

Public Enemy No. 1

By Margaret Connolly
North American missionaries who tour Latin America tend to get ideas that are not particularly acceptable back home. Like this: capitalism is the enemy of Judaeo-Christianity; capitalism, not communism.

The words are those of Father James A. Loiacono, OMI. He hastens to point out that Marxism is incompatible with Christianity, because of "its denial of metaphysics." But capitalism, because of its rapid spread, has moved ahead of communism as the number one enemy. "In the future, some form of socialism may be found to be compatible with the Church," he says.

Elaborating on this thesis in a recent interview, the Oblate priest said that South American governments "geared toward rapid expansion produce the very poor and the very affluent." He described the situation in Brazil, as he sees it. The government is fiercely intent on economic development, and development is happening "at the expense of the populace." Sao Paulo is overgrown and bursting at the seams, and "the pollution is absolutely staggering."

"Multinational concerns are buying up the land in Brazil. The people flock to the

Is It Capitalism?

cities, where they live in favelas, like peas in a pod," he said. "The cities are full of abandoned children — wandering, no place to go. They get into prostitution."

"Brazil raises cash crops for export, there are food shortages at home ... agribusiness results in food riots. America should take a lesson from this."

"Violence is the mark of the day in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay — institutionalized violence, the 'left' against the 'right.' In Argentina, the government has no control over either. Missionaries are in constant danger there. Six Pallotine Fathers were executed for their work with the poor."

Things are not so bad in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador, Father Loiacono continued. "Bolivia is not into executing people." There are concentration camps for political prisoners, or the perceived enemies are isolated deep in the jungle. They may claim sanctuary. There are laws against the Church, but sanctuary is honored because those who find it are thereby "put out of commission."

The Papal Nuncio has had his fill of uninvited guests — diplomatic sanctuary.

Father Loiacono was ordained May 19 in Washington, D.C. He then spent some time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Loiacono of Assumption Parish in Fairport.

Before he began studying for the priesthood with the Oblates, he was a biology teacher and clinical psychologist in Buffalo public high schools for seven years. He therefore claims insights into a way of life that he attributes to capitalism. This is his "American scenario," paraphrased: Relatives who used to live near each other now dispersed across the country in their pursuit of well-paid work ("but really at the service of industry"); parents and offspring still living in the same town, even the same house, so separated by jobs and other interests that they rarely sit down to dinner together; casual marriages sacrificed to careers, or casual living together without marriage; and the high school student, still at home, who has a drug problem.

Such a way of life deprives the young of "the collective wisdom of the generations."

"Kids get their 'wisdom' from each other, and what is it

worth?"

In contrast, Father Loiacono went on, Bolivian workers "eat lunch at home. All the relatives are around, and there are no generation gaps." Puerto Ricans live that way, too, he said, but the style is on its way out "because communal living devastates the economy."

The missionary's study of South American life began in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he crammed Spanish under the tutelage of the Maryknoll Fathers. He toured the Maryknoll and Oblate missions on the continent.

"We are getting Brazilian seminarians now," he reported. One of those ordained for the Oblates, he said, had had a high price on his head since his First Mass because of an indiscretion in his homily.

Father Loiacono expects to work in US Hispanic communities after two more semesters of Sacred Theology. In pursuit of the STL, he intends to dig into "liberation theology." The Pope has not condemned this, he pointed out, but rather, said that it needed more "theologizing."

To the new priest, this means working the teachings of the Magisterium into what can be seen as a radical departure from Church philosophy.

To paraphrase again: the search for God, for an understanding of His will, of our relationship with Him, starting from the practical situation, can lead to a well-reasoned philosophy — from which faith is lacking. The practical situation as he sees it:

"We have things instead of relationships. The more we are separated, the more the economy expands. Our culture is showing this, and we are spreading our culture around. We can't look to capitalism for help.

