

Bishops Join Drive Against FCC Plan

Washington (RNS) — The U.S. Catholic Conference, joining a general church outcry, has launched a letter-writing campaign against the Federal Communications Commission's proposed deregulation of the radio industry.

Printed materials being sent to bishops, state conference directors and others argue that deregulation would lift the stations' legal obligations to the local audience.

"In effect, the local listening community would be reduced to simple consumers and broadcasting policy would be dominated by sponsors," said Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, conference general secretary, in a memorandum accompanying the mailing.

The conference statement

is also being distributed by the National Catholic Educational Association to parochial elementary and secondary school principals and by the National Council of Catholic Women to diocesan women's groups.

Last September, the FCC put forth a plan to drop limits to radio advertising time, lift the station licensing requirement to survey community needs, eliminate required non-commercial programming and abandon programming logs.

The FCC based its recommendation on surveys taken in Florida and Alabama which showed that local stations exceeded the present requirements when they were temporarily lifted.

The Catholic statement, however, argued that deregulation would render

most of religious and public interest and news programming commercially unfeasible, greatly expand the number of advertisements, relinquish public control over radio and serve as "a forerunner to the deregulation of television."

"Radio airwaves are a limited resource. As such they are owned by the public," the statement said. "The FCC has proposed to abandon these principles and let the marketplace be the regulator."

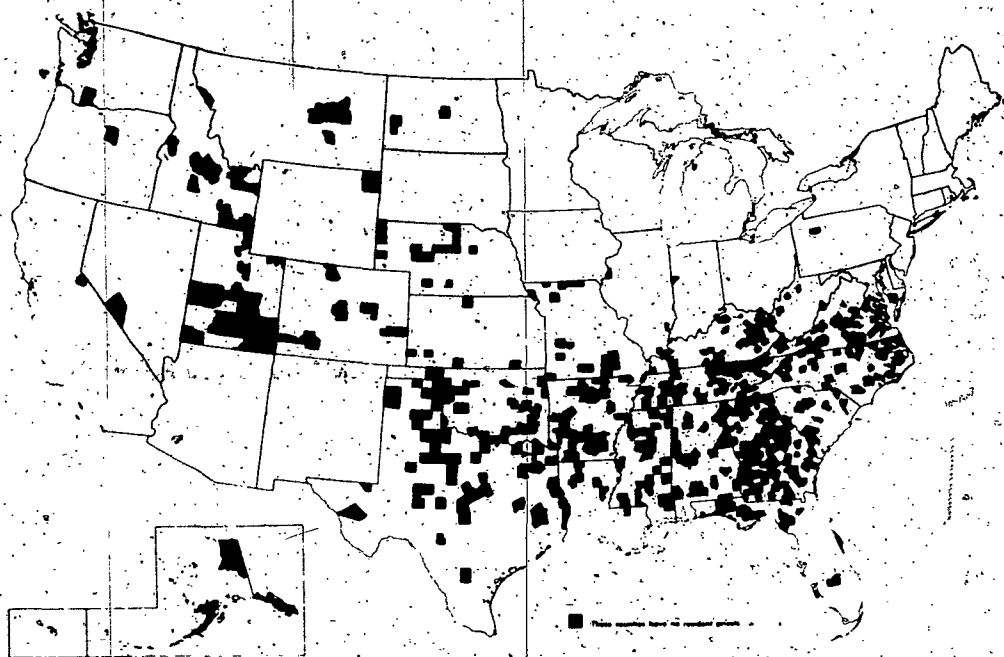
The conference urged that letters protesting the deregulation plan be sent to the FCC before the Jan. 25 deadline for public comment. Letters should be addressed to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.



Planning Charismatic Mass

The new Charismatic Service Team met recently with Bishop Matthew H. Clark to discuss plans for the Mass he will celebrate Jan. 25 for prayer groups in the diocese. Seated with the bishop are Father James P. Connolly, SJ, newly appointed diocesan liaison and head of the service committee; Barbara D'Ortenzio and Robert Tauscher. Standing are Paul Yates, Gail Lyle, Robert Abraham, Klaus Schultz, Richard Pelino, Sally Lynch and Mary O'Neill. Others on the committee are Fathers Thomas Schmidt and Albert Shamon, and Sister Aida Sensor. The Friday night celebration is scheduled for 7:30, in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

No Priest Land U.S.A. — 1979



545 priestless counties in U.S.A.

This map reveals the areas of the United States which are without resident priests.

Priestless Counties Reduced

Cincinnati (RNS) — There are 545 counties in the United States without a resident Roman Catholic priest, reflecting a steady drop in the number of priestless counties in periodic surveys taken by the Glenmary Home Missioners.

In the last map of "No

Priest Land" published by Glenmary in 1974, there were 599 counties without resident Catholic priests.

Geographical characteristics of "No Priests Land" are basically the same today as they were in 1937. Most are in rural areas of the Southeast, with low populations and low

income. The overall gain of 54 counties in the past five years which now have Catholic priests is scattered over several states. Alaska gained five priested counties, while California still has one county without a resident priest, Alpine in the Diocese of Stockton.

Scouts Honor Troop

Holy Rosary's Scout Troop 101 will be honored tonight, Jan. 23, at the Otetiana Council's annual Potluck Recognition Dinner, on its 50th anniversary in Scouting.

The dinner, which is expected to draw 1500 to the Dome Arena, is also in honor of Manufacturers Hanover Chief Executive William Buckingham and retired Kodak executive and Olympic Gold Metal Winner Karl Warner. Both men will receive the Silver Beaver for their contributions to Scouting.

Deaths

Sr. Immaculata

The funeral of Sister Mary Immaculata Coleman, RSM, was held last Saturday in Hornell, with burial there, in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Sister Immaculata died Jan. 16, 1980, at the age of 85. She had worked at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell for 33 years, after 25 years of teaching. The hospital chaplain, Father Eugene Emo, celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial.

After retiring in 1977, Sister Immaculata lived for a year at the Sisters' Residence

in Canisteo, then moved to the Mercy Motherhouse in Rochester. She was born in Dansville in 1894 and entered the congregation in 1918. From 1919 until 1944, she taught primary grades at Mt. Carmel, St. Mary's and St. John Evangelist in Rochester. At the hospital she had charge of the Sisters' dining hall. She is remembered by contemporaries as "a marvelous first grade teacher" and "a great, great favorite with the hospital kitchen workers."

There are no immediate relatives.

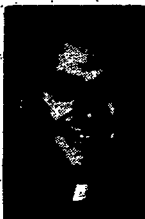
The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

A Difficult Question

Dear Father Hohman,

In reference to your Oct. 31, 1979, article in the Open Window: I too have found



the Parish Council experience unbelievably insensitive to Christ's teachings. This is most unexpected since we are a Church that in this country in particular has had a Catholic school system for many, many years. The educators can justify their schools for academics, sports and separatism but in terms of providing Christ's teachings effectively, the system must admit failure.

Unless the educators have a grassroots evaluation and make radical changes to be effective they will continue to waste parish resources which currently are being used too often in a manner that is providing money support for the well-to-do, which is a type of charity and welfare that prevents the parish from being more Christian, since these resources could be used for the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned — the Truly Needy.

(Signed) L.K.

Dear L.K.,

In my article of Oct. 31 I did not wish to imply that the experience of all Parish Councils is unbelievably insensitive to Christ's teachings. I was merely saying that we have a long way to go. However, I agree with you that in view of the Catholic school system in this country we certainly are nowhere near as well educated in the faith as one might expect. However, there was also the problem of emphasis in religious education. Very little of our Catholic school training has

truths. The diocese gives considerable help to inner-city schools, and to not so well-to-do parishes that are struggling to keep their schools. On the other hand, a great deal of Christian mission is lagging because so much of our resources goes into the parish schools.

As you can see, I am unable to take a definite side in this argument — if it is an argument — but I am able to see that there are strong arguments in both directions that may take a long time to resolve. For example, one could say that the large expenditure for parochial schools is justified because it will provide better leaders in the future — leaders who will make sure that the resources of the Church are distributed in a way that will meet all the needs of its mission, and really reach out to the Truly Needy.

I realize that this does not answer questions, but merely raises some. That is probably what we have to do for a long time to come — to enter into honest talk about these matters until finally we see the answers clearly.

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