

# The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

## Catholic Scholars

There are many disadvantages in speaking the truth. If you do it too often and too honestly and with too much empirical evidence, you end up a pariah. That's fair enough. It goes with the territory. You take your exclusion for granted. But that doesn't excuse the cowardice and hypocrisy of those who exclude you.

For the past 18 years, my colleagues at National Opinion Research Center and I have done virtually the only high quality social research that exists on American Catholicism, research that has come to be

accepted by most of the social science community as both comprehensive and definitive.

So the pope comes to America and it is decided to pretend that we don't exist. None of us are invited to anything in Chicago. I am put on the list for the White House and then cut off that list by some very high official. We don't even make the list for the Catholic University convocation of "scholars."

It doesn't make that much practical difference for me. My press credentials could get me into anything I wanted to attend. For my associates, it is another matter, though I imagine they will survive.

The thing that makes me angry is not being left out of something I wanted to attend but rather the hypocrisy and vindictiveness of those who delete names

from lists on the basis of what they take to be loyalty. If you are a critic, you are disloyal, and that's that.

Chicago's reducing the Catholic scholars at NORC to the status of non-persons is not especially surprising. It's gone on for a long time. Jimmy Carter can invite to the White House whoever he wants, though the claims of his staff that they don't have enemy lists like the Nixon gang did is clearly absurd. I'm kind of honored to be on the enemy list of the most inept administration since Calvin Coolidge's.

I'm really angry at the Catholic University crowd, though. Members of their sociology department have been badmouthing our research for years, behind our backs and in private where we can't effectively reply to them. To exclude the only scholars who have done high quality empirical research on the state of American Catholicism on the grounds that the findings are disconcerting to some

ecclesiastical authorities is to make an absolute mockery of the academic freedom which is supposed to characterize a university. Small wonder that the so-called "Catholic" University is such a pathetically poor institution. It also confirms the off-heard charge of anti-Catholics that you can't be a Catholic and be free to do openminded scholarship.

I called Dr. Pellegrino, the president of C.U., to ask for an explanation. He hemmed and hawed and evaded, but he didn't deny the facts.

He told the pope in his welcome address about the importance of the

"priesthood of truth." He meant, of course, the priesthood of truth that does not offend church authorities by uncovering unpleasant facts. I don't think that's quite what the

pope had in mind when he talked about the highest standards of scientific research, academic excellence and intellectual honesty.

Some university

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**Calendar**

**THE BAD OLD DAYS** — Recalling the Great Depression of the 1930s, artifacts, costumes, music, films organized into a Sunday afternoon event at Rochester Museum and Science Center; Oct. 28, 1-5.

**FESTIVAL** — At St. John's, Spencerport, Nov. 2, 3. Roast beef dinner, children's movies.

**SCHOOL FURNITURE, BOOKS** — At St. James parish hall, Brett and Fairfax. Home-School Association sale, 9-2 Nov. 3.

**ORGAN RECITAL** — At St. Vincent de Paul, Churchville, 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28; Angelina De Palma Ciuffini. Refreshments.

**FUN NIGHT** — With Harps Band, 9 p.m. Oct. 27, to 2 a.m., at Doud Post, 898 Buffalo Road; sponsored by Butler School of Irish Dancing. Information: 663-8679.

**CRAFT SALE** — At Rochester Friendly Home, 3156 East Ave., Friday, Nov. 9, 10-3, ceramics, knits, paintings, Christmas decorations, baked goods, all

made by residents. **ANTIQUES** — Show and sale by 30 dealers Nov. 3, 4, at Notre Dame High School, Union Street, Batavia; noon-10 Saturday, noon-7 Sunday. \$1.50.

**THE GREAT WEST** — Photographs by well-known artists in collection circulated by Smithsonian, through Nov. 15 at Plaza Art Gallery, Lincoln First Tower. Monday-Saturday hours 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

**MCC GOSPEL SINGERS** — First anniversary concert, 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, in Room 4-118, Monroe Community College; with Revelation and Company of Buffalo and others.

**FASHION SHOW** — At Nazareth Academy 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26; sponsored by PATON.

**ST. MARGARET MARY WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS GROUP** — Meets on second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at 401 Rogers Parkway.

**PITTSFORD ART GROUP** — Exhibition opens 8 p.m. Nov. 1 in Nazareth Arts Center gallery, runs through Nov. 25. Hours: 9-9 weekdays, noon-5 Saturdays and Sundays.

**UNITED NATIONS CONCERT** — Eastman School Symphony, 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26, in Eastman Theatre. Free.

**PIANO RECITALS** — By Eastman School professors: David Burge, 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28; Barry Snyder, 8

p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. Both in Kibbourn Hall, 26 Gibbs; free.

**CLASSIC FILMS** — Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn in Holiday (1938) Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2 and 8 p.m. Rochester Museum/Eisenhart Auditorium.

**GEVA** — Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? playing 168 S. Clinton Oct. 26-Nov. 22; performances Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday 2 and 7:30 p.m., no performance Oct. 30. Box Office: 232-1363.

**AUDITIONS** — At GeVa Theatre, 168 S. Clinton, Oct. 30, 31, for professional and amateur actors. Information, appointments: 232-1366.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY** — Sponsored by Rochester Community Players at old Playhouse, 820 S. Clinton, Saturday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.-midnight. Details: Wendy Lee, 473-8130.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** — Tuesday, Oct. 30, Mother of Sorrows Church, 1100 Latta; Wednesday, Oct. 31, Greece Baptist Church, 1230 Long Pond — both 1-7 p.m.. Child care provided.

**DECISION MAKING IN TERMINAL CARE** — A public forum Nov. 2 and 3 at St. John Fisher College, sponsored by the college and Strong Memorial Hospital's palliative care consultation group. For details: O.J. Sahler, 275-3367, days; David R. Lyndon, 248-2056, evenings.



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