

Anonymous pamphleteers spread 'message of hate' in Southern Tier

Anti-Catholic comic books and "tracts" have been distributed in Catholic churches throughout the Southern Tier over the past two weekends.

Pastors in Elmira, Painted Post, Corning and Watkins Glen reported finding the materials in pews and stuffed in bulletins and missalettes.

Father Francis R. Davis, pastor of St. Patrick's in Corning, said the materials were more insult than threat.

"I can't take it seriously as a threat to the congregation, of winning people away from the Church," he said. "It about as accurately portrays the Catholic Church as a nightmare would portray a person's life."

Father Davis said he believes the material was placed in the church sometime between 10 and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 27. "Additional stuff turned up this weekend," he said.

Pamphlets were left at roughly the same time in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Painted Post, St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen, and Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Patrick's in Elmira.

The comic books were produced by Chic publications, located in Chino, Cal., pastors said. One, entitled "The Four Horsemen," depicts Pope John Paul II as the anti-Christ. Others allege that the Church is lenient with regard to priests who are homosexual and that burial grounds exist for the disposal for babies fathered by priests.

"They (the comic books) are really nightmarish in quality," Father Davis said. "They make all kinds of terrible accusations against the Church ... The insult, the calumny and the slander is disturbing to

people." At St. Mary of the Lake Parish, the booklets were placed in missalettes throughout the church. "The reactions I'm getting are irate," said Father Andrew Kalafsky, pastor. "People are fighting mad."

At the same time, pastors at the affected churches said parishioners were aware that the attacks were not generated locally. "It's obvious that this is someone from outside with a hate message," Father Kalafsky said.

None of the parishes had been targeted for this kind of attack before. "This was an isolated incident, and I hope it stays isolated," Father Davis said.

Support group needs donations to assist Nicaraguan women

Rochester Women's Action For Peace is sponsoring a clothing, toy and medicine collection for the children of Nicaragua. This collection is organized through the international group Madre, an organization which was formed in response to the women of Nicaragua.

Rochester Women's Action for Peace will soon be gathering donations, which include infant needs such as diapers, baby bottles, soap, toothpaste and shoes, among other things. Money is also needed to buy medical supplies for the Bertha Calderon Women's Hospital in Managua. Donations should be brought to Asbury Church, 1010 East Ave., Rochester, to Thursday, August 14 from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, August 15 from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments:

Monsignor John F. Duffy from temporary parochial vicar, St. John of Rochester, Fairport, to parochial vicar, Church of the Nativity, Brockport, and temporary weekend assistant during the month of August at St. Jude's Chapel, Fairhaven; St. Mary Magdalen, Wolcott; and St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek.

Sister Rita Heberle, RSM, from pastoral assistant to temporary parochial administrator of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Painted Post, for the duration of the sabbatical of Father Walter L. Wainwright, pastor.

Father Daniel V. Hogan, from temporary weekend assistant, St. Jude's Chapel, Fairhaven; St. Mary Magdalen, Wolcott, and St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek; to temporary pastoral moderator of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Painted Post, for the duration of the sabbatical of Father Walter L. Wainwright, pastor.

Father Walter L. Wainwright to sabbatical at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., from August through December, 1986.

The following list represents new appointments and transfers of pastoral assistants and parish visitors that had occurred through July, 1986.

Sister Catherine Marie McGranary, DC, to pastoral assistant, Holy Name of Jesus, Rochester.

Sister Anne Helene Brien, SSJ, to pastoral assistant, St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls.

Sister Karen Considine, SSJ, from hospital administration, St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, to pastoral assistant, St. Thomas More, Rochester.

Sister Madeline Cox, SSJ, from teacher, St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, to parish visitor, St. Agnes, Avon.

Mary Donoghue, from pastoral assistant, Holy Ghost, Rochester, to parish visitor, St. Anne, Rochester.

Sister Gertrude Erb, RSM, from pastoral assistant, St. Agnes, Avon, to pastoral assistant, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rochester.

Sister St. Luke Hardy, SSJ, from principal, St. Augustine's, Rochester, to pastoral assistant at same.

Sister Lorraine Julien, SSJ, from pastoral assistant, St. Francis DeSales, Geneva, to pastoral assistant, St. Monica's, Rochester.

Sister Lucy Jean, CSC, from Sisters of the Holy Cross, New Hampshire, to pastoral assistant, St. Francis DeSales, Geneva.

Sister Barbara Kuhn, SSJ, from principal, Guardian Angels, Rochester, to pastoral assistant at same.

James Murphy, from pastoral assistant, St. Boniface, Rochester, to parish visitor, Holy Ghost, Rochester.

Sister Mary Marvin, RSM, from principal, St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit, to pastoral assistant, St. Ann/St. Gregory, Palmyra and Marion.

Ruth Page, from spirituality studies to pastoral assistant, St. Columba/St. Patrick, Caledonia.

Sister Patricia Pullman, SSJ, from principal, Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, to pastoral assistant, St. Boniface, Rochester.