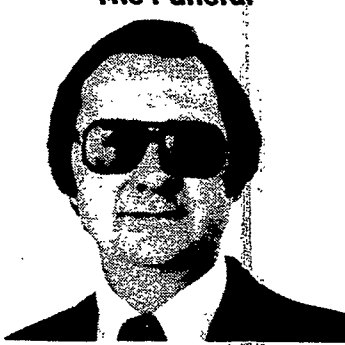
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Following the funeral service, the body is committed to its final resting place in a grave, mausoleum, or crematory.

The days of the funeral serve several purposes — to help the family accept the fact of the death, to allow friends and relatives to express their sympathy and, finally, to become a final tribute for the deceased.

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On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

On Next Irish Tour

When is the next Courier-Journal trip to Ireland?



Oct. 4-18, for two weeks. This will be my seventh trip, escorting groups to Ireland. Most have been eight or ten days; which gives a good but limited tour. Ireland is only as large as Maine, and has a population of about three million. With two weeks we can do the west, center, east, and south quite well. We do not go to the six counties of Ulster Ireland because of the "Troubles."

Where does the C-J tour go?

From Rochester to Boston to Shannon Airport; to Ennis, Galway and Connemara. On Oct. 7 to the shrine of Knock in County Mayo; on to Donegal; across Ireland to Dublin for three days. The finale through Wexford and Kennedy Park, Blarney, Killarney, 4, Shannon, and home Oct. 18. It is relatively leisurely. The cost is \$1295 for two weeks, and includes superior hotels, most meals, guides, transport, and

especially good companionship. I think it is reasonable. Since our first tour in 1973 prices have skyrocketed all over the world. For example in 1973 in the States gasoline was 42 cents a gallon; a quart of milk was 34 cents. Times have changed.

You are called Tour Conductor?

Yes. Isn't it an elegant title! Reminds me of the mops and pails closets at Rochester General Hospital which are designated Environmental Service. Tour Conductor really means Baggage Master. My work, after supplying daily Mass for those who wish it, is to take care of tickets, passports, transitions; seek out the strays and be available for any problems, which thank God, are rare.

Are the Irish keeping the Faith?

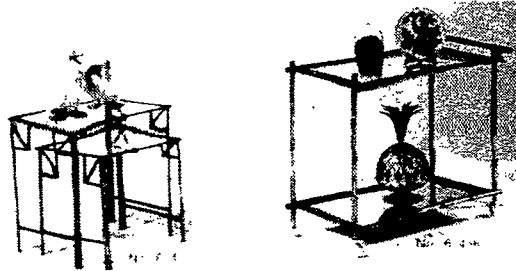
It concerns me that I have met many of the youth who are in a kind of religious limbo. They haven't lost the Faith, but they have lost the zeal for the Faith and fidelity to Mass. Yet the churches are jammed for Sunday Mass, and well filled for daily Mass. Men and women and children pray the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament with an unctious worthy of devout Nuns. Apropos of the rosary I have just finished a splendid book,

Times to Remember, by Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, President Kennedy's mother.

"During my long lifetime I have found three devotions which were of special inspiration to me. The rosary has helped me to lead a life devoted to the love of God and for the benefit of my family and my friends, and the welfare of my family. The rosary may be a silly symbol for some people, but for me, if I cannot sleep, if I am worried on a plane, if I am pacing the floor over-wrought in thinking of my husband's illness and I hold the rosary in my hand, it gives me comfort, trust, serenity, a sense of understanding by the Blessed Mother. Because I have talked and prayed to her all my life, in happy, successful times, I know now she will understand and comfort me and bring me solace in my anxious moments. Sometimes I have given a rosary to friends, and so many times I have heard them say, 'Oh, Rose, if only I had your faith.' And so I have urged my children and grandchildren to embrace this faith bequeathed to them, to foster it, to try to strengthen it by prayer, reading, study, seeking information on dogma that they cannot understand."

That "faith bequeathed", which has been given to most of us who are descendants of oppressed people, including the Irish, despite the material progress we have had, is our greatest inheritance. It gives courage to see it treasured.

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