COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, July 25, 1979

Coming Down

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

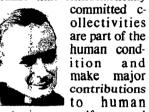
The end of an era is being marked in the diocese as St. Patrick's Church, whose parish was the oldest in the diocese, comes down. The parish was formally dissolved in 1976 but religious ceremonies were continued there until Sunday, June 17, when the community joined St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony's parishes. The razing of the building is the culmination of plans made when the parish was dissolved.

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

Is Marriage Encounter **Effective?**

'I'll admit it: I'm skeptical about "movements." I realize that enthusiastically



ollectivities are part of the human condition and make major contributions to human

welfare and Fr. Greeley

happiness. Still, I am with each passing year more concerned about the capacity of a "movement" to impose social control, to require of its members rigid organizational discipline, stern ideological orthodoxy and 'undeviating behavioral conformity. The only movements that don't scare me are those whose leadership seems to be aware of the risks of manipulation, authoritarianism and depersonalization that are involved in movement enthusiasm. But precisely because movements are enthusiastic, it is very hard for the leadership to be self-

to me to be unwise and counterproductive. However, everyone has their own tastes, and because my tastes don't run in the direction of movements is no reason why other people shouldn't be movement enthusiasts.

Recently I had the opportunity to serve on a dissertation doctoral committee. The dissertation in question discussed the impact of marriage encounter — about which, it might be imagined, I was profoundly skeptical. The previous scholarly literature on the impact of all en-counter-like experiences appears to indicate that although they may be enjoyable, their effectiveness is not very great.

The dissertation by Commander Richard Dempsey, USNR, has persuaded me that the marriage encounter technique may be the most effective brief psychological learning experience yet devised. I continue to have grave reservations about the movement's enthusiasm and the controls it implies, but on the basis of Father Dempsey's brilliant dissertation, I am con-

and an extraordinarily strong change in the marriage encounter group. Moreover, six weeks after the experience the differences between the two groups were increasing. One will have to wait for a follow-up a year after the marriage encounter to make a definitive judgment; but one is virtually forced to say that no psychological training experience described in the literature has that kind of impact.

С

mander/Father/Doctor Dempsey explains the power of change by saying that the marriage encounter alone, of all similar techniques, does not isolate a person from the ordinary network of his relationships. The other techniques may really shake a person up because he is taken out of his ordinary network of interaction and dragged through an emotional wringer. In marriage encounter, however, the principal "other" in any interaction network is also present and in fact the relationship itself is the object of the training experience.

At one time the marriage encounter movement was considering elaborate and sophisticated research on its effectiveness. I have the impression that this research

Transportation Bill Is Approved

red J. Eckert in the State mate and Gary Proud in the tate Assembly which quires the Rochester School istrict to transport private nd parochial school students sufficiency limits, has been signed by Gov. Hugh L. arey. The law applies if the ochester School Board ransports any students at all.

The law provides a solution what has become an annual

Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Cammarata of Woodhaven Drive, Penfield, celebrated their 50th wedding an-niversary Sunday, July 15, at a party given by their son-inlaw and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Meleo, and granddaughters, their Rosemary and Michele. The eception and dance at Valley Echo followed a 5 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph's, Penfield. A



recent years, the school board has proposed that nonpublic school students be denied transportation to the schools of their choice.

Proponents of busing have argued that Rochester could restrict the freedom of a child to attend a nonpublic school outside the city simply by restricting transportation to within the city limits. With similar schools within the city limits unable to accommodate those pupils, a significant number might have had to transfer to public schools. Any potential saving in transportation costs would

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busing crisis in Rochester. In have been absorbed in added enrollment costs in the public schools.

> The Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents, the State Catholic Conference, Mayor Thomas P. Ryan Jr. of Rochester, and the Rochester City Council backed the new law. State Sen. John Perry voted in favor.

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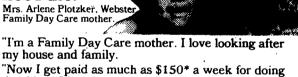
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critical about social control. strained to admit the did not take place because after completion of training at Monroe County Department of Social Service the Ranger School, Fort On the contrary, much of Family Day Care is a tough job. marriage encounter folks there was some unease Benning, Ga. His West Point their energy seems to be about what the findings have something to be en-You'll love it! courses included engineering consumed by conflicts over thusiastic about. would be. On the basis of and the humanities, with a internal orthodoxy and then Father Dempsey's work, I with schismatic groups concentration in German am sure such unease is The dissertation surveyed Please send meinformation on how I can help, children and earn money fudies, and he received a BS the splintering of the original people just before a marriage groundless. Marriage enat home as a Family Day Care mother Mail to: egree with his second petitenant's commission. He Notre Dame charismatic counter ought to do an encounter, just after it and Homefinding community is one example then six weeks later. The elaborate and sophisticated Monroe County Department of Social Services was on the Dean's List for of such internal conflict. 111 Westfall Road Rochester. New York 14620 surveyed people were national survey, not merely our years. Tel: 442-4000 compared with those on a to prove its effectiveness but I have had the same waiting list who had yet to to obtain better un-derstanding of why it is Hahn is a graduate of St. alome's School and Bishop reaction to the marriage make marriage encounters. My Name Telephon encounter "movement." The Three different tests were effective and on whom it is Address technique, it seemed to me, Learney High School, class of administered: a marital effective. Such research, it 975. His parents are Mr. and on apriori grounds ought to City adjustment, a marital would seem to me, would be State Zip CJ-3 Mrs. Robert F. Hahn of 108 be a very useful one. But very useful both for the satisfaction and a self-Urgent need-right now! turning a technique into a Fairlea Drive; his granddisclosure inventory. On all marriage encounter exparents, Mrs. Lucy Crombach and Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. panacea and hard-selling it -for Family Day Care Homes in: Rochester Zip codes 14609, three tests, there was no perience itself and for the 14621, 14620, 14607; and in Webster Village to others has always seemed change in the control group rest of the country. Hahn Sr. SCUTTI CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH SCUTTI CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH **CLOSE-OUT PRICES! STYLING - MILEAGE - PERFORMANCE NO REASONABLE** OFFR Sapporo REFUSED Horizon w/Woodgrain Trim 25 Miles Per Gallon TC-3 Champ Sport