COURIER-JOURNAL



A Blessing

Phuong Thi Tran (center), who arrived in the U.S. in 1975 as a Vietnamese refugee, received her master's degree in education from Nazareth College last Sunday, May 13. She and her husband, Luat Huu Tran (right), threw a party for some 300 guests at their new Penfield Road home, where Father Nguyen Duc Tien (left) celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving for the new home and the new degree.

Contraceptive Ads Challenged

Albany (RNS) - The State Catholic Conference, the action agency representing the eight Catholic dioceses in the state, has protested legislation that would remove age restrictions for the sale or distribution of contraceptives.

The conference argued that removing the current ban on selling or distributing contraceptives to persons under

sexual promiscuity and not control unwanted pregnancies.

Charles J. Tobin, executive director of the conference, in a letter to members of the State Assembly, said that the conference objected to proposed legislation which would remove restrictions on advertising contraceptives.

In a 1977 decision, the the age of 16 would increase Supreme Court ruled that a New York State law totally banning such advertising was unconstitutional.

"The attempt to throw out the entire law, as is now being proposed in the legislature, is not a proper response to the court decision," Tobin said. "Particular attention has to be paid to advertisement in the electronic media and in places where children can be affected.

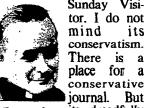
The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

its

A Newspaper That's Dull And Routine

One of the worst disgraces in the American church is the national edition of Our Sunday Visi-



its dreadfully Fr. Greeley dull news coverage, its veneer of trite piety and its bland portrait of contemporary American

Catholicism is un-

to the argument that all criticism of the church played into the hands of the church's enemies, but in an era when even the pope will admit in his recent encyclical that some of the criticism is valid, Our Sunday Visitor's demand for unquestioning, silent lovalty to ecclesiastical leadership looks archaic, to say the least.

Apparently, Our Sunday Visitor's editorial writer thinks I should not have criticized such recent hierarchical adventures as The Call to Action tent show in Detroit, the miserable Catechetical Directory, the attempted firing of Msgr. George Higgins, the pathetically weak excuse for research that emerges from the hierarchy's national office. Apparently incompetence, injustice, unprofessional behavior and bungling are all to be suffered in silence lest it provide grist for the anti-Catholic mills. The OSV editorial writer is either naive or uninformed. Fashionable elite anti-Catholicism has nothing to do with the administrative ineptitudes of the national hierarchy, but rather focuses on the church's abortion teaching, on Catholic schools, on the alleged docility of Catholics to their ecclesiastical leaders, on the inability of Catholics to be independent thinkers and competent scholars, on the archaic absurdity of the papacy (as the anti-Catholics see it) and on Catholic political power in the big cities.

us, and it does not need and does not use our own internal criticism and freedom of discussion to provide it with raw material.

The OSV editorial writer should realize that the enormous success of anti-Catholic bigotry in recent years has not been caused by criticism of the hierarchy but by the hierarchy's adamant refusal to fight back, particularly under the leadership of Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, who seems psychologically incapable of speaking out against neonativist bigotry.

It is hard to think of anything less important than an editorial in Our Sunday Visitor. It is not likely to have any impact at all, but it is a discouraging symbol of our willingness to acquiesce to the neo-nativists. With its enormous circulation, the newspaper could have a tremendous amount of influence in mobilizing American Catholics to resist the surge of prejudice against Catholics, par-ticularly in the federal bureaucracy. Instead, it is content to score cheap and inadequate debating points in mean-spirited editorials. **Bishop William McManus** of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the president of Our Sunday Visitor, and one of the most intelligent bishops in the hierarchy, has always had the highest respect for professional excellence. He has been patient with the mediocrities at Our Sunday Visitor too long.

His Ministry 'Pushes' Prayers and Humor

says.)

Albany — He's a pusher. ne of the biggest.

Every place he goes he ries to unoad his goods. He'll pull you aside and try to make you a deal. And though he hangs around college students a lot, he hits on every age group. He might get you at a fire department dinner, at a women's group luncheon, even as you're coming out of church on Sunday morning. He works with a hood. He ndiscriminate.

And don't get the idea hat he's just a local pusher. le's a heavy and his operation is international in scope. You should hear him rattle off the nationalities he's dealt with: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Italian, German, Gaelic Irish, Hungarian, Lithuanian, Slovak, Tamil, Japanese and Russian.

"The more I get around, he rounder I get," he always

Yes, he's one of the ggest pushers.

Of "Family Prayer Cards," that is. Or, at least, Father Ben Kuhn still calls them cards. What he actually deals out are not cards at all, but folding brochures of prayers. He stopped printing the cards several years ago.

They were difficult to through the mail des, people would use the sum as fans in the sum nertime," he says.

Most people in the bany area know who ther Ben is. At around 10 pounds, he's not easy to ss. He's one of the brown oded founding Franciscan fathers of Siena College, Loudonville — the only one who's still there. He's interious as a speaker (and as a jokester) and gets anywhere from 100 to 200 engagements a year. (His topics range from ecumenism to ecology to dry swimming, he says, tonguein-cheek, as usual.)

