



Knights Digest



Union Council 4504

VOL. 9, NO. 7

UNION, N. J.

MARCH, 1967

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY

There exists in the United States an insidious conspiracy, operating under the guise of protecting the theoretical American principle of the separation of church and state, which threatens the very existence of Catholic education in this country. The danger stems from certain legal mechanisms by Mrs. Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the feminist-atheist, and her Free Thought Society of America. When these actions are stripped of their facade of pseudo-constitutional interest, there is laid bare a deep-seated hate of anything religious. The society first came to prominence two years ago when they won their fight in the Supreme Court to ban prayer in the public schools. The effectiveness with which this group has engendered a fear of constitutional encroachment into the minds of our legislators was recently apparent when Sen. Everett M. Dirksen's motion for a proposed amendment permitting prayers in public schools failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote.

The edict of the Supreme Court, while irksome in that it thwarts the will of the majority, does not in itself constitute a serious threat to Catholic education. Actually it was this very issue of religion and prayers in the public schools that lead to the great schism in American education and the establishment of a Catholic school system.

The model for public education in the United States in large measure traces its origin to Horace Mann, a Massachusetts lawyer, named as the first secretary of the first board of education ever created. Mann felt deeply that education had to impart not merely information, but moral ideas. He believed that everything an individual needs to know of a religious or moral nature is directly available to him in the words of the Bible. He thus suggested that the Bible become a standard fixture in every school so that students could be exposed to its moral lessons by hearing them read aloud each day. To Catholics, Mann's emphasis on the Bible as the sole authority was by its very essence Protestant. Moreover, it was the Protestant version that was read in public schools. Faced with what they considered an assault on their freedom of conscience by the Protestant majority, the Catholics felt impelled to establish their own schools.

(continued next column)

What is of paramount importance to Catholics and what constitutes a distinct danger to Catholic education is the issue of state financial aid to religious institutions and an attack on city exemptions for church buildings presently before the Supreme Court of the United States. Much of the legal action has been instigated by Mrs. O'Hair and her group.

The Maryland Supreme Court — in four test cases — barred state grants to three church-connected colleges on the ground that these schools were "permeated" with religion. The Maryland court upheld a grant to a fourth church-affiliated school because it was only "remotely" controlled by an organized church.

Both sides have appealed. If the Supreme Court refuses to hear the cases, the effect will be to uphold the ban, jeopardizing Catholic higher education all over the country at least at the state level. Ultimately the ban could be extended to federal grants. Today there is no practical way for Catholic colleges to completely pay for the construction programs they require to meet their needs without government aid. The assistance being sought from local, state, and federal agencies in no way exceeds what is now being granted to other private institutions.

In her most recent suit, Mrs. O'Hair contends that she has to pay higher real estate taxes on her property because of tax exemptions for religious houses of worship. Further she views these exemptions as violations of the First Amendment prohibiting state support of religion. The Maryland court has already ruled that these exemptions are "direct" state grants.

If Catholics desire to provide parochial-school facilities for their children, then it is clearly their duty to give financial support for these schools from their own pockets — even though in a sense their tax support of public educational institutions constitutes double taxation. However, to further financially burden them by tax assessments of the properties of their Church, would present an almost insurmountable task.

In this controversy, fraught with jealousies and prejudices, many individuals lose sight of the fact that the Catholic school system is now an important part of the whole national educational apparatus.

Have You Written A Letter Lately?

The written word can be a tremendous force for good or evil. Good letters could be the breeding ground for ideas that could inspire social, cultural and educational acts beneficial not only to the community but to yourself and family as well.

Develop the habit of good letter writing. Everyone likes to receive them, especially your elected representative. More often than not, most of them do not know our feelings because we do not let ourselves be heard. They will never know our desires unless we tell them.

Have you made your voice known? If not, why not start today? Letter writing requires only a few minutes of your time. God may have given you many ideas that may be helpful to your fellow man. It is your responsibility and privilege to share them with others.

Don't put it off, write today. Start the letter off on the right foot.

Be constructive.

Be specific, get to the point.

Be objective.

Be brief and neat.

Be factual, stick to the point.

Be yourself, never use form letters.

As the Christophers say, "Be assured that the slightest effort you make will bear fruit either now or in the years ahead. God will see to that." Now, reach out pick up that pen and paper and start writing. Time grows short. If evil should win out, it is because YOU did nothing.

As a starