

Editorials

Anticipation

Summer is a-goin' out. With apologies to the poet and to our dear readers, for bringing up such a distressing fact. Keep in mind, that we have colorful autumn to anticipate.

Many of us are still enjoying the comparatively carefree days of summer — but one eye toward planning for stepped up schedule that comes with September.

Pastors are no exception. They must use these last few fleeting weeks of summer to lay the plans for parish activities for the season ahead. And although they are wary of making too much mention of upcoming needs for fear of disturbing their parishioners

vacation-time, they nonetheless need help with burgeoning parish programs.

May we suggest that anyone with time on his or her hands, anyone with a special talent to share, please give your rectory a call. Offer some of that free time — there are a host of ways to serve, from assisting on parish council committees to ushering in church on Sundays.

One very special way to help out, and this probably is a need in almost every parish, is by teaching in the Religious Education program. Don't be shy or modest. You are probably needed. Your RE director will give you whatever help required and there is diocesan assistance also available.

Most of us have probably heard the pastoral pleas for help on this score and many assume there is more qualified help available. There isn't. Simply put, in many cases, parish education programs depend on each of us, experienced or not.

While teaching comes easily to mind at this time of the year, as we mentioned earlier, there are many opportunities to help in many ways. Call your rectory and find out where you are needed.

Unholy Balance

We editorialized recently about the enormity committed by the Democratic party in California in nominating a Ku Klux Klan leader to run for the United States Congress.

Now the other major political party has managed to match this inanity. Gerald Carlson, a former Nazi and self-styled white supremacist, according to Religious News Service, has been nominated by the Republicans to run for the Congress from Michigan's 15th District.

Any wishful thinkers still trying to chuckle off the threat of such vicious organizations as the Klan and Nazis had better ponder these turns of events.

and Opinions

Abortion Opponent

Editor:

In every recent session of Congress, Sen. Jacob Javits has voted for federally funded abortions. Such laws are morally reprehensible because they compel individuals who do not believe in abortions to pay taxes to fund them and therefore to cooperate in the highly offensive activity of abortion.

"Al" Damato is not only the pro-life candidate opposed to federal financing of abortions, but is also a strong advocate of tax credits for tuitions for private schools.

In both issues, "Al" Damato recognizes the importance of the supremacy of conscience. On Sept. 9, 1980, you will have the opportunity to make your choice known between Sen. Javits and "Al" Damato in the Republican primary.

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Parish Tribute

Editor:

Our church, Most Precious Blood, is in its 50th year and our school will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in the Fall. As in any parish which celebrates milestones we look to the future with hope and recall the past with much love, faith and pride.

Because of my love for Precious Blood, I've written the following on Parish Life:

People — caring and sharing
Attaining a goal
Resourceful and respectful
Interested
Spiritual growth
Heart of Christ

Lending a hand when needed
Involvement is the key
Forming friendships true
Each number is a precious gift.

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Weekend Fantastic

Editor:

My reaction after friends told me about a "fantastic" weekend they had just experienced, called a Parish

Renewal Weekend, was "that's all I need... to give up an entire weekend for some religious experience when so many chores needed doing around the house!" I was not too enthused to say the least. But with some gentle persuasion and a lot of prayer I agreed to go. Since the weekend was not offered in my own parish — St. Margaret Mary — I attended a weekend at a neighboring parish.

Well, that weekend was just what I needed and "fantastic!" For the first time I really know and understand what it means to be a Catholic. Oh, I knew all the words and all the answers to the standard questions, but now I understand what it means. It was thrilling to see the people of the other parish get to know each other, and to really know their pastor. And this I wanted for my "family" — the people of St. Margaret Mary's.

The weekend runs Friday night, all day Saturday, and concludes with Mass late Sunday afternoon. The goal is to bring the members of the parish (married, single, old, young) closer together, recognizing that we are all one family in the Body of Christ. The focus of the weekend is on the individual and his relationship to his Catholic community. It is divided into many sessions — each includes scripture, prayer, talks by trained parish teams, private reflection and small group discussions.

