

THEY CAN KILL ME,
BUT



THE CLAMOUR FOR JUSTICE
AMONG THE PEOPLE
THEY CANNOT SILENCE

— OSCAR ROMERO Archbishop of San Salvador assassinated Mar 24 1980

Fr. John
Reedy



Looking for the Lord

Signs of
Change

Women still have a pretty low level of involvement and influence in the policies and practices of the Catholic Church in the United States. This seemed to be the common, and not surprising, judgment of a recent conference on "Women in Ministry."

While I would certainly agree with that judgment of the present situation, I do see a number of signs that a significant change is under way.

Though still small in number, there are significant initiatives in the appointment of women to new roles in the Church. And here I'm talking about positions of influence and sensitivity.

It's not too unusual for women to have diocesan responsibility for schools and religious education. Traditional training and experience in teaching and administration of schools has generated an obvious competence.

It's only recently, though, that women began to exercise responsible functions in marriage courts, in parish pastoral service, in diocesan administrative offices, even as diocesan editors.

I know, of course, that many of these innovations have resulted from the

shortage of priests who routinely filled these offices in the past.

Regardless of the reason, we keep hearing of new, significant contributions of women in the administrative and pastoral work of the church.

My prediction is that this pattern will accelerate rapidly — for two reasons.

Most of our bishops are pretty conservative about breaking new ground. Many of them are reluctant to be the first to take a new approach in their diocesan structures.

But when a few of their fellow-bishops have taken that first step, when they can say, "Bishop X has been doing this for three or four years," they are much more likely to seek answers to personnel needs from among qualified women.

Also, though the process is slow, a lot of us priests who were conditioned by the all-male, clerical vision of Church administration are beginning to recognize the injustice and the absurd waste of that system.

Though there are still plenty examples of insensitivity and patronizing comments, we are beginning to feel more comfortable with the idea of working with women rather than having them work for us.

The changes in the patterns of service of many

communities of religious women has also put pressure on this process. Responding to the insights of their members, these communities have provided special training for Sisters who were already well-educated, dedicated, experienced in pastoral work.

If the church doesn't want to make use of their talents and dedication, they are willing to serve the needs of hurting people through other agencies.

While the Sisters are the most visible candidates for new positions of responsibility (and they have the best network of information about personnel openings) there is a growing pool of well-educated laywomen who have held responsible positions. Some of them now have fewer family responsibilities; they want to make a contribution outside the home; they are interested in the kind of service offered by many Church agencies.

But they are not going to take jobs which disregard their education, their experience, their talents. They don't have to.

Facing the continuing shortage of priests, an ecclesiastical administrator has to be pretty thick to avoid the logical conclusion.

None of this has anything to do with the ordination of women.

That's a separate issue which, in spite of all the official pronouncements, will continue to be debated.

But these trends do indicate that in the coming years we shall see a much more significant contribution of women to the policies and practices of Catholic life in the United States.

And it's about time.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Romero Remembered

More than 100 diocesans, mostly members of the Spanish-speaking community, attended a memorial service last Tuesday at St. Mary's Church Downtown, commemorating the late Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero. Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980. At left, a poster in honor of the late Archbishop was in evidence. Above, a folk group sings to open the service.

State Senate OKs Death Penalty Bill

Albany — Gov. Hugh Carey promised his fifth veto of a bill to restore the death penalty to New York State after the State Senate joined the Assembly in passage of such a measure.

The Senate passed the capital punishment legislation, 37-17, but this year, as in the past four years, the legislature appears to be short of the necessary two-thirds vote needed to override Gov. Carey's expected veto.

The Senate overrode Carey's veto last year but the bill was blocked in the Assembly. This year, because

the bill originated in the Assembly, the Senate will not get a chance to override unless the Assembly does so first.

The Assembly passed the bill on Feb. 17 but lacked the number of votes necessary to surmount the gubernatorial veto. Death penalty advocates, however, led by Sen. Dale Volker of Depew, still plan to push for overriding the governor.

How legislators from the Rochester diocese voted:

For: Sens. Fred J. Eckert, Greece; L. Paul Kehoe,

Lyons; William Smith, Big Flats; Dale Volker, Depew.

Absent: John Perry, Brighton.

AUCTION '81

Bishop Kearney High School Cafeteria

Saturday, April 4 8:00 P.M.

Silent Auction 6-8 p.m.

BENEFIT:

K. A. C. E.
E. A. R. N. E. Y.
A. T. H. O. L. I. C.
D. U. C. A. T. I. O. N.

Bible Seminar Begins

A seminar "designed to provide Catholics with a better understanding of the Bible" is scheduled for June 12-13 at St. Agnes High School, 300 E. River Road.

The seminar, titled "How to Pray, Study, and Obey the Bible," will feature eight "nationally known speakers," according to a release. They include Father John Bertolucci, Sister Ann Therese Shields, Father George Montague, Dorothy Ranaghan and Father John Randall.

The talks are "designed to provide the participants with a better understanding of why it is important to read and study the Bible as God's word for Christian life. The teachings address some of the most timely issues of concern to people today," the release said.

"TOUCH OF CLASS"

"A Touch of Class" fashion and talent show will be presented by Cardinal Mooney High School's minority student club, Entity, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 3 in the school auditorium, 800 Maiden Lane. Performers from the "Bottom of the Bucket, But ..." will present an original composition.

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E. Aug. 9 to Aug. 22
F. Aug. 23 to Aug. 29

Co-Ed — ages 7-14 — July 26-Aug. 1

PARENTS — Register Early — Avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend.

OPEN HOUSE

All Parents are invited to Camp Stella Maris June 7, 1981 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You may tour our facilities and meet the staff of both boys and girls encampments. Some refreshments will be available. Parents may also register their children that day for camp.

For Further Information Contact the Secretary
CAMP STELLA MARIS
3052 East Lake Rd. Livonia, N.Y. 14487 716-346-2243
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