



## Keeping the Torch Lit

Eastman Kodak Company has signed a contract to become a founding sponsor of the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation, which is seeking to raise \$230 million to refurbish the two national monuments. Kodak also unveiled this

panoramic photo of the statue in New York City's Grand Central Terminal. Captioned by an appeal for donations, the picture will be seen by more than 650,000 commuters and visitors each working day.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

## How to Live With Our Theology

Most administrators learn that it's much easier to formulate an answer to a problem than it is to put that answer into practice.

This is true in the church as well as in government and business organizations.

A couple of relatively small-but-irritating issues illustrate a serious problem being experienced by some of the American bishops.

One issue had to do with a Vatican ruling that females were not to be used as "altar persons" in the liturgy.

The other involves a low-key running conflict between Vatican officials and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops over the decision to permit reception of the Eucharist from the cup when it could be done reverently and in an orderly fashion.

Neither of these are matters which will determine the future of Christendom.

But both point to an issue of greater importance, an issue whose answer was formulated in Vatican II. But again, it's easier to formulate than to implement.

The important, underlying issue is a proper understanding of the responsibility of a bishop in serving as the pastor of his diocese, the significance of decisions made by a whole conference of bishops for that part of the church which they serve, the relationship of their authority to that of the Holy See.

In theory, Vatican II gave a fairly clear answer. All of the bishops, with and under the pope, share responsibility, authority and leadership for the whole church.

In a particular diocese, the bishop exercises ordinary authority, the authority which comes from the office which he holds. It is not a slice of the pope's authority which is delegated for

administrative efficiency in this area.

Now obviously, for the sake of unity, doctrinal clarity, good order, there are decisions which should be clarified and promulgated by the Holy Father and the Vatican agencies which he directs.

But issues like reception from the chalice and the use of women or girls in some aspects of the liturgy would seem to be prime examples of the kind of things which fall within the responsibility of the local hierarchy.

Neither involves matters of doctrine. Both seem to be matters of prudence and good judgment.

All of the bishops of the United States spent at least three years in discussion and debate before they came to the judgment that communion from the cup could, in many churches, be handled with reverence and dignity. They judged that such reception, done properly, expressed more fully the liturgical significance of the Eucharist.

It's hard to see why they should now be pestered by a Vatican Congregation which claims that they did not have the authority to make the decision.

On the matter of women participating in some way in the liturgy, the circumstances are different but similar.

The bishops have not dealt with this as a conference, but one of them told the Holy Father of his difficulty in explaining why such participation was forbidden when women are authorized to serve as ministers of the Eucharist.

And if the bishop does exercise real apostolic authority, as Vatican II says he does, then he should be expected to use it at least in matters like these.

Here our problem isn't with the theory or the theology; it's a problem of learning how to live with the theology which has already been proclaimed.

## He's Pressing for Tax Credits, Reagan Tells Catholic Educators

Keystone, Colo. (NC) -- President Reagan told about 300 educators and school superintendents at the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education meeting in Keystone Oct. 17-20 that he has asked for a Senate vote on tuition tax credits in the first or third week of November.

In a telegram Oct. 20 Reagan said Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.) and Sen. Howard Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), majority leader, "have agreed, at my request, to bring the bill, S. 528, for a vote in the Senate as soon as possible."

Saying he believes the groundwork has been laid for the successful resolution of the issue in Congress, Reagan said, "We are requesting that the Senate leadership schedule the vote on tuition tax credits on either the first or third week of November but not the second week when I will be away from Washington."

If passed the bill would permit tax credits for part of the tuition parents pay to send their children to non-public schools. Supporters say such a bill would give moderate income parents a greater voice in the education of their children; opponents say it would harm public schools.

"We are in agreement that the primary authority over a child's education rests with the family," Reagan told the Catholic administrators in his telegram. "Parents have the right and responsibility to have the children educated in accordance with their own values. A tuition tax credit will go a long way toward making this right a reality for parents of modest means."

Researcher Anthony Bryk told administrators Oct. 18 that Catholic schools get high marks for the quality of their education but that financial problems could be a "time bomb ticking in the background" for many inner city parochial schools.

**QUIT SMOKING**  
The United Cancer Council is sponsoring a Smoking Withdrawal clinic for six weeks from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 29, at the council office, 1441 East Ave. Mail-in registration deadline is Nov. 23. Forms are available from 473-8230; registration is limited. The UCC address is 1441 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14610.

Bryk, a senior research associate of the Huron Institute of Cambridge, Mass., and an associate professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said preliminary findings of "A Study of Effective Catholic Schools" confirms "what practitioners have felt all along, that Catholic schools offer valuable educational opportunities to their clients."

CASE, a department of the National Catholic Educational Association, undertook the study in 1982. It is being conducted by the Huron Institute, and the final report will be presented at the NCEA meeting in April 1984.

Bryk said the study shows economics threaten the level of quality education for the nation's more than 3 million Catholic school students and that long-range planning is needed.

He added that the movement toward entirely lay rather than Religious faculty

in Catholic school will greatly increase salaries.

"Consequently there is a time bomb ticking in the background in many Catholic schools," he said. "That ticking is particularly ominous in Catholic inner city schools which have been providing outstanding educational services for the poor and minorities."

The findings of the study, which was conducted at schools in the dioceses of Baltimore, Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Louisville and San Antonio, show that:

-- Catholic school students share with their parents and teachers a strong educational commitment, shown by a strong basic curriculum of math, science, English and required homework;

-- Students get more personalized attention from teachers because Catholic schools generally are smaller;

-- Student achievement seems to have little to do with social class and more to do with the parents' level of education, parent involvement, and resources at home. Hispanics and blacks in the Catholic schools do better than their counterparts in the public schools but not as well as white students in Catholic schools. "They may well be entering school behind," commented Bryk.

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