

## What must be preserved, discarded?

This morning I read an article by Dennis O'Brien, former president of the University of Rochester, in the summer 1997 edition of *The Key Reporter*, a publication of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. I came in possession of the journal not because I belong to the society but because a friend who knows of my respect and affection for Dennis kindly passed it along to me.

Dennis' article, "The Disappearing Moral Curriculum," compares contemporary educational philosophy with what he describes as the "moral" philosophy that influenced higher education 100 years ago. As you might expect, the earlier philosophy was more Bible centered and self-assured than the philosophy extant today.

For example, O'Brien notes that in 1897 an Eastern college offered the following description for a course in ethics: "The student is conducted through an examination of utilitarianism and other rejected theories to an immutable basis for right in the nature of God." He then notes that the same college's contemporary statement of academic purpose includes as a summary thought, "Human thought is not often capable of reaching universal certitude."

O'Brien gives a number of examples of differences between the two eras. All were interesting and helpful in following his thought. None was more stimulating to me, however, than his opinion that a way of summing up the differences between the two is to contrast education as recovery

### along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

and education as discovery.

The recovery theme bespeaks a study, memorization and reproduction of classic forms. The discovery theme carries with it a sense that we always must work to know the truth, but with the lively realization that we never really grasp it fully.

The article was of interest to me not only because its author is a friend; but also because his method of reflection on the university theme helped me to reflect on parallel themes in my ministry in the church. Very often I find myself trying to sort out or distinguish between what is fundamental and essential for Catholic life and what is not; between those realities that are complete and to be preserved at all costs and those about which we need to learn more; between pastoral practices and ways of thinking that have lasting value and those that once served us well but no longer fill the bill.

That kind of work is not always easy. Indeed, it would be impossible even to

think of doing it without the guidance of the church's living tradition. That tradition allows — I think it even demands — ongoing critical analysis of its self-understanding and pastoral practice if it is to remain a living tradition.

That is not to say that nothing is certain or that fundamental truth changes from age to age. It is merely a healthy reminder that these truths live in the hearts of human beings. And we know all too well how easy it is for us to distort, misunderstand and express poorly even the greatest of gifts. Paul spoke of treasures in earthen vessels.

What do you think about this theme? If you could begin married life again, knowing what you know now, would you change in any way how you have been spouse to your husband or wife? If you could return to day one of your priesthood, religious life, teaching career or whatever — knowing what you now know — what might you do in different fashion?

To use Dennis O'Brien's terms: If you could travel the same road again, knowing what you know now, what would you want to recover and what would you like to discover? Think about it.

Peace to all.

P.S. In his article Dennis used the word "palimpsest." I had to look it up. Do you know what it means? Be the first to send me the definition of palimpsest and I will send you a prize.



### LIFE PLANS

**Ordinary Life:** The Standard Whole Life Contract which provides permanent protection. TAX-DEFERRED CASH VALUE. Minimum issue is \$5,000 coverage. Ages 0-80. (1015)

**Yearly Renewable Term:** Maximum protection at LOWEST COST. Ideal for those who would like a lot of coverage and who want to save money. This plan has no cash value. Minimum issue is \$10,000 coverage. Ages 15-65. (6005/6006)

**Decreasing Term:** Useful as a mortgage protection plan since coverage decreases as the mortgage principal decreases. \$5,000 minimum. Ages 0-55. (1316/1321/1326/1331)

**Twenty Payment Life:** Ordinary Life payable for 20 years, providing protection, cash value, and dividends. Minimum \$5,000 coverage or \$150 annual premium. Ages 0-75. (1025)

**S-POL:** Our Single Premium Ordinary Life is a cash value insurance plan you can purchase with only ONE lump sum payment. There are no future premiums necessary. It's permanent insurance you own for life. Almost the entire premium is available for cash or loan at the end of the first year. Your guaranteed cash value continues to increase each year even though you pay no more premiums. (0995)

**Jet 25:** Juvenile Expanding Term to age 25 is perfect for children, providing LOWEST COST life insurance, guaranteed insurability, and eligibility for scholarship benefits. \$10,000 coverage for only \$20 per year for males, \$19 per year for females. Ages 0-23. (1348)

## FAMILY MATTERS

For more than 106 years, Polish Union of America has considered its members "family." And we treat them like family, offering the security of life insurance, annuities, and IRAs — and providing the camaraderie of social activities. Members are also granted fraternal benefits, like the National Fraternal Scholarship Program and the Orphan Benefit for young members who become orphaned. PUA is always looking for ways to help your family — because family matters.

## Polish Union of America

745 Center Road, P.O. Box 288, West Seneca, New York 14224-0288  
(716) 677-0220 • (800) 724-2782 • Fax (716) 677-0246

Wallace S. Piotrowski  
National President  
Alice Molenda  
National Secretary

Chester P. Korta  
National Vice President  
John J. Gonsiorek  
District Sales Manager



### RETIREMENT PLANS

Transfer your CD or IRA or 401K to a guaranteed and safe High Yield PUA Annuity Account.

High Yield - Current Rate 6.25%  
Guaranteed Rate — 4.5%

#### Plan Options:

- Single Premium Deferred Annuity
- Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity
- Individual Retirement Annuity (IRA)
- IRA and Pension Rollovers

#### ANNUITIES FROM THE PUA

The Polish Union of America provides a portfolio of annuity contracts to assist you in meeting your long and short-term financial needs and objectives. Our Single Premium and Flexible Deferred Annuities enable you to utilize a portion of your assets to accumulate guaranteed retirement income benefits in a safe, tax-deferred earnings environment. The plans fully recognize that short-term

financial needs may arise prior to retirement. (2900/2901/2000/2001/2702)



Become a New Member of PUA and receive a FREE 10" PUA bear under either offer!!

#### I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON:

- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) (2001/2901)
- Single Premium Deferred Annuities (2900/2702)
- Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities (2000)
- Life Insurance
- I am interested in the Single Premium offer for my grand children. (0995)
- I am interested in the PUA's Alternate Plan for Final Expenses. (0995)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### POLISH UNION OF AMERICA

Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society — Founded 1890  
PUA — Strong, Caring, and Joining Hands to Touch Lives ...