Several other people in the parish had also experienced a weekend, so with more gentle persuasion and a whole lot more prayer, our pastor, Elmer Schmidt, went on a retreat to prepare himself to lead his family in this experience. Thanks to the prayers of many people, and the openness and love that Father Schmidt has for his parish, the Parish Renewal Weekend will be coming to St. Margaret Mary's in Apalachin. Two weekends are scheduled — Oct. 3-5 and Oct. 17-19. I urge all my fellow parishioners and anyone else in the Southern Tier area to set one of those weekends aside. A weekend you'll never forget.

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Statements Shocked

Editor:

With all due respect to Father Cuddy, I was shocked

by the way he attacked RAYMA in the Aug. 13 issue of the Courier. We would expect a man of his education and years of experience to know that one of the cardinal principles of study is never to take any material out of its context. The erroneous use of the Bible in this manner can prove there is no God!

In order to validate his point regarding the liberalism of the National Catholic Reporter, he selected a 29-word quotation from the article in question. Evidently, he did not feel free to identify the 1,400-word reprint by its title, "People are the Church." Tomorrow's Church — Today's Bible Readers. Had he asked the Holy Spirit for illumination with an unprejudiced mind, he would have seen that the main thrust of the article was quite different. Catholics today are privately reading and understanding the Word of God (the Logos) and finally are being resurrected from the pay-pray-and-obey lethargy of yesteryear to an active response to the call of Christ in their lives (the Rayma of the Word). This is happening simultaneously all over the world by the wind of the Holy Spirit.

Father Cuddy intimated that this was the sole article on the front page. An equally important article entitled "The Direction of the Charismatic Renewal" written by Father Francis Martin shared first-page headlines. It reviewed the favorable appraisal of the Charismatic Renewal in the Church by Cardinal Suenens at a recent priests' conference.

Does this sound like RAYMA, which Father Cuddy describes simply as "an ecumenical monthly," is anti-Catholic? Contrary-wise, it is published by a local Catholic in good standing and distributed to more than 15,000 readers. It is in its sixth year of publication supported solely by free-will donations and the efforts of dedicated volunteers, not a single salary being paid. In this time of inflation, this must be a supernatural work blessed by the Lord. While its editor and publisher is Roman Catholic by denomination, the paper is geared to be catholic (universal) in accordance with the final prayer of Christ in John 17.

Today, Catholics who are reading and responding to the Word would have remembered the process to be followed in times of conflict. Jesus, Himself, recommended that we first go to the party in question (Matt. 18:15), namely, the author of the reprint whose address was

printed beneath, in an attempt to resolve the differences privately and directly rather than going public.

Under the heading of the newspaper, there appears the explanation of the name Rayma. "In the Greek language there are two words for Word. One is rayma, the other word is logos. The word of God to you is rayma. The word of God in general is logos. Romans 10:17 says, 'So then, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.' The rayma of Christ is the word you hear spoken to you. The Lord's word can go out, but there is a particular moment when God speaks to you and that word sinks into your Spirit. The logos become a rayma."

We can only conclude that the rayma for Father Cuddy (in accordance with his job description decades ago) is different from the rayma for another man...not too difficult a concept to accept when Jesus calls each of us to a personal (unique as our fingerprints) relationship with Him. We admire him for continuing to respond to the rayma as he hears it. So long as there is a healthy polarization from left to right even in spiritual matters, we can trust the Holy Spirit to guide us through the narrow gate to eternity with Him.

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His View Of Occult

Editor:

What is the occult? I would like to differ with Father Hohman's answer to M.E.Z. in his "Open Window" (7-9-80) and to answer some unanswered questions. M.E.Z. asked, "How do I know what to avoid?" and "What are the fun things in this area?" To M.E.Z. and all the readers of the C.J. I would answer: AVOID everything that has anything to do with the negative or evil side of the occult as you would the plague. Witchcraft, Satanism, devil worship, black magic, voodoo, Ouija boards, seances (for the fun of it) etc. There are no such things as "fun things", as you refer to them, when it comes to the negative side of the occult and to dabble into forces which you do not understand can be very dangerous.

