

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

Investigation Of an Archbishop

Some things should be said about that widely-reported news story which told us that Rome has asked Archbishop Hickey (Washington) to make an official visit to investigate the pastoral leadership of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen (Seattle). First, the public report on this investigation is far more unusual than the fact that Rome has made the inquiry. It is pretty well known that Rome has looked into real or potential problems in a number of American dioceses in recent years, but there has been little or no public notice of the procedure. On the whole, the quiet investigation seems much more consistent with the

way the Vatican conducts its affairs.

From what I know of Archbishop Hunthausen, I would suspect that he insisted that the investigation, if it were to be made, should be dealt with in an open, public way.

He is a man of great personal integrity. He clearly sees the welfare of the church and of his archdiocese as being more important than the embarrassment he might have to endure.

And he's realistic enough to know that a visit by Archbishop Hickey, in which he will be interviewing a good number of local people, has little chance of remaining completely confidential.

The rumors and gossip which accompany such efforts at confidentiality can be far more devastating than an open ac-

knowledge of the process.

Nevertheless, whatever the content of Archbishop Hickey's final report, I feel sure that Archbishop Hunthausen's pastoral leadership has been seriously and permanently damaged.

From all I know of the situation and of the men, I assume that the Hickey report will be supportive. But among the people in Seattle, especially among those bitter conservatives who denounce Hunthausen's position on nuclear arms and the pastoral concern he has shown for homosexuals, he will be the Archbishop who had to be investigated by Rome. Among many of these people, there will remain the suspicion that any favorable report constitutes a whitewash.

And there will be others, who know little or nothing about the issues of the process, who will think, "Such an investigation is quite unusual; it makes you wonder..."

What can be done to minimize the damage?

For me, the answer lies in the quality and method of research which should be done before there is any decision at all about conducting an investigation.

There are ways of finding out, very informally, without any official procedure, most of what is going on in a diocese.

You have to identify the people who are well-informed, screen out those who have an axe to grind, make sure that you have a variety of perspectives (traditional to progressive, etc.). You want to make sure that your sources are responsible, prudent people.

And you approach these people in a completely informal way. An inquiry can be serious without being official. It is more likely to be candid and productive if, for example, it is priest talking to priest, rather than the Archbishop of Washington talking to a priest of Seattle.

'La Popessa' Dead at 89

By NC News Service

Mother Pascalina, subject of the book, "La Popessa," died Nov. 13 in a hospital in Vienna, Austria. She was 89.

A member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Menzingen, Mother Pascalina was the superior of the group of nuns who tended to the needs of Pope Pius XII during his 19-year pontificate. She earned the nickname "La Popessa," in light of the alleged influence she held over the pope. The last years of his pontificate were marked by illness and she was accused of over-protecting the pope's privacy.

Mother Pascalina became ill Nov. 10, when she collapsed on an airliner preparing to fly to Italy from Vienna. She was taken to a hospital where she was diagnosed as having a cerebral hemorrhage. She had been in Vienna to participate in ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII.

The Bavarian-born nun began to work with Pope Pius XII when he was a monsignor in Munich, West Germany. Shortly after he became papal secretary of state, she moved to Rome and continued in his service when he was elected pope in 1939.

Recently, in Germany, she released her memoirs of these years, "I Had the Privilege to Serve Him."

Following the death of Pope Pius XII, Mother Pascalina left the Vatican. The publication of "La Popessa" brought her much attention, in light of her purported observations on the pontificate of Pius XII and of her candid comments on such ecclesiastical figures as Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, Cardinal Francis Spellman and Bishop Fulton Sheen.

Holiday Fete Planned

The Rosary Altar Society of St. Theodore Church plans a Christmas party Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Three Acres Party House, 88 Whittier Road. There will be a cash bar at 6:30 p.m., followed with a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets may be obtained at the rectory or by contacting Myrtle Gerew, Dunn Tower I; or Agnes Sanders, Dunn Tower II.

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Neediest Cases

Continued from Page 1

employment, but from his meager income, he occasionally manages to send small contributions for their care. He worries about his children and would like to be in a position to send money on a regular basis to ensure that they will have enough to eat and that his teenage daughter can continue to attend high school — a goal he was never able to achieve.

