

Through a Glass ... Very Darkly Seers Fail to Match Reality In Predictions for 1979

By Lawrence Mullin
Religious News Service

Judging by the non-
results, a lot of America's
"top psychics," including
seer Jeane Dixon, had better
check on their psychic
vibrations, or the glow from
their crystal balls, or
whatever.

The scores on their
published predictions for
1979 turned out to be less
than impressive.

Jean Dixon, for example,
the lady who announced in
1977 that the late Pope Paul
VI would be around for four
more years; predicted that in
1979 Pope John Paul II "will

case church rules," and that
"many Catholics will find
John Paul unorthodox in his
thinking."

Psychic-astrologer Freder-
rick Davies went Ms. Dixon
one better: "Pope John Paul
II (in 1979) will stagger the
religious world by an-
nouncing his plans for the
ordination of women
priests."

Chicago psychic Olof
Jonsson predicted that the
"real" Holy Shroud would
be found in Egypt in 1979.

A sampling of other
predictions for 1979 that
failed to materialize:

— "Blood will be spilled as

fighting breaks out between
Israel and Egypt again in
May. Surprisingly, Walter
Cronkite will be influential
in getting both sides back to
the conference table, where
a new peace agreement will
be hammered out."

— "Muhammad Ali will
win a seat in Congress."

— "President Carter will
be injured in a hang-gliding
accident between April 8
and 10."

— "(Former) Uganda
dictator Idi Amin will be
assassinated March 13."

These, and other
predictions relating to an
"alien space station," the
stopping of inflation "dead
in its tracks," and so on were
published in editions of the
National Enquirer and The
Star — the supermarket
staples.

None of the psychics had
a word to say about Iran.

TV Program Deals With Family

Families is the title of a new
series by Father John Powell,
S.J., to be shown on Channel
21 on Sunday evenings, Feb.
3, 10, 17 at 7 p.m. The series
raises important questions for
families to reflect on:

Part one — Messages:
What kind of spoken and
unspoken messages do we
really communicate to our
family?

Part two — Memories: The
things that happen in our to-
day? How does your family's
lifestyle reflect that meaning?

Part three — Meaning of
life: What does life mean to
you? How does your family's
lifestyle reflect that meaning?

The airing of these
programs is the result of a
joint effort of the Office of
Religious Education and
Office of Family Life to
stimulate discussion relating
to the Year of the Family. In
anticipation of this series a
group met recently with Sister
Jane Geiger and Frank
Staropoli at the Pastoral
Center to discuss promotion
and usage. Participants
represent Religious Education
Coordinators, Family Life
committees, Marriage En-
counter, youth workers,
Christian Family Movement,
Parents-teens, Knights of

Women's Clubs Plan Meeting

The January meeting of the
Rochester Federation of
Women's Clubs will take place
Thursday, Jan. 10, in the
Twelve Corners Howard
Johnson's banquet room,
according to Mrs. Raymond
A. Lander of Brighton,
president.

The board will meet at 11
a.m., followed by lunch at
noon. A general meeting will
take place at 1 p.m. at which
nominations will be held for
the new nominating com-
mittee.

Speaker will be Carol
Wilson, RN, from the
University of Rochester
Medical Center. Her topic will
be Breast-Cancer and Surgery
Alternatives and she will be
introduced by Mrs. Walter
Sweeting of Pittsford, second
vice president and program
chairman.

Comment:

Sowing the Word through
the Sheen and other con-
ferences I consider a most
effective apostolate.

From Sister Joeletta,
Dubuque, Iowa:

"I was very happy to hear
the Magnify the Lord
program this morning. It
was so good, and I hope we
will have the opportunity of
hearing you again..."

Comment:

Dubuque listening
audience is unique. They
write frequent notes of
thanks for the program, and
best of all they notify the
radio station that they are
pleased. This helps con-
tinuation of the program.

Rosary Society

The Rosary Society at Holy
Family parish will meet
tonight at 8 p.m. in the Pine
Room. After the regular
meeting a craft demonstration
will take place. This evenings
hostess is Mrs. Milton Rit-
zenthaler. Services will begin
at 7:30 p.m.

