



Rite of Candidacy

Diocesan seminarians John Hayes and Jim Mooney flank Bishop Matthew H. Clark prior to being raised to the level of Candidate during ceremonies last Friday at Becket Hall on Gregory Street. Hayes attends Immaculate Conception Seminary on the campus of Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Mooney attends Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Obsession Man Confesses 4 Times in Day

St. Paul, Minn. (NC) — Just as alcoholics seek drinks and compulsive overeaters seek food, Bill sought confessions.

"I think my record was four times a day," he said. "I wasn't deliberately doing it. It was the sickness."

His sickness is religious scrupulosity, or obsession with sin. The affliction, which he has suffered from for 25 years, led him to receive the sacrament of reconciliation several times a day.

Bill is one of about a dozen people in the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese who have been helped by a five-week class offered through Catholic Charities. He agreed to an anonymous interview with the Catholic Bulletin, newspaper of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese.

Now, after graduating from the course, Bill has cut his confessions down to once a week, which he said "is too much really and that's something I have to work on."

The class began after Father William McGrade, a counselor with Catholic Charities for 20 years, met several religiously scrupulous people.

According to Father McGrade, those with the condition are "normal people with a problem in regard to guilt, responsibility and punishment." These people feel their relationship with God is bad and will do anything to make up for it, he said.

The problem can be caused by a variety of factors, including overly strict upbringing, personality problems and confusion over major sinfulness. One common factor in most cases is pride. The victims "can't accept anyone telling them they're OK," Father McGrade said.

For 25 years Bill fought the condition alone. He said he doesn't remember any specific incident sparking it. "All of a sudden I saw wrong or sin where there wasn't any," he said.

He described his Catholic school experience as "negative" and said his parents were strict, but pointed out that his two sisters came out of the same home life normal.

He did not judge others' sins, only his own. "I was my own worst enemy. If somebody else said 'damn it' it didn't matter, only if I said it."

Living with religious scrupulosity, he said, is living "like somebody with physical pain. You learn to live with it, although you're not living happily."

"Nobody could help me with the problem until I heard about Father McGrade's class," he said.

The class taught Bill that he was not forever doomed to despair. "After that class, I felt like I don't have to live with it," he said.

Bill said he realizes the course is "not going to correct in five weeks what's been going on for 25 years."

"I didn't get a miracle cure," he said. "I'm working on it. I'm off the fence in a sense. I'm not teetering one way or the other, and that's freeing."

Advisory

Correspondents are advised the Courier-Journal is restricted by law from

publishing any notice of games of chance, the prizes won in such games or the winners of such prizes.

A Time To Study Peace?

Washington (NC) — As if remembering the advice in a traditional black American spiritual to lay weapons down by the riverside and "study war no more," the U.S. Congress in 1984 decided the government should study peace, not just war. It called for establishment of a Peace Institute to do so.

The government has been studying war, in various ways, for a long time. Along with the three military academies there are a National War College, an Air War College, and numerous other facilities for training military personnel in assorted national defense skills.

For at least 40 years, however, proposals have come and gone on Capitol Hill for setting up some kind of a peace academy, institute or formal program to help train U.S. leaders to promote peace.

That idea has been endorsed by the U.S. Catholic bishops, who in their 1983 pastoral letter on war and peace urged that "all citizens support training in conflict resolution, non-violent resistance, and programs devoted to service to peace and education for peace."

"Such an academy would not only provide a center for peace studies and activities but also be a tangible evidence of our nation's sincerity in its often-professed commitment to international peace and the abolition of war," the bishops added.

As part of the defense authorization package adopted by the 98th Congress, a new Peace Institute was allocated \$4 million for 1985 — the first part of an installment of \$16 million earmarked by Congress for the institute. But federal budget-cutters are looking at scuttling the institute, not yet off the ground, as a way of saving money.

With federal budget plans still up in the air pending release of the Reagan administration's proposed fiscal 1986

budget and the return of Congress to active budget work, the fate of the institute has been uncertain.

The intention of the Peace Institute, proponents said during congressional debate on the subject in 1984, is to teach people to find peaceful means of resolving world conflicts, just as the U.S. government has trained its military to fight wars as a way of resolving conflict. Support for the institute has been bipartisan.

Unlike the military service academies, the institute would not serve as a college or university as such. It would not grant degrees and would be open only to those who already hold diplomas.

What it is intended to do, according to its supporters, is teach diplomats, foreign affairs specialists, international trade experts, and others involved in dealing with the rest of the world how to negotiate and mediate disputes, manage crises, conduct international discussions, and so on.

