

U.S. Bishops
Official
Statements

Capital
Punishment
..... 8

The Role
Of the Laity
..... 4

The Year
In Review
..... 3

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

12 Pages

Wednesday, December 31, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

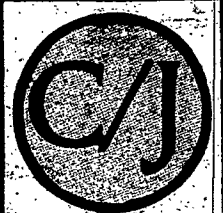
25 Cents

Will Reagan Act on Tuition Tax Credit?

By Thomas J. Reese, SJ
Religious News Service

During his campaign for the Presidency, Ronald Reagan promised that his administration would support a tax credit for primary and secondary school tuition. Now that he has been elected, parents with children in private school eagerly await fulfillment of his promise. The key of his intentions

will be whether or not he includes the tuition tax credit in his tax cut package that will be proposed soon after he is inaugurated on Jan. 21.



Analysis

The tuition tax credit, long considered a narrow Catholic issue, has in recent years developed a much broader constituency — urban middle-class parents dissatisfied with deteriorating public schools, evangelical parents wanting a Christian education for their children, and many others.

But one group that will not be helped by the credit is parents fleeing integrated schools since the credit will be denied to schools that are segregated.

Politicians have broken their promises to parents of church and private school students before. Although Jimmy Carter did not support the tuition tax credit, he did promise in 1976 to do something to help these parents. He did nothing. Richard M. Nixon, while campaigning for the presidency in 1968, promised a tuition tax credit, but his administration did not propose one until 1973, when it had no chance of getting enacted.

The issue then is not what President-elect Reagan says about the tuition tax credit, but what President Reagan will do about it. If he really wants to get credit enacted into law, the best time would be as part of his tax cut proposal early next year.

A tax credit for primary, secondary and college tuition would cost around \$3 billion a year in tax revenues. A proposal of this size would pass much more easily as part of a multi-billion dollar tax cut. This is especially true now that the Congressional budget resolution limits the total amount of tax cuts that Congress can enact in a single year.

The political strategy of those who oppose the tuition tax credit will not be outspoken opposition but rather delaying tactics. It is almost certain that there are votes in Congress to pass a tuition tax credit if it comes to a vote. Republicans are trying to woo Catholics away from the Democrats, and Democrats are trying to win Catholics back to their party. As a result, there will be only limited open opposition to a tuition tax credit in Congress.

Those who oppose the credit will try to postpone the credit by arguing that a tax credit for college tuition should be passed before a tax credit for primary and secondary school

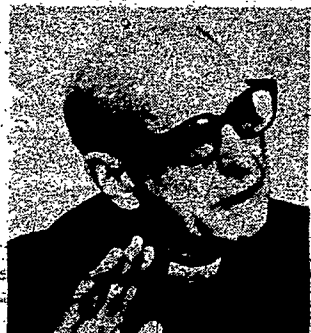
Continued on Page 2

New Column Next Week

With our first issue of the new year next week, a new Courier-Journal column will make its debut.

"Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect" will be written weekly by various members of the communities of sisters in the Rochester diocese.

The introductory column will appear Jan. 7. Written by Sister Margaret Brennan, SSJ, it will explain the purpose of the weekly series.



The Church — 1980

Top row, from left: Father Hans Kueng, the theologian whose mandate to teach was revoked by the Vatican over a doctrinal dispute; lectures to 300 students at Tubingen University in West Germany; Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.), the Jesuit priest in Congress, announces May 5 that he will not seek re-election, following a directive by Pope John Paul II; a bronze sculpture of Kateri Tekakwitha graces the front door of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The "Lily of the Mohawks" was beatified June 22. Middle row: Father Pedro Arrupe, superior general of the Society of Jesus, announces that he has taken action to resign for reasons of age; Archbishop John R. Quinn, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) announces Aug. 20 that some members of the Anglican Church in the United States could become members of the Roman Catholic Church while maintaining parts of their own liturgy; Pope John Paul II presides at a session of the Fifth World Synod of Bishops, Sept. 30. Bottom row: Sisters Elaine Anthony and Brian Maureen root for the Phillies during the World Series against the Kansas City Royals; Archbishop John R. Roach, left, and Bishop James W. Malone, right, are elected president and vice president, respectively, of the NCCB Nov. 11; Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement, is led off to jail for illegal picketing of grape growers in an earlier photo. Ms. Day died in New York, Nov. 30

Anti-Catholic Bias for Sale

By John Dash

Alberto Rivera, the real-life hero of an anti-Catholic comic book being sold in the diocese, who claims to have been a Jesuit bishop, was never ordained where he claimed, nor was he ever a member of the Society of Jesus, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has discovered.

The Milwaukee-based organization has letters from Madrid and Rome as evidence that Rivera, head of a California anti-Catholic "information center," could never have been assigned by his religious superiors to

infiltrate and destroy Protestant groups, as he claims.

The comic book, Alberto, issued by evangelical publisher Jack T. Chick, purports to be "based on a true story" of a young Spaniard who witnessed the despairing death of his mother, pursued studies for the priesthood, was trained in espionage and sabotage work, was let loose on unsuspecting Protestant congregations in Spain and Latin America, was ordained a priest and soon thereafter a bishop, had an eye-opening experience of the horrors which he represented, was incarcerated by the

Church and subjected to torture, escaped his captors and now has dedicated his life to winning souls from the Roman Catholic Church.

But, "The vicar general of the Archdiocese of Madrid, Father Jose Maria M. Patino, informs me that he has received many inquiries about this gentleman, but that he does not recognize him, even though he purports to present some documents from the Archdiocese of Madrid. Notwithstanding this claim, he is neither a priest nor known to Church officials in Madrid," Father Adolfo F. Diaz Nava, SJ, has written to the Catholic League.

And, earlier, Father Juan Martin de Nicolas, provincial of all Spanish Jesuits, stated:

"According to the investigations I have made in the Catalogs of the Provinces of Spain for 1960 to 1970, years corresponding to those of the Certificates of the Archdiocese of Madrid-Alcala which Rivera presents, there was no Spanish Jesuit of that name during those years, nor did any foreign Jesuit of that name reside in any of our houses."

Nevertheless, Rivera has claimed, "Alberto" is a true and actual account, and I will

Continued on Page 2