COURIER-JOURNAL

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Heroic Chaplain

Father Peter Rogers, OMI, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in New Orleans, rescues an elderly woman from a blazing apartment house. Such duties are routine for Father Rogers, who serves as chaplain for the city's police and fire departments. In addition to his work as parish priest, he has been answering emergency calls for 14 years. (RNS Photo)

marriage to determine that

they are psychologically

The idea that it is the role

priest

to

The

of the church or of the

'psychologically screen'

people who wish to marry is

uncharitable, un-Christian

and a violation of Canon

Law. But the guideline

enthusiasts have imposed

regulations that make both

the old Canon Law and

Cardinal Pericle Felici's

grotesque revised code look

like exercises in liberal

guideline nuts around the

country have, with a single

stroke of their pens (or a

single resolution of their

priest senate), revoked the

permissiveness.

parish

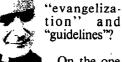
capable of getting married.'

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

Coping With Lunatic Legalism

Am I the only one who sees the conflict between the fashionable two most current crazes in the American church ---"evangeliza-



On the one hand we have a bunch of manic and ill-informed enthusiasts running around the country trying to convert the "unchurched"

code of Canon Law and, as and reconvert the "fallen far as I can see, revoked the away." On the other hand, Sermon on the Mount, too. we have another bunch of They have turned, almost lunatics running around the without anyone noticing it, American Catholicism into country, formulating elaborate, detailed and the kind of detailed moronic rules to regulate the Pharisaic oppression that administration of the both Jesus and St. Paul sacraments. Bizarrely condemned. And they enough, some of the seemed to have gotten away evangelization enthusiasts with it in the complete are also guideline enabsence of any resistance or

doubt that the

evangelizers are going to

attract that many people to

the church, or back to the church. But if they have any

success at all, the

evangelized are going to

promptly encounter a system of "rule morality,"

more rigid, more demanding

and more inflexible than

anything that has ever been

devised in the previous

history of the church. You

attract people to the church

on the one hand, and then

you frighten them away

with inquisitorial rigorism

on the other. "Dumb" is the

only adjective I can think of

to describe such wildly

contradictory behavior. It

convinces me that con-

temporary Catholic clerics

are even more poorly

educated than I thought

One guideline enthusiast

explained it to me this way:

"If we are going to grant

of psychological instability,

then we simply have to

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they were.

I

until they find priests who refuse to apply the guidelines. Still, we are going to suffer enormous losses because this new lunatic legalism does not convince priests, insecure about their own masculinity and unable to be gentle and sensitive with those seeking to return, that they are indeed acting like real American males administrators applying rules. With the guidelines mania. American Catholicism has deliberately and consciously embarked on the path, crushing the bruised reed. It is melancholy to think that many of the guidelines nuts will not even understand what that last sentence means.



Charities Sets Annual Meeting

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will address the 62nd annual meeting of Catholic Charities Friday evening at Genesee Settlement House, 10 Dake St. Before the 6:30 p.m. dinner at the house, he will tour the neighborhood.

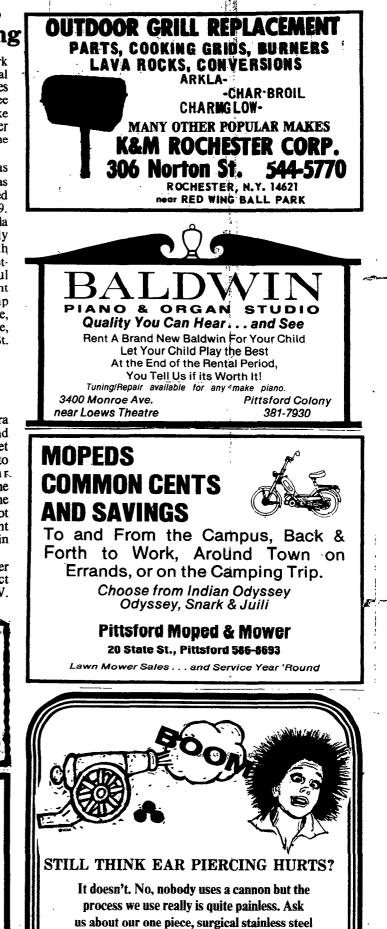
Catholic Charities was incorporated in 1917 and has been a member of the United Community Chest since 1919. Its affiliates are Camp Stella Maris, Catholic Family Center, Catholic Youth Organization, Charles Settlement House, DePaul Clinic, Genesee Settlement House, Kinship Group Homes, Office of Family Life, St. Ann's Home and Heritage, St. Elizabeth's Guild and St. Joseph's Villa.

DCG Plans **Participation**

Elmira — The Elmira Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics will meet Sunday, Sept. 16, for a trip to the Mount Saviour. Monastery Fall Festival. The group will assemble at the north end of Sears parking lot at 9 a.m., and travel to Mount Saviour. The day will begin with Mass at 10 a.m.

Anyone desiring further information may contact Georgia Bottcher, 743 W. Clinton St.





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Martin Wenzel, icer, will speak m a Treatment it the alcoholism St. Joseph's rsday, Sept. 20, in the Doctors loom. Those her information the STARS Ł 519.

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even argument

The recent issue of Aim had an article which purports to present a "moderate" view of the guidelines. The perspective of the author, who has in his own personal ministry driven away many potential returnees, is about as moderate as the Talmud, and yet as far as I can see no one is complaining.

Ironically, the new hyperlegalism has seized control of the American church precisely at a time when a lot of sometime-Catholics in their middle-30s are getting ready to drift back into the church. They are discovering a more authoritarian, more unsympathetic, more insensitive and more oppressive church than the one they left when they were in their 20s.

The guidelines are, for the most part, unenforceable. A annulments on the grounds ... lot of Catholic laity will not accept them and will simply not receive the sacraments. then we sumply screen people before. Other Others will shop around