daw's behavior. Mr. Beusse, the man principally responsible for Catholic communication and presumably the principal beneficiary of the communications collection, did not even bother to answer the formal protest. Universal Press Syndicate is the largest independent feature syndicate in the country, servicing over 1300 newspapers throughout the world. USCC's director of communication can apparently afford to ignore such a powerful organization.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER "Each Life Is Unique"

By Ed Sulewski

Few of us achieve great fame or riches during our lifetime - and most of us have probably wondered at some time, if the world would be any different if we died at that moment.

It would, of course, because each person makes a unique and individual contribution to his community and to each life he touches.

It is in honor of this value we must feel for every human life that we recognize death with the funeral service. The funeral gives dignity to the ritual of burial - and acknowledges the loneliness and grief we feel. To honor the dead - and give help and support to the living - the funeral serves an important purpose and helps us begin to accept and adjust to our loss.

More can be learned about accepting death through suggested reading. Call us for a list or for pamphlets.

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A Prayer

During the period in which the diocese awaits the naming of a new bishop, the following prayer is being recited by individuals and small groups throughout the diocese. The prayer is based on one composed in the Second Century by Hippolytus.

† † †

PRAYER FOR A NEW BISHOP

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Father of mercy and God of all comfort
all life, all goodness, come from you.

You sealed a covenant in faith with our ancestors,
people of promise,
to inherit the word of your grace
that your glory might shine forth in those you have
chosen.

From before time began
you desired that servants of love and kindness,
wisdom and faithfulness
would arise to gather your people
into one body, one spirit, and one Lord.

Show us your power and love
which you have given through your Son
to the apostles.

Send us a bishop who is filled with the spirit of the
apostles,
chosen by your hand to be your servant and our
brother.

Impart your Spirit of holiness and counsel upon him,
and all your holy Church,
that he may exercise the full priesthood of all believers
blamelessly before you.

Renew your Church in the Diocese of Rochester
as the place where the glory of your name is forever
praised.

We ask this through your Son and our Lord,
Jesus Christ,
with whom be honor and glory and power to you,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

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RIT Reports On Fund Drive

Three local companies have given Rochester Institute of Technology \$245,000 for a proposed School of Applied and Industrial Studies. Gleason Works gave \$200,000; Mixing Equipment Co., Inc., \$25,000, and Farrell Co., \$15,000 for operation costs in the first five years. The announcement came from Dr. Robert Frisina, senior vice president for institutional advancement.

The school will offer post-secondary vocational training to produce the skilled craftsmen that area industries particularly need. By 1980 it is expected to accommodate 400 full-time students a year at 50 W. Main. Within two weeks of the initial announcement of the project, private donations totaled \$1.6 million, Dr. Frisina reported. The goal is \$5.2 million.

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'ADOPT'
A
DEAF-MUTE
BOY

Father Ronald Roberts (from England) must get help to feed his 'family' of 47 deaf-mute Arab boys in Harissa, Lebanon. Boys nobody wanted, they are becoming self-supporting typists, watch-makers, beauticians, thanks to him. To feed the 'family' for one day costs only \$70.50 (141 meals at 50¢ each). Your gift in any amount—\$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, or whatever you can share will help Father Roberts care for a handicapped boy in war-torn Beirut.

NEEDED:
A HOSPITAL
AND SCHOOL

The Franciscan Sisters are working among the poor in Puthenpedika, a small village on the western coast of India, where there is a strong Communist influence. The Sisters hope to build a hospital and nursery school open to all regardless of creed or caste and thus combat Marxism by spreading the message of Christ by their example and prayers. Just \$5000 will complete the project, but gifts in any amount are most welcome.

WANTED:
A RECTORY
FOR
FATHER
THOMAS

The Diocese of Kottayam erected Assumption Church in 1974 to serve the 150 families of the Syro-Malabar Rite in the village of Arayangad. Though very poor, the faithful contributed to the purchase of four acres and a semi-permanent building for religious instruction. What is still needed is a rectory for the pastor, Father Thomas Cawanan. His parishioners have already over-extended themselves financially and \$1,000 is still needed to complete the building. Can you help in whole or in part?

HELP
THEM,
HELP
YOURSELF

Masses this month for your loved ones, especially your deceased? The Masses will be offered right away if you send your intentions to us today. In addition, why not enroll your family and friends in this Association? (Family membership: \$100 for life, \$5 a year. One person's membership: \$25 for life, \$5 a year.) The persons you enroll share in the Masses, prayers, and hardships of all our missionaries. Your offering helps the poor.

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Monsignor Nolan:

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