And wherever he goes he

prayers and go to heaven." Now he's got a new slogan: "Say these prayers to forget your cares.

the Department of Health,

Education and Welfare ap-

The original Hyde

Amendment, which forbade the use of HEW funds for

abortion except to save the life

of the mother, was broadened

last year to include abortions

for victims of rape or incest

and "in those instances where

severe and long-lasting

physical damage to the

mother would result."

propriations bill.

High Court Sets Back Abortion Funding

Washington, D.C. (RNS) --The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a setback to advocates of public funding of abortion here when it declined to hear their appeal that states are under obligation to pay for abortions for indigent women.

He used to count them

out: "One, two, three, four, five, six seven. Say these

The appeal to the high court is but one in a series of moves by abortion advocates to nullify the effect of the Hyde Amendment, first passed by Congress in December 1977 as a rider to

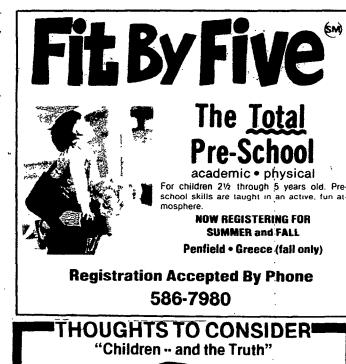
New Deacons Given Parish Assignments

The Pastoral Office announced last week the parish assignments of three newly ordained deacons and of two other St. Bernard's men who have not reached the diaconate.

The Rev. Mr. Timothy J. McClusky will serve his deacon internship at St. Andrew's, Rochester; the Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Larabee, at Holy Ghost, Coldwater, and the Rev. Mr. Michael Schramel, at St. Ambrose.

Parish assignments were given also to Dennis Bonsignore — at Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira — and John Vellekkakan — at Blessed Sacrament.

Michael Sullivan and Gary Schummer, who are studying Spanish, will become deacons after the close of summer school, the announcement said.



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professional, unimaginative and unintelligent. Given its enormous circulation and the large number of potential readers (those who buy it in the back of the church, one suspects, do so out of devotion rather than the expectation that they'll find anything interesting in it), Our Sunday Visitor ought to be a brisk, readable, objective Catholic "paper of record". Instead, unfortunately, it is dull, trivial, and routine. It has also managed to turn nasty in its recent editorials.

Editor Father Nevins, or one of his associates, recently charged those of us who are concerned about anti-Catholicism with being hypocrites. If you criticize the hierarchy, says the editorial writer, then you're playing the game of the anti-Catholics and providing them with the raw materials for their anti-Catholicism.

A charge like that, one might, have expected 30 years ago when there may have been some plausibility

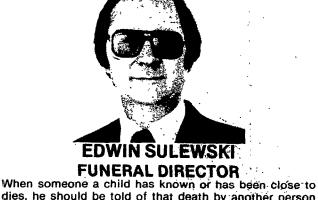
In other words, nativist bigotry hasn't changed much in the last century and a half. It hates us for the same reasons it always hated

L want to thank the directors of the Catholic Press Association for awarding their Best Short Story Prize to my tale, "Ms. Carpenter." L am also grateful to the editors of U.S. Catholic for publishing the story, and to the real-life model of Ms. Carpenter. As to who she is, well, you'll have to read the story to find out

ings his prayer cards. Since **50**, he's distributed more than one and a half million in English, 400,000 in Si mish, and the rest of the ty million in the languages militioned above.

Orders for his prayer cards come from all around the country and throughout the world. Thirty-seven thousand of them in Gaelic have made their way to Scotland, Ireland, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. Fifty thousand in Spanish, his biggest order, came from Redemptorist Fathers in Puto Rico.

The Legion of Mary at thes helps to disperse thousands of them, as do heapitals and religious edication instructors Ty years ago, at the El maristic Congress in Phildelphia, 31,000 of them we given out, gratis, by a p called Heralders of gr(Di he Love. (It's usually a in per hundred, which is dd less than cost, for orders that big Only a dollar, because people won't put uneven. money in an envolope inc



dies, he should be told of that death by another person who is equally close to him. And, even though it may be a temptation at the time, never try to deny or gloss over the fact of death. Don't tell a child that "Mother is on a trip". that "Daddy has gone to sleep"; or that "Grandpa is living. in the hospital." These explanations are misleading unintentionally, perhaps - but still far, very far, from the truth.

More than most of us realize, children are able to stand up under the truth. They are capable of releasing their deepest emotions much more easily than adults. The child may cryst the scene may be painful but any other reaction would not be normal. Their grief is expressed immediately, and they are soon able to reorganize their lives without the deceased. Allowing the child to be very much a part of the family at this time - and dealing with him honestly -- will allow him to express his emotions and be well on the way to recovery. Any member of our staff can answer your questions about

children = and death. Call anytime. SCHAUMAN FUNERAL

342-3400

Seat Starting

2100 St. Paul St.