It might also provide opportunity for study on such topics as the causes of conflict, the cultural and religious roots of unrest in hotspots like the Middle East, and international terrorism, backers suggested.

President Reagan was to name 11 of the 15 directors early this year. The other four were to be named by officials of the Defense and State departments, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and National War College.

If Reagan would leave the posts vacant, the future of the institute would be questionable because it would exist on paper without leaders.

Neither the White House nor State Department had any immediate information on Reagan administration views on the Peace Institute.

A Mass Of Hope Scheduled Jan. 27

A Mass of Hope to be celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark has been scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27, at St. Thomas More Church.

The Mass has been set by the diocesan Human Life Commission with the sponsorship of the International Justice and Peace Commission, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Sisters Council.

The Mass of Hope will be an opportunity for those attending to pray together for all life, especially those suffering, and to ask courage, inspiration and unity for an earth "presently afflicted with much injustice," according to the Human Life Commission.

A reception will follow in the school foyer.

Don Oliver To Appear at Notre Dame

Elmira — The Notre Dame Student Council has engaged Don Oliver, singer, raconteur and cultural historian, to perform "When the Spirit Sings" at 1:30 and 7-30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 10, in the ND Auditorium.

Oliver, a baritone, uses personal anecdotes and black musical historical lore to deliver his message.

The performance will promote a better understanding of black American culture, appropriate as the nation takes time to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding Wednesday publication.

Pontiff Ordains Seven Bishops, Greets Crowd in Rare Snowstorm

By John Thavis
Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II ordained seven bishops from Africa, Europe and Latin America Jan. 6 and greeted crowds in St. Peter's Square during a rare Roman snowfall.

The new bishops, he said, represented the catholicity of the Catholic Church.

In his Sunday Angelus talk to the crowds in St. Peter's Square, the pope asked for prayers for the new bishops, for men and women missionaries and for all "messengers of the Good News."

During the two-and-a-half-hour ordination ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope consecrated bishops recently appointed to dioceses in Angola, Chile, El Salvador, Gibraltar, Italy, Poland and Tanzania. The ordination was held during a traditional Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany.

"Just to pronounce your names is a sign of the catholic nature of the church," the pope told the new bishops.

The pope compared the bishops to the three wise men who were guided by a star to Bethlehem. "Coming from various nations, as sons and priests of the churches rooted in those nations, you bring with you mystical gifts," the pope said.

"May you return to your countries with a new mission and a new task," he said. The pope thanked them and their families for "the star that has appeared along the way of your life."

As each bishop came forward and knelt before the pontiff, he placed the bishop's mitre on their heads. The pope concelebrated Mass with the bishops and with Archbishop Eduardo Somalo Martinez, assistant secretary of state, and Archbishop D. Simon Lourdusamy, secretary of the Congregation

for the Evangelization of Peoples.

At the end of the ceremony, the pope descended into the crypt of the basilica and prayed at the tomb of St. Peter before making his usual Sunday blessing from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square.

"Today, the church reaches to the depths of man. It touches his inner life, the inner life where the human drama takes place," the pope said.

"The church prays for each individual so that his inner vision can pierce the shadows" of the modern world and know "the joy of the Epiphany," he said.

"Today, we think particularly of men and women missionaries and all those who are, in whatever way or place, messengers of the Good News and servants of the faith," the pope said. Epiphany Sunday also marks the day dedicated to the church's missionary work with infants around the world.

As the pope looked out from his window, he saw for the first in his time pontificate a thick covering of snow that turned the square into a vast white expanse, dotted by children who sledded and threw snowballs in the storm. It was the first major snowfall in Rome in 14 years.

"I see that not all Romans are afraid of the snow. There are a few courageous people," the pope told the crowd. "It's a surprise, especially in this square."

As the thick flakes swirled around the papal apartment, obscuring the window at

CDA Meets

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas will roll bandages, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 9. Clean sheets are needed for the project. Interested persons are asked to contact the hostess for the evening, Eleanor Cook, 544-2942.

times, the pope offered a special greeting to skiers in the hills outside Rome and said: "through this snow, I greet you all." Even in the square, several cross-country skiers glided between fountains and the obelisk at the center of the square. Skiing is one of Pope John Paul's favorite sports. Last year he spent two days on the slopes in northern Italy.

Earlier in the weekend, the pope sent a message to a group of Italian Catholic university students, urging them to courageously "announce the Gospel" through their work and example.

The message, conveyed in a letter written by Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, Vatican secretary of state, also emphasized that the Federation of Catholic University Students should have "a constant connection with the church community" in their necessary work in Italy's social and political role.

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Vol. 96, No. 15 January 9, 1985

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢, 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607