There are many young people today, who are mental and physical wrecks because they have done just this, without realizing the psychic consequences; and this is not the fault of the occult, as this is the way it is presented and promoted by the Western media. The definition is: "Hidden, something mysterious or supernatural, dealing with the arts and practices involving the supposed action of influence

of supernatural agencies or some 'secret knowledge' of them, such as Alchemy, Magic or Astrology."

Father Hohman refers to "hidden powers outside the influence of God or beyond his control." There is no such definition as this that I could find and Father should know that there are no powers outside the influence of, or beyond God's control, even when man uses the negative or evil side of his psyche to use these powers with the free will that he was given by God. Moses was an "Occultist". He used theurgi and thaumaturgic powers on many occasions. But woe to those who use these powers for evil purposes or personal gain; this is one of the sins against the "Holy Ghost" that will never be forgiven thee. (Matt. 12: 31-33) Clairvoyance, clairaudience, ESP, telekenesis, telepathy, etc. Supernatural? Mysterious? No! just the gifts of God that we have forgotten we once possessed. The occult, as presented and promoted in all its negative and evil aspects, means money in the pocket. Book, TV, movies, crystal balls, fortune tellers, Ouija boards and all the other occult bric-a-brac: I can only say, "Cavaet emptor".

I agree with Father's last paragraph to a point, but the

positive side of the occult can be very beneficial to mankind as a guide; but who will present it? Certainly not the Church who proscribed the gnosis! Someone once said, if we took all the occult and mystical writing out of the Bible, we would be left with only the covers. True and positive occultism comprises all that we do not know about everything, including our own mind and inner self. It is knowledge, and is based on man's total view of the cosmos (the Microcosm and Macrocosm). It is not confined or limited, and the occultist, unlike the scientist, accepts the view that there is more to the cosmos than just mere physical phenomena and that there are levels of consciousness which lie above the levels on which we live from day to day. The scientist takes no notice of "heightened consciousness" and his blindness is due to a definite bias against phenomena of a religious nature. The occultist is open minded and investigates all avenues that are available to find the truth he is seeking, knowing that the truth lies at the basis of the universe, beyond physical phenomena and surface knowledge.

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Guidelines

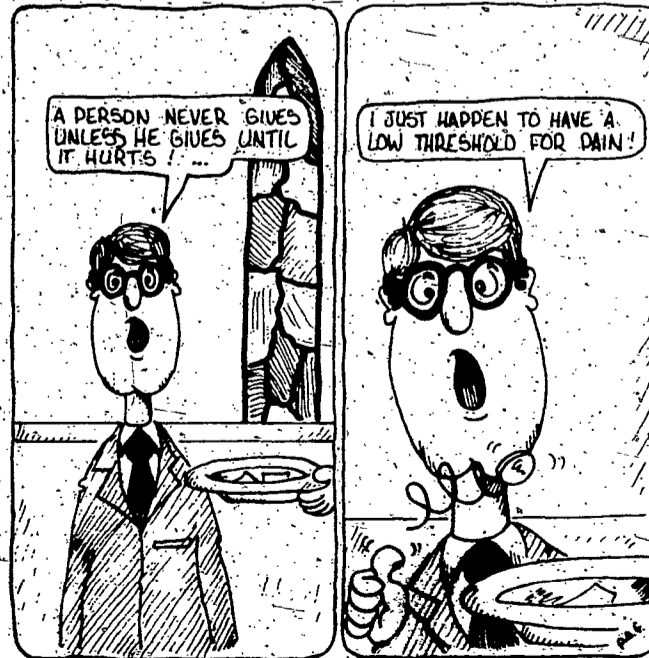
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Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.

GOD'S CREATION



2 CORINTHIANS 9:7... GIVE, NOT GRUDGINGLY, OR OF NECESSITY; FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER.