



### Charismatic Weekend

Charismatic Renewal leaders from the five upstate dioceses are shown in the chapel of Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua. They gathered last month for a weekend study of Communication: praying, listening, and being sensitive to the needs of others. Tony Cushing and a team from Allentown, Pa., conducted the sessions, which attracted 125 delegates from the dioceses of Albany, Buffalo, Ogdensburg, Rochester and Syracuse.

### The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

#### The Issue Of Celibacy

This column is about ecclesiastical celibacy and I had better begin by reasserting my own position.



Fr. Greeley

a) I am committed to the continuation of mandatory celibacy for priests in the Western Church until I am persuaded that optional celibacy would not lead to compulsory marriage for priests.

b) I am also committed to the ordination of women.

c) I am finally committed to the concept of limited term service in the priesthood and the religious life. A young person would only commit himself or herself to the act of ministry for a five-year period. At the end of the five years the commitment might be renewed or it might be ended and the person would be free to return to the lay status (whatever residual sacramental powers might remain).

Against that background, I wish to make two general observations:

It would seem that there is some shift within the American church in the direction of renewed support for celibacy, though there is scarcely enough empirical data to report that as anything more than an impression.

For example, I received a note recently from an inactive priest in which he said, "I married after I received my dispensation and I am adamant in asserting that a married Catholic clergy would be a disaster... I never had an unhappy day as a priest... and I have had an incredibly happy marriage... My experience has convinced me that total immersion in the priesthood - the only kind that matters - is simply irreconcilable with the total dedication I must give to my family."

I do not cite the letter one

way or another as an argument for celibacy but merely as evidence that John Paul II is not the only one left in the world who thinks the "availability for service" argument has something to commend it.

John Paul has obviously elected to "tough it out" on celibacy. Within American Catholicism, at any rate, I think he will have some support (though perhaps not majority support), but there will be pressures for change from all over the world, and particularly pressures against his present policy on dispensations. Collegial leader that he is, he may well have to ultimately yield to these pressures.

My second observation is that you can make a very persuasive case for celibacy from the social and humanistic disciplines and that it is a misfortune that the pope did not attempt to make such a case in his Holy Week exhortation. Perhaps he could not because Catholic thinkers and theorists have been so busy attacking obligatory celibacy that they have not bothered to ask whether there is anything in the Catholic tradition of celibacy that may represent important human wisdom that ought to be preserved.

I'm convinced that such an argument can be made, though it is simultaneously very subtle and very obvious. I will assert the thesis of the argument in this column, but I will not develop it. While I have, I think, a fairly high tolerance for nasty nuns and carping clerics, I do not propose to make myself vulnerable to them on this particular subject.

In any event, my assertion is as follows: The mature celibate - and by no means all of us even remotely approach maturity - is capable of a special kind of tenderness and sensitivity, not better than that of the mature married person, but different and at certain times in life, more powerful and more effective. If this special style of tenderness and sensitivity were lost in the Western world, it would be a major tragedy.

### Black Heritage Program Set

The development of Rochester's first "Black Cultural Heritage Program" has been announced by its co-sponsors, Monroe Community College and the Marcus Garvey Black Solidarity Committee.

Made possible by a \$17,000 grant from the State Council on the Humanities, the project will consist of a series of public events through which humanist scholars will portray the diversity of black cultural heritage.

The program, to get under way in September, has been in the development stages since June 1978.

Amefika D. Gueka, MGBSC executive director, said that "until now, no established black cultural heritage program has existed. With the support of Monroe Community College in obtaining funds necessary to implement this project, we look forward to an ongoing cultural program for Rochester's 65,000 black residents."

### Soviets Move

Soviet imperialism is on the move throughout the world, human rights are on the decline, and Communist leaders are confident of a final victory for Marxism-Leninism on a global scale, according to the June issue of the Mindszenty Report, a monthly newsletter published by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation. The newsletter cites Political Action, the U.S. Communist Party's official theoretical magazine, as stating "the end is near" for Nicaragua, Brazil, Uruguay, Namibia, Rhodesia, South Africa and Chile. The Mindszenty report states, "To the Communists, total control means forever. Never in six decades have Communist China or the Soviet Union granted independence to a country once it has been enslaved under Communist imperialism."

### Oratorio

Choral music enthusiasts are invited to join, or listen to, the Summer Oratorio Reading Choir at the University of Rochester. In its 21st season, the program features a professional soloist at each sight-reading session. An orchestra drawn mainly from the University Symphony provides accompaniment. Remaining sessions will be July 11, 18 and 25, in Hoyt Hall.

## SSJ Chapter Plans Weekend

The 1979 General Chapter of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph will begin its second phase with a Reflection Weekend for the delegates July 13-15. All other members of the congregation will have been asked to participate in this prayer experience either at their own convents

or at the Motherhouse where the delegates are meeting.

The issues which the chapter will consider during the two-week session beginning July 16 will affect the work the chapter will mandate on the constitutions. The congregation is anticipating that the updating of

the constitutions will bring stability to the period of experimentation ordered by Vatican II.

Some of the issues that the congregation will bring to chapter will be principles and functions of government; the concept of authority as residing in the community of its members as well as in the leadership chosen by the sisters; canonical implications in being an apostolic religious congregation; auxiliary association, social justice; aspects of vowed witness in today's world, finances as related to the vow of poverty; deeper consideration of communal prayer, and planning for ministries.

### Business In the Diocese

William M. Mance has been named director of price and program analysis at Champion Products and two other promotions also were announced.

Josephine live in Penfield and are members of St. Joseph's parish.

Flaherty also is a graduate of St. John Fisher and he and his wife Gail are members of St. Charles Borromeo parish in Greece.

Hern was graduated from Boston College. He is active in the Boy Scouts and he and his wife Sally live in Irondequoit and are members of Christ the King parish.

Harry R. Flaherty will be assistant controller, costs and budgets, and Willard E. Hern assistant controller, general accounting.

Mance is a graduate of St. John Fisher. He and his wife

### Lecture Slated

Gordon M. Ambach, President of the University of the State of New York and Commissioner of Education, will deliver the main address at this year's Alice L. Foley Lecture Series at Nazareth College, Tuesday, July 17, 11 a.m. The lecture will be held in the main auditorium of the Nazareth Arts Center and is free and open to the public.



GORDON M. AMBACH

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Since there is no priest in this area of the Congo, the catechist gathers the community on Sundays for prayer and meditation on God's word.

Vocations in Mission areas are plentiful - but the cost of a seminary education, low as it is, is beyond the means of many young men aspiring to the priesthood.

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