#### COURIER-JOURNAL

#### TATEGRAPHICS CONTROL OF THE

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In what has become a continuing and urgent project, the individual diocesans to act as sponsors for Southeast Asian refugees.

officer here who works out of the Catholic Family Center, has often characterized the diocese's sponsorship recruitment the other hand, "must be able to convincingly establish by sent letters throughout the diocese asking to speak to groups efforts in the past. about the issue.

To the presidents of parish councils, Delaney noted:

With the certainty that you can readily appreciate the prepared for a possible influx by late spring, 1985, genuine gravity of the refugee problm and of the diocese's, USCC's and refugees' absolute reliance upon active parish participation in the resettlement program, I remain hopeful of hearing from you on this vital matter at your earliest convenience.'

To pastoral assistants, Delaney wrote:

"Given the American government's recently announced intention to accelerate the resettlement of all 8 to 15,000 Amerasians in Vietnam and upwards of 15,000 Vietnamese political prisoners during the next three years, the USCC and moothly accommodate the expected influx.

had set themselves up

against the authority of

"Kindly note that this office is completely unable to resettled in the United States. The USCC has recettled one United States Catholic Conference, and, in Rochester, the approve any of these expected cases for resettlement in this Asian-American and 14 Amerasian cases during the past Catholic Family Center, is appealing to parishes and diocese without a sponsoring group and/or individual laving year." been identified beforehand.

"In short, parish sponsorships are needed now to eliminate Americans are children who possess documented proof of To that end, James Delaney, the USCC refugee resettlement the otherwise frenzied and dire last-minute appeals which have having been fathered by an American citizen. Amerasians, on

"With your invaluable assistance, it is sincerely hoped that born of American citizens between January 1951 to October the Rochester Diocese and its individual parishes can be 1982.'

'So very much depends upon you to translate this hope and objective into reality."

Delaney observed, "As American citizens and Christians, the future of our Amerasian progeny currently in Vietnam should, in truth, be our collective responsibility - a responsibility that cannot be convincingly denied. This last vestive of America's presence in Vietnam should, at long last, be removed with alacrity and compassion."

A fact sheet Delaney provided states that "of the more than the diocese urgently require the active participation and 55,000 persons who have emigrated from Vietnam since 1979, support of all parishes in the diocese in order to effectively and 16,000 were received by the United States. To date an to offer refugee sponsorship to contact him at the Catholic estimated 500 Amerasian children/young adults have been Family Center, (716) 546-7220, ext. 53.

appearance, witnesses and/or documentation that they were

To particularize the need, Delaney said:

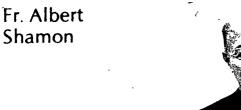
"Cathoic Family Center is actively searching for parishes" willing to resettle a refugee family.

In that last distinction, the fact sheet notes that Asian-

"In short, we are urgently in need of sponsorship commitments for Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian and Amerasian cases. These particular cases mey be expected within the next six to twelve months.

"They are without relatives, friends or sponsors in the U.S., and are, therefore, unable to exit detention and processing centers overseas until a sponsoring group is forthcoming.'

Delaney asked that anyone wishing further information, or



Word for Sunday

### Authority And Title

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 23/1-12. (R1) Mal. 1/14-2/2. (R2) 1 Thess. 2/7-9,13.

Of course, this dates me. But when I was a kid one radio program everybody listened to was "Amos and Andy." On one show Andy was engaged in a bit of dialogue with "the Kingfish," explaining that the lodge meeting had been cancelled that evening, "because the grand, exalted, almighty, invinvible Potentate done got beat up by his wife last night."

Sunday's gospel deals with authority and titles.

Jesus speaks of the authority of the Scribes and the Pharisees to teach. He does not question their authority, but He criticizes their practice: it does not match the teaching. Jesus complained of two things: first, the rigor of their interpretation of the Law (draining religion of its vitality and relevance); and secondly, their vanity and hypocrisy, evidenced by the width of their phylacteries (small leather cases containing four parchments with texts from Exodus and Deuteronomy) and the size of their tassels (preserved today on Jewish prayer shawls). "Do as they say," Jesus taught, "but not as they do - for they are hypocrites at heart." Then Jesus went to discuss honorific titles, such as, master (rabbi), father (abba), 'and teacher (moreh). Our Lord didn't intend to give a lesson on nomenclature. He was not concerned with words as such, but with the spirit behind them. We may have heard someone say, "It is not what you said that hurts, but how you said it." So our Lord, in this instance was forbidding in his followers the vanity that would threaten to intrude itself between people and God. He was forbidding any acknowledgment of fatherhood, for instance, that would obscure the fatherhood of God, nothing more. When Matthew wrote his gospel, it was against the . Jews of Jamnia. after the fall of Jerusalem. The

Jesus would never forbid Scribes and Pharisees there

Christ Himself, had put their interpretations above Christ's. It was this drawing of attention to self away from God that is condemned, not words or titles.

a human son to use the word "father," for God had said, "Honor your fa-ther and mother." Nor would he forbid the term if addressed to one who is God's representative. Calling a priest "Father" re-POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

minds one of the Fatherhood of God. Mary used the word "Your father and I sought you sorrowing." St. Paul called himself father of the Corinthian Church:

What is condemned in titling is the arrogance it may foster. Sometimes we can become like the daughter of the country squire who liked to be ealled "Colonel." The little girl was asked if her father shen POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

laid eggs. "Well, of course they can," she replied haughtily, "but in our position, you know, they don't really have to.

In Alan Paton's book, "Instrument of Thy Peace," he tells of a rabbi, a cantor, and a humble synagogue janitor who were preparing for the Day of Atonement. The rabbi beat his breast and said, "I am nothing. I am nothing." The cantor beat his breast

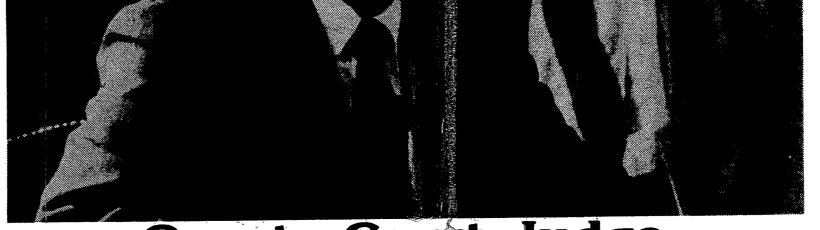
POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

and said, "I am nothing. I am nothing." The janitor beat his breast and said, "I am nothing. I am nothing."

The rabbi said to the cantor, "Look who thinks he's nothing.

Titles are all right. We have court titles, we have religious titles, and we have courtesy titles. Each has a history of its own. Titles are legitimate, but they also have their dangers.

**SUDGE CONNELL** 



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