

# Former St. Bernard's Prof Accepts Templeton Prize

By Father Robert F. McNamara

At a splendid ceremony May 15 in London's famous Guildhall, the Rev. Michael Bourdeaux formally accepted the prestigious Templeton Prize for "Progress in Religion." The event was of special interest to Rochester Catholics. Father Bourdeaux, an Anglican priest, lived in Rochester in 1969 as a member of the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Most of the world's major awards honor achievements in arts and sciences. The

Templeton Foundation Prize is given for achievements in religion. Its purpose is "to stimulate the quest for clear understanding and pioneer breakthrough in religious knowledge." The prize was first awarded in 1973, to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Later recipients include Dr. Cicerly Saunders, founder of the Hospice movement for the care of the terminally ill (1981), Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, American evangelist (1982), and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Russian author (1983). Michael Bourdeaux was

honored because of his work as founder and present director of Keston College. Keston (in Kent, England) is a center for collection and publishing information on religious conditions behind the Iron Curtain. It reports (in the founder's words) "the whole religious scene, not only the bad but also the good." (A history of Keston, "Be Our Voice," by Jenny Robertson, has just been published in London by Darton, Longman and Todd. The Keston News Service is distributed in this country by "Keston College USA," Box 1310, Framingham, MA, 01701.



FATHER BOURDEAUX

In his acceptance address, Father Bourdeaux lamented that the free world is still largely unaware of the plight of religion in Communist lands. Many believe, he said, that the Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Whatever the Constitution may say, it "guarantees" nothing. "The Soviet system has not been able to encompass the concept of the rule of law. The law is the Party policy of the moment. Defense against the dictates of the State is impossible."

Even less known, Bourdeaux continued, is the growth of religious belief among Russians. Despite the official atheism of the State,

young people are returning to Christianity "in a way that hasn't happened in Russia in over a hundred years."

Keston News Service is timely and correct. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made this point at a reception for Father Bourdeaux at Church House, Westminster, April 25. She said she found the Keston reports very reliable, and often used them in her discussions with the heads of governments.

Michael Bourdeaux arrived in Rochester in 1968 fresh from studies at the University of Moscow. He was one of the guest professors engaged by St. Bernard's Seminary during the regime of Bishop

## I shall never forget Rochester. It gave me a firm base when everything seemed so uncertain.

### -- Father Bourdeaux

Fulton J. Sheen. Father Bourdeaux gave three popular elective courses on Russia, communism and religion during the Spring semester of 1969. He was even then trying to work out a plan for communicating to the West the religious situation behind the Iron Curtain.

I was on the faculty of the seminary at that time. When I learned of his being awarded the Templeton Prize, I contacted this former

colleague to congratulate him. He replied: "I shall never forget my time in Rochester. It gave me such a firm base when all seemed to be uncertain."

The Templeton award is a windfall for Keston College, since the value of the prize is close to \$200,000. But it will be even more helpful in calling world attention to the college's valiant efforts on behalf of religious liberty.

Friends of Father Bourdeaux, friends of St. Bernard's Seminary, and its successor, St. Bernard's Institute, are rightly proud of the winner of the 1984 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

## Cancer Takes Bishop Mardaga Of Wilmington

Wilmington, Del. (NC) -- Bishop Thomas J. Mardaga of Wilmington died May 28 at St. Francis Hospital, Wilmington, of cancer. He was 71.

He had suffered a stroke May 21, a day after he entered the hospital.

The funeral was scheduled for June 2 at St. Elizabeth's Church, Wilmington, with Archbishop William D. Borders of Baltimore as principal celebrant. Burial was scheduled for All Saints Cemetery, Wilmington.

Installed as Wilmington bishop on April 6, 1968, only two days after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Bishop Mardaga immediately had to confront the issue of racial tensions. Several months later, at Christmas time, he joined with Protestant leaders in issuing an unprecedented pastoral letter calling for the removal of National Guard troops from Wilmington.

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On the Right Side

## New Laws Are Quite Clear

With the many changes in the discipline about fasting before Communion and other things pertaining to the Eucharist, the new Canon Law is quite clear.

**Canon 919: One who receives the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception of water and medicine, for at least one hour.**

A principle in Canon Law reads: "Favorabilia amplianda sunt. Odiosa restringenda sunt," which simply means that, in interpretation of the law, you may interpret it to the best benefit of the person; and the rigid interpretation should be kept stringently within bounds. This creates a difficulty for scrupulous people who worry lest they are bending the law too much. It creates a spiritual hazard for lax people who bend the law out of shape, destroying both the letter and the spirit of the law. It is a good principle for balanced, honest people.