5 Mrs. T endured many hardships in Vietnam before the government allowed her to leave that country with her 10-year-old grandson. She was accepted by the United States for resettlement because her grandson is an Amerasian child. His mother died, suddenly, a few days after the fall of Saigon and his American father has never been heard from. Mrs. T is valiantly trying to learn English, so that she will become employable and able to support herself and her grandson.

6 Mr. and Mrs. C faced many serious problems of survival in their war-torn country of Laos. Since their arrival in Rochester two years ago, they have struggled to make a new life for their daughters. Their first daughter was born one month after they arrived and a year later another daughter was born. Unfortunately, their second daughter is physically and visually impaired due to brain damage. Although this young couple is grateful to be living in a free society, they continue to encounter many problems. C was recently injured in an auto accident and will not be able to return to his minimum-wage job for at least three weeks.

7 Mrs. P, a Vietnamese refugee, arrived in Rochester two months ago with her four children. The two older boys, 11 and 13, fathered by an American, are attending school and beginning to learn English.

The younger children, because of medical problems that were not adequately treated in Vietnam due to lack of medicine, suffer from seizures and have required extensive medical care. They have begun to respond to treatment, their seizures are under control and they will soon be ready to attend special school programs.

8 The Vietnamese refugee family, Z, has survived many dangers in leaving their homeland and coming to the United States to settle. This is a blended family, with each spouse bringing children from a previous marriage to this new family. They have experienced relationship problems, as well. They are determined, however, to become productive American citizens. The father, who previously was a teacher, is taking college courses to get certification and also works. The seven children range from 14 years to 2 months.

9 Miss T is a young mother living alone with her two daughters, ages 2 years and 6 months. The father of the children is quite irresponsible and does not support them financially. Miss T is currently receiving public assistance. She would like to begin some job training or continue her education and become gainfully employed. At this time, she is unable to do so and has to depend on the Department of Social Services for financial help.

10 Mrs. K is living alone with her four children: twin sons, age 10; a daughter, 7; and another son, 2. Mrs. K recently lost her job and was evicted from her apartment. Housing is very difficult to find that will be large enough to accommodate a family of five on a welfare budget. Mrs. K has been struggling to find a new apartment, gain employment and meet the needs of her children.

11 Mrs. G. has seven children, ranging in ages 5 through 17. She is widow, having recently (within the past year) lost her husband to cancer and her mother to a heart attack. Needless to say, money is tight and the children are demanding. The pressures on Mrs. G's shoulders are enormous. In spite of this, she manages to express her love and affection for all the children. The G children know they are cherished.

12 Mrs. R is a Hispanic mother with nine children who depends on welfare to support her family. The children are in desperate need for clothing. Mrs. R doesn't have the income to provide for the family during Christmas.

13 Mrs. N is a Hispanic mother with five children who depends on welfare to support her family. Mrs. N has many financial problems and housing problems. This means that the little income she receives from welfare will not permit her to enjoy Christmas as a family should.

14 Mrs. W is 39 and separated from her husband. She lives with her 10 children. The family has a very hard time surviving on the child support payments Mrs. W receives from her husband and there is not enough money to take care of health problems. The family is facing eviction and is having a hard time finding a place it can afford and which will accommodate a family of their size.

15 Miss P is a young woman who is retarded and lives with her elderly grandmother who is diabetic. Miss P cannot live alone because she does not have the daily living skills to survive on her own. Miss P's grandmother was the only member of her family who was willing to let her live with them. Both Miss P

and her grandmother are on a fixed income. The resources of the family have been strained recently because the grandmother required surgery. The family sometimes has to choose between eating and paying some of their other bills.

16 J is a young mother on public assistance. She recently moved into her own apartment and has a great need for necessary articles of furniture. J is also struggling to complete her education so she can compete in the job market and get off public assistance.

17 M is a 75-year-old woman on a fixed income. Although she receives some supportive services from an agency, she has all but been forgotten by her family and tends to be quite isolated.

18 Mrs. S is living alone with her two young children. Her husband was very abusive to her. For that reason she experiences emotional problems. Their living situation has become increasingly more difficult because of their small fixed income and the children often go without some basic needs met.

19 Mrs. C is a working mother with two children. Her husband left her and she is struggling to pay mortgage and all her other expenses. Since she is not involved with Social Services, she has to pay for her own health care, as well as her children's, and also to supply for all her household needs.

20 V, a 74-year-old man who does not speak English, recently had a serious operation and is feeling lonely and depressed. This once very independent man is experiencing many difficulties due to his limited income and declining health.

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