



### Holiday Dance

The Catholic Women's Club is planning a Holiday Tea to benefit the Carmelite Nuns in cloister on Jefferson Road. The tea will be held at the AAUW Clubhouse, 494 East Ave., on Dec. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. Club members are asked to bring gifts of food and household items. Planning the event are Mrs. Terence Quinn, Mrs. Bernie Bromka and Mrs. Sylvester Murphy.

## The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

### Liberals Misunderstand John Paul II

The despairing response to the papal visit by many priests and nuns, some lay people and even a few bishops can only be described in the sociological category of "collective behavior" — a group neurosis simply not justified by the realities of the situation. I was told in the week after the pope's return that there were going to be new loyalty oaths, that we were going back to the era before the Second Vatican Council, that there would be a right-wing witch hunt, that a lot of people were going to have to suffer intensely, that the pope was another Pius X, that Catholics were going to be forced to give up birth control as a condition of receiving absolution, that the new annulment norms were going to be repealed and that the impact would be worse than that of the birth control encyclical, and that I personally was in deep trouble.

I tried to argue with those who were caught in this collective neurosis that there was simply nothing in the guarded and qualified remarks that the pope made,

in his own personality or in his life history that justified such pessimism. But collective behavior does not respond to argumentation. People were not interested in the subtle nuances of the papal language. They were not concerned, for example, that in his Washington Mall speech he said that marriage ought to be open for children and not that each marriage act ought to be open. Nor were they concerned that the Mall speech could have as easily been construed as a condemnation of the single-issue approach to the right to life.

The manic Catholic right (whose only real power comes from its ability to intimidate bishops and not from its numerical size) stamps its feet gleefully, "the pope is on our side!" And the somewhat larger Catholic left with mindless self-destructiveness seems to cheerfully agree. I can't for the life of me figure out why.

I think the pope made some technical mistakes in his visit. The tone of his talk to nuns was inappropriate for American women (but remember, sisters, before you write the pope off as a chauvinist, that he has a woman doctor). There was too much television exposure. The pope should have listened more and talked less (even many bishops were disappointed that he did not listen to them). If he was going to talk at all on sexual matters, then he should not have

dealt with them in passing paragraphs.

But I think that most of these technical mistakes were the result of the failure of the American hierarchy to prepare the pope for the visit. The Irish hierarchy, I am told, sent a committee to Rome with drafts, position papers, briefing memoranda and other aids which the pope cheerfully accepted. The American hierarchy did not and must bear the blame for some of the negative fallout on the morale of the clergy that resulted from the trip.

Having noted these technical mistakes, I must insist that if a certain segment of the liberal left Catholic elite went into despair after the pope left Andrews Air Force Base, the reason was that it wanted to go into despair, for some reason — perhaps for what Father Edward Duff used to call "mass masochism": they enjoy daydreams about witch-hunts, loyalty oaths and ecclesiastical repression.

Why liberals enjoy feeling bad has never been clear to me. I wonder if in this case, however, there may not have been a bit of snobbery at work. The masses loved John Paul II no matter what he said. Your good Catholic liberal never wants to be confused with just ordinary Catholics. So if the masses cheer for who and what John Paul II is, then the liberals, in order to maintain any distinctiveness of their own, have to ignore what he did and fixate on what he said — even if it means taking what he said out of context.

# Buckman's

## ICE CREAM VILLAGE

### is Celebrating its Anniversary

# FREE



### AN OLD FASHIONED SUNDAE

WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY SODA, MILKSHAKE OR SPLIT

Dec. 10th - 13th

## ICE CREAM

A HOLIDAY MUST!

Santa's Coming - Make plans to bring the kids to visit and have their picture taken with Santa in person

Holiday Gift Idea - A book of coupons or a gift certificate from Buckman's.



OPEN 7 DAYS

2576 Ridge Road West at Long Pond Rd. Buckman's Corners 225-7720

AMPLE PARKING

Open: 6 AM - 11 PM everyday

14th Annual Lincoln First Bank

## BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

DEC. 4, 6 & 8  
WAR MEMORIAL

1979 TEAMS  
Alfred University  
Brockport State  
Geneseo State  
Hobart College  
Roberts Wesleyan  
RIT  
St. John Fisher  
...and invitational guest  
U of R

Advance Tickets available at participating schools or any Lincoln First Office  
Advance \$2.00 Gate \$3.00

CHECK DAILY SPORTS LISTINGS FOR DETAILS