

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

TV Programs Reviewed

To Father Lewis Brown, Religious Education Office.

I was so indignant about the anti-Christian TV series, "The Christians," which the pastoral office recommended, that I bought, at great cost, a video tape recorder to be able to study the series carefully. It is a pity that the diocese got sucked into recommending such a thing. How pleased was the narrator as he told with sardonic smile of the bishop of Lincoln, desirous to have a relic of St. Mary Magdalen, going to France where the reputed body of the saint was venerated. As he leaned to kiss the foot of the saint, he bit off a toe, escaped with it in his mouth, returned to England where he built a great shrine to honor the relic and attract pilgrims.

The narrator's joy was equally great as he spoke of 15 churches which had reliquaries claiming to have the foreskin of the Infant Jesus. All this and similar nauseating narrations were given with the background of some of the finest presentation of art, portraits, church buildings, statues and beautiful music that I have ever seen or heard. Week after week, as the narrator recounts the development of Christianity, his slant is always negative and snide, and consistently silent about great Christians, great charities, and great holiness in the Church. The series reminds me of the weekly sleazy National Enquirer, which Carol Burnett is suing for \$5 million.

The Protestant Reformation came out as expected. Indulgences and abuses were portrayed with mocking glee. The troubled Luther was treated with some understanding. Calvin came out with unmitigated harshness, and John Knox more so. There seemed to be hardly a decent Catholic alive at the time, or even later.

I think the series brings harmony and understanding neither to Protestants nor Catholics, all of whom weep over the divisions in Christ's Church. I am puzzled that the ecumenical GEM should sponsor it. It should please Madalyn O'Hair and others of the anti-Christian persuasion.

After the third of the thirteen-part series, Father William Hart of Webster realized the malicious trend. So he wrote in his Sunday Holy Trinity bulletin:

"Despite the Catholic support of 'The Christians,' the program thus far

PAPER DRIVE

Boy Scout Troop 363, Penfield-Webster, will sponsor a paper drive, bagged or bundled newspapers only, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the CVS pharmacy parking lot at Empire Boulevard and Creek Street, opposite Eastway

presented is a disappointment. Even though there is fine technical production and marvelous photography and musical backgrounds, the programs have fallen short of a fair presentation of the Catholic Church. Sensitive viewers have rightly been offended by the portrayal of the human weakness in Catholics without any balanced recognition of the Church's holiness. Snide comments and condescending viewpoints make the commentary thoroughly unpleasant for anyone who knows and loves the Church. The series is not recommended."

However, from evil, God brings good. Because I had bought the video tape recorder I was able to have recorded the diocesan "Real to Reel" at 10 a.m. on Rochester's Channel 31, which I viewed after the morning Masses. It was well done. Bishop Clark's introduction was his customary low-key invitation to share in God's love.

The DePres did a good job as emcees. Father Ritter's Covenant House in New York, for runaways who become prostitutes, dopesters, etc., was moving. The baptism of that beautiful baby in the father's arms was heart-melting.

Father David Mura's Clown Ministry was illuminating. However, celebrating Mass in clown suits seems to me to be bad liturgy, and quite contradicts Pope John Paul's 1980 directives in his encyclical Inestimabile Donum (Inestimable Gift) on aberrations regarding Eucharistic doctrine and liturgy. While I consider "The Christians" series destructive, I think the "Real to Reel" presentation a good example of effective evangelization.

It presents not a catalogue of the sins and failures of Christians, but the good work and genuine spirit of the Church and of Christians who love and live the faith. Will you congratulate and thank those who were involved in the production of "Real to Reel"?



Erik Nielsen, 7th grader at St. Louis school, works at the computer while Sister M. Edw. and Sister Barbara Hamm look on.

Computer Ed. to Be Part of Curriculum

By Sister M. Edwardine, RSM Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

Almost without warning, it seems, computers are everywhere. Stores are using computerized cash registers and inventory control, offices have computerized "word processors," automobiles get computer-aided mechanical check-ups, and more and more families are playing computer games. Finding work or functioning in life in the future will become increasingly difficult without computer skills. IBM, for instance, has predicted that by 1985, 75 percent of the work force will be using a computer in some way on the job.

Computers are working their way into the classroom as well. They have applications in all the disciplines that are taught at the primary level through college. One major use, of course, is for studying the computer itself in computer programming or computer literacy courses. In addition, they can be used by the teacher for drill and practice of curriculum skills and objectives, tutoring, information retrieval, and problem solving. Computers allow students to expand intellectually at their own rate and are another approach for getting students involved in the learning process. They can store enormous amounts of information and be programmed to make decisions that weave students through this data in a way that matches their comprehension. Computers are fast becoming the most powerful intellectual tool teachers have ever had to work with.

The benefits of computers

in education do not stop at the local instructional level. There are many applications for school administration. The diocesan Office of Education currently uses the computer at the Pastoral Office for planning purposes and for the analysis of the standardized test scores of the elementary schools. There are numerous additional possibilities at the central and local school district level.

Currently, St. Louis School in Pittsford, in cooperation with a grant proposal of the Pittsford School District, is involved in acquiring a compiler and planning its application in the school setting. Sister Barbara Hamm, principal, is collaborating with the Pittsford District in designing a K-12 "Computer Awareness to Computer Assisted Instruction" curriculum. Sister Barbara also maintains membership in a local computer users group which meets regularly. There are other elementary school administrators who are exploring the possibilities of computers in education.

The power of the computer in education is beyond our ability to fathom, and it will continue to enhance teaching. However, teachers will still be making the important instructional decisions. We must not lose sight of the fact the human connection is still the basis of learning and that teacher and peer interaction are still and will continue to be a vital part of the learning process.

Aquinas Fund Drive Begins with \$225,000

The Aquinas Institute Development Campaign is \$225,000 closer to its goal this week. A press release from the 55-year-old high school announced this week that 21 pledges "made by the school's board of trustees and a few individuals" has nearly reached the quarter of a million mark.

Aquinas is aiming for a total of \$2.5 million over a 10-year period in order to "preserve the Aquinas tradition and continue the Basilian Fathers' influence in the education of area youth."

The development program is divided into two phases, the first being a three-year period with a \$1.25 million goal. These funds will be used for "immediate needs," including a new roof, building renovations and other maintenance.

Phase two is designed to begin a "long-range endowment fund" which will be used for academic scholarships, faculty advancement and new sports facilities, including a new gymnasium.

Special gifts from Aquinas Alumni are now being solicited.

RG&E Supports Aid Bill

Rochester Gas and Electric announced its support for a New York State Senate bill which provides for a 25 percent reduction in electric and gas bills to recipients of supplemental security (SSI) benefits. The announcement was made by Paul W. Briggs, chairman of the board and chief executive officer.

The bill was introduced into the Senate by Dale Volker, 58th Senate district. If enacted, this legislation would provide that the bill reductions be financed from credits by utilities against the three percent gross receipts tax collected by the state on utility bills.

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