Columbus. These groups will
be working for maximum
response to the series, en-
couraging people to gather at
parish center or in neigh-
borhood groups to watch and
to relate the message to their
family experience.

Program guides for the
series are available. They
include an outline of the talk
and a series of activities that
enhance the television
presentation and allow for
more personal reflection and
application. Ordered in ad-

vance, these booklets will help
parish committees, renewal
groups, prayer groups,
families prepare for creative
ways of using the series. To
obtain guides, call the Office
of Religious Education, 328-
3210.



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Delegate Nominees Will Serve

Several diocesan have
indicated their willingness to
serve as delegates at the
upcoming sessions of the
Governor's Conference on
Families, according to Terry
and Sheila Holly, diocesan

coordinators of the effort.
The conference sessions are
preliminary to the regional
White House Conference on
Families to be held this
summer.

Among the charges to the
local sessions are to develop
issues and to elect delegates to
that national gathering.

Those who have submitted
their names for the session to
be held in Buffalo on
Saturday, Feb. 9, are Ron
Platten of Fairport, Gladys
Holloman of Rochester and
Jim Gillette of Brockport.

Mrs. Ardis Dandino of
Auburn has indicated her
willingness to serve as a
delegate at the session to be
held in Ithaca on Feb. 9.

The Hollys, who are
working under the egis of the
diocesan Office of Family
Life, also said that all diocesan
families have been invited to
attend the local sessions.

They remarked: "It is
vitaly important that your
vote, your ballot, your
registration, is counted.
Additional information and
registration forms are
available from the Office of
Family Life, (716) 436-5450,
and in parishes throughout
the diocese."



Peking Prayer

A woman kneels in prayer during a recent
Sunday Mass at the Church of the Immaculate
Conception in Peking. Following a long-time
cloak of secrecy, recent favorable government
gestures have led to optimism for a regrowth of
religious activity in China. (RNS)

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Christmas Letters

From an ex-GI and wife:

"Andy and I have both
retired now and we are
enjoying our first grand-
daughter. Our love for her
and her love for us has
brought us happiness one
can't explain. We were
surprised to hear of your
increase in weight since
Dothan, Alabama days. Of
course we too are a little
heavier than in those
days..."

Comment:

Irene came from Albany
diocese to marry Andy in
1943. GIs were quite
restricted, so I met her at the
train station, arranged for
lodging for her and married
the couple at the Base

Chapel. They have had a
happy marriage. Few things
please me more than the
exaltation grandparents
have over their grand-
children. To remember this
fine couple is a great con-
solation.

From an Air Force colonel's
wife:

"I just received your
Christmas folder and have
gone through the little
'Day's End' examination of
conscience, and came out
not feeling very good about
myself...I was delighted to
hear about your radio
program. The media so need
good programming in depth.
I help stack our book rack at
the parish church and
learned to love C.S. Lewis..."

Comment:

The Dillon family, with
nine children are now in
Malibu, Cal., and are one of
the happiest memories of my
11 years in the Air Force.
Col. D. was an air inspector

at Biggs AF Base, El Paso, in
the midfifties. His wisest of
wives — he had only one,
but she is wisest among most
women I have known — ran
the household with the
children's great con-
sciousness of their father. A
measure of the couple's
intelligent Catholicism
might be shown in this: they
belonged to a study group
before I met them, and used
as their text Theology and
Sanity, by Frank Sheed, a
tough book. Our Magnify
the Lord radio program has
expanded, and Father
Richard Tormey of Bath is
now the chief honcho,
collaborating with Hornell
Radio Station WLEA
Manager K.P. Doran.

From a Wayne County
matron:

"Our heartfelt thanks for
the tapes you sent to our
Group. My life most cer-
tainly has been enriched by
Abp. Sheen. In fact my
spiritual growth did not
really begin until I was
introduced to Abp. Sheen by
a dear friend in North Rose,
via you... I am grateful for
the sowing the seeds you do
along the way of life..."

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