Sister Jonathan Schneider, SSJ, from pastoral assistant, St. Thomas More, Rochester, to parish visitor, Church of the Assumption, Fairport.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

It's a hot afternoon here in Waterford. I have taken to the backyard of my mother's home to enjoy the breeze and the shade of the maple trees. I enjoy the hot weather and even if the heat becomes excessive, I reserve my complaint for the despised ice of winter.

Save for a three-day meeting in Washington early in the week, this writing is the first work I have done for schedule or under deadline since I began my vacation early this month. It will come as no surprise to you, I am sure, if I admit that the transition is not an easy one. The image that best describes my mental process is that of the runner plodding through sand in lead shoes!

Vacation was a joy. There was ample time to read, pray, run, visit with family and friends, watch baseball games and films, write letters, sit and think, and just sit. These days have offered an unhurried opportunity to remember the events and experiences of the previous months. I always relish such moments. They allow for a rejoicing in the good and often for the appreciation of graces lost in the rush of normal daily activity. They also teach something about the difficult moments, often by making me aware of the unforeseen good that resulted from them.

Now that it's time to return, I am grateful for the greater sense of perspective these days of vacation have afforded me. I was able to spend some time thinking about all that has happened in our diocese since Vatican Council II. Your response to the Church's invitation to renewal has been extraordinarily generous and has provided for the development in our Church of significant responses to the pastoral challenges of these years. As examples of these, I mention our work on women in the Church, our ministry

for Justice and Peace, and our commitment to the Rule of Christian Initiation of Adults.

In addition to such developments as these, we have also worked hard to encourage the active participation of great numbers of people in the life of the Church. This, too, has borne great fruit and, I believe, will continue to do so as we move together toward the year 2000! When people experience their capacity for leadership and service in the community of faith, the mission of the Church to build the Kingdom of God is advanced.

All of this calls me continually to think about the ministry of the bishop. As I do that, I think in terms of overseeing, integrating, convening, encouraging, coordinating, unifying and reconciling. Bishops, I am convinced, must stand among the people sharing their common journey of faith and doing all that they can to call forth their rich and beautiful gifts in service of the Kingdom.

I don't know all of the components of that kind of service, but I am convinced that among the more critical are the following:

- 1) A commitment to calling forth the wisdom of the people of God and paying it due honor;
 - 2) A determination to oppose all human constructs that offend the dignity of persons or inappropriately limit the expression of their God-given gifts; and
 - 3) Dedication to the kind of service that is expansive, inclusive and loving.
- I have some other ideas about all of this; I'm sure they'll find their way into this space in coming weeks. In the meantime, I'd welcome and give serious thought to your ideas.
- Peace to all.

St. Theodore's receives prank bomb-threat call

A caller with a "very sophisticated" voice phoned in a bomb threat to St. Theodore's Parish last Friday afternoon, August 1.

"There was no bomb, thank God," said Father Joseph W. Dailey, associate pastor. "But it has made people uneasy."

It's no wonder, considering that the parish has been hit with a series of misfortunes during the past month, including a fire and a break-in at the school.

Parish Secretary Louise Attridge answered the call at 2:20 p.m. on Friday. The caller informed her that "this is the bomb control. There is a bomb in the refrigerator."

Attridge responded by saying "I beg your pardon." The caller repeated the message and hung up.

"We have a bunch of them (refrigerators) on the property," Father Dailey said. "They looked in the rectory refrigerator and there was nothing there. They didn't take it very seriously."

Attridge, who has served the parish for six years, said she really couldn't tell whether the caller was male or female. "It sounds stupid, but you really couldn't tell," she said. "I'm sure the voice was disguised, and it sounded very sophisticated. I'd say it tended to be more female."

Father Dailey reported the call to Gates police. "I bothered to call because I thought maybe other people were receiving the same kind of call. I read somewhere that they might be able to trace it through some kind of grid."

Gates Police Chief Thomas J. Roche declined to comment on the report or on whether police believe the bomb threat and an earlier break-in are connected. But he said police are continuing to investigate the July 24 incident, in which vandals broke into the school, set a fire, spray-painted walls and took several pieces of equipment from the principal's office.

"I'm sure there are people who are frazzled with the wedding situation or who are upset that they didn't graduate because they didn't pay their tuition, or they just didn't like a sermon," Father Dailey said. "That just comes with the turf."

"It sounds to me like a prank, but kind of a sick one," he added.

Meanwhile, parishioners are still waiting for estimates of the damage to the church building, which was hit by an electrical fire Sunday, July 20. "We're still horsing around with the insurance people," Father Dailey said. "We have no estimate of when things will be back together." Much of the damage at the school has already been repaired, he said.

Neighboring parishes have offered their facilities to St. Theodore's for weddings and funerals, but all the running around is taking its toll on the priests. "We're all tired," Father Dailey said. "After awhile, you have to sort of stop and ask 'Where am I supposed to be?' But we're making it."

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