**#2: A priest who celebrates the most Holy Eucharist two or three times on the same day may take something before the second of third celebration even if the period of one hour does not intervene.**

Father Mull, our liturgical cheftain, wrote me: "It is left necessarily open-ended to allow for different priests with different diet needs to have what is necessary to insure their good health, insure they will be properly disposed to celebrate Mass." So, according to his lights, one priest may end up with a bowl of cream of wheat and another with a fine plate of bacon and eggs if he can afford it.

**#3: Those who are advanced in age or who suffer from any infirmity, as well as those who take care of them, can receive the most Holy Eucharist even if they have taken something during the previous hour.**

The surprising change is that those who take care of the sick may also avail themselves of the same non-fasting directions regarding the sick they care for. So I suppose a wife who is taking care of

a sick patient, or a nurse or neighbor, could use the privilege. "Favorabilia amplianda sunt." Such is the law, but I think the spirit of the Gospel would impel those who are seriously desirous of following Our Lord, not to avail themselves of every amplitude which the law might afford. Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity are spiritually strong because of their rigorous asceticism.

**Canon 920: All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. #2: The precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season unless it is fulfilled for a just cause at some other time during the year.**

This is the famous "making your Easter Duty." "Other times" could be when one is unable to receive because there is no priest for Mass, e.g. Russia, Red China. Note, please, that there is no mention of confession. One must go to confession only if he is conscious of mortal sin.

**Canon 924, #2: The bread (for Mass) must be made of wheat alone, and recently made so there is no danger of corruption. Canon 926 adds: In accord with the ancient tradition of the Latin Church, the priest is to use unleavened bread in the celebration of the Eucharist whenever he offers it.**

Regarding #2, strange things have happened. I was at an area Mass a few years ago, for Bishop Clark, where the bread for the Mass was a sweet, chewy substance made with additives, including what seemed to be honey. There was an outcry from conscientious Catholics about the certainly illicitness of the bread, and even the possibility of invalidity. Despite the outcry, there was a repeat performance in another church a couple months later, again with the illicit bread. I never knew who was responsible for this debacle, but am confident that the faithful of the diocese, thanks to Father Mull, will not be afflicted again. If law is to have any validity, it has to be honored and obeyed. Laws are made for the common good.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

## Will Craze Over Michael Ever End?

**Beat it! Beat it!**

Sometimes I wish Michael Jackson would. At least from our house. And take his posters, his pins, his calendars and his videos with him. Ditto his records, his "I Love Michael" cup, fan magazines, commercials, etc., etc., etc.

One whole wall of our youngest child's bedroom is covered with posters, obliterating the pink floral wallpaper. Michael with spit curls, Michael looking sassy, Michael being adorable (?) -- you get the picture. (Michael may have also permanently traumatized a visiting grandma who bunked down in that room for a couple of nights.)

Tapes of his songs are played ad nauseam, starting at 6:15 a.m. as our fan gets ready for school, dressing in various articles of clothing which either have likenesses of M.J. printed on them or approximate the garb he wears. She is a promotion agent's dream customer. Most babysitting money goes for such paraphernalia.

I've been trying to remember just how long the craze has been going on and as far as I can figure out we may be entering the second year of Michael Mania.

Hopes of the passion for the country's Number 1 celebrity fading out were dimmed this past week as we sat in a restaurant and we heard her order, "Pepsi only!" Heretofore she has been addicted to

Orange Crush and would sip an occasional Coke or other soft drink available.

"Michael sells Pepsi," someone reminded me. Throughout the course of the evening other changes in her lifestyle became evident. The hamburgers she once relished are now taboo. (Michael doesn't eat red meat.) Michael I also learned later, apparently also brushes his teeth with baking soda, eschewing commercial pastes.

Michael, however, does indulge in other excesses, such as one white sequined glove, leather jackets and major demo outfits. We compromised -- reluctantly okaying the glove, nixing the other stuff.

Our daughter is very protective of the object of her adoration. Comments as to his androgynous appearance bring blighting looks and jokes about his dark glasses and high voice result in quick denunciation of Michael's detractors.

"Michael is a good person," we are lectured. "He doesn't drink, smoke or use drugs. He is religious. He is good to his family and for her birthday he bought his mom a purple Rolls Royce."

How can you argue with that? The rest of the family concedes she could do far worse in picking an idol. Privately, I go a step further. As the mother of a 14-year-old female, I must confess that her dreaming long distance over a boy-man she's never seen in person and isn't likely to beats the problems entailed in having a real boyfriend all to pieces.

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