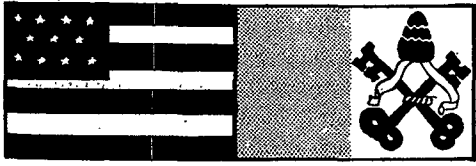


Priest's comments on need for basics are welcome

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

The appointment of Father James M. Moynihan, who recently resigned as pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield to become associate secretary general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in New York City (*Catholic Courier*, Feb. 14), brought back memories for me.

In 1951 Bishop James E. Kearney transferred me from my post as assistant to Monsignor William J. Naughton at St. Anne's Church in Rochester to succeed Father Walter Carron as spiritual director of St. Andrew's Seminary. At that time the seminary had around 120 students.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

My tenure at St. Andrew's turned out to be brief — I only served there from June, 1951, to January, 1952 — because the U.S. Air Force recalled me for four years active duty as chaplain during the Korean War.

One of my duties was to offer a weekly conference to the collegians. One program

had to do with serving God and the church with complete unselfishness and expected sacrifice — including the vow of celibacy.

I remember one day about 40 bright and idealistic collegians sat in the back pews of the beautiful chapel for an informal gathering. I was struck by one young man who wondered if the attractiveness or blandishments of females — whose hearts might well beat faster at this handsome seminarian — might deter him from his vocation.

So I called out, "Mr. Moynihan, would you like to get married?" He replied with a smile: "Not under the present circumstances, Father."

Because of his response I have held him in special regard ever since.

The *Courier* interview reported that Father Moynihan welcomed Vatican II's emphasis on using Scripture in catechesis, but he also emphasized the need for the church to educate youngsters on the basic laws and tenets of the church.

"The Ten Commandments are as much a part of the Bible as the Beatitudes," he commented in the Feb. 14 news story.

This is a grateful swing from so much of the catechetics after Vatican II, when the basic book which gave direction and inspiration to generations of American Catholics — namely the catechism — was derided and held in contempt.

Love of neighbor was preached to our Catholic people as if it were a new discovery. And it was often stated by catechists who had precious little love for those who valued the catechism with its balance of instruction on faith, doctrine, responsibility and charity. The storing up in one's memory of the concise definitions in the catechism was discarded and replaced by a kind of nebulous God of love — including the ominous omission about responsibility and divine judgment.

The catechism is not the sole book recommended, but it is a valuable supplement to the Bible, the 16 documents of Vatican II and the best of catechetical developments. I have met very few people who have read even two of the Vatican II documents. Anyone wishing a copy of the easy-to-read *Number One Catechism* can get one free by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (make sure enough postage is on the envelope) to Confraternity of the Precious Blood Monastery, 5300 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y., 11219.

A donation of a dollar or more would help in spreading this valuable little book around.

Commandments form best foundation for humans

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) John 2:13-25; (R1) Exodus 20:1-17; (R2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25.

Next Sunday's readings again accent covenant and baptism.

The cleansing of the temple symbolizes the cleansing of the soul of original sin by the waters of baptism.

The Ten Commandments state part of the covenant between God and his people. The people's part of the Mosaic covenant was to keep the Ten Commandments. God's part was to dwell among his people. That is why the last chapters of Exodus (Chapters 25-40) concern God's dwelling-place among his people and its furnishings.

The Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets. This probably meant two copies. Whenever a covenant was made in times of the Old Testament, two copies were made — one for each party. And each copy was put in the temple of the nation's god. In Israel, though, the covenant was between God and his people, so both copies were kept in the box (Ark of the Covenant).

Loving parents provide rules for their children. God is a loving parent who brought his people out of slavery. To keep them forever free, he gave them some ground rules. His first was to avoid worshipping other gods so they didn't adopt values not in his rules. For like any parent, he was jealous for them. He knew that punishment would be inflicted on wickedness.

This was not a threat, but a statement of fact. Put your hand in fire and you'll get burned. Adopt false values and you'll pay



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

the price.

God knows our needs: we need rest one day a week to commune with God. Too much busy activity can crowd out godliness. Like a mother who says to her child, "Eat, it's good for you!" God says, "keep holy the Lord's day, especially by not working." And God's concern is not only about his people, but about all people.

The rest of the Ten Commandments embody reverence and respect for parents, life, marriage, property, human rights and truth.

A recent Girl Scouts Survey on "Beliefs and Moral Values of America's High School Students" shows some sobering facts:

- Sixty-five percent said they would cheat on an important exam.
- Fifty-three percent would lie to protect a friend who vandalized school property.
- Forty-one percent reported that they usually go unpunished by their parents if they do something wrong.
- Forty-seven percent said that the "most believable authority in matters of truth" was their own experience — not their parents or religion.

Patrick McCarthy, vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Center in Pasadena, Calif., said, "Schools have lost their moral underpinnings. Rather than teaching basic values, educators have tended to focus on symptoms of lost values — drugs, teenage pregnancy, dropouts, crime, violence, and a host of others."

Now schools are "crying uncle." Because the challenges of modern society prove that "you can't be values-neutral," teachers cannot avoid all moral judgments and treat each set of values their students come up with as equally valid.

The German poet Heinrich Heine once stood with a friend before the cathedral of Amiens in France. "Tell me, Heinrich," his friend said. "Why can't people build piles like this anymore?"

Heine replied, "My dear friend, in those days people had convictions. We moderns have opinions. And it takes more than opinions to build a Gothic cathedral."

The Ten Commandments are the only foundation upon which we can build human "cathedrals."

Please Patronize
Our Advertisers

HIDDEN MEADOWS
COMMUNITY

Florida Style Living For 55 years or older

Top of the line manufactured homes. Secluded & private. Many floor plans available. Professional landscaped, decks, large lots, lighting. Monthly fee includes: total lawn care, water, sewer, property taxes.

A Friendly Atmosphere Offering

- Club House for Community Activities
- Golf League
- Organized Trips
- Card Club
- Much More

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT
CALL: 494-1424
7289 LAKE RD. BERGEN, NY 14416
1 Mile South of Rt. 33 & 19

Photo Frank Perotto

Today, we helped Christine catch her very first ball.

Everybody knows somebody who's been helped at Al Sigi Center. Last year alone, we helped more than 16,000 Rochester area neighbors just like Christine. Neighbors just like you.

Mary Cariola Children's Center is one of eight agencies at the Al Sigi Center.

Al Sigi Center
A gathering of hearts
442-4100

AD COUNCIL ROCHESTER
Space donated to the Ad Council as a public service of Catholic Courier.

BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto
Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606
conveniently located near 390
(715) 254-5400

EXPERIENCE CLOUD 9...

It's like walking on air!
Pure comfort and great looks define this active EXTRA DEPTH® Shoe.

EXTRA DEPTH®
P. W. MINOR & SON, INC.

Men's Size Range 6 to 15/Widths A to 5E
Women's Size Range 3 to 12/Widths 4A to 5E

LOTEPIO SHOE STORE
Rochester's Finest Orthopedic Shoe Store
790 Ridge Rd. Webster • 671-8289
Mon-Fri 9-6: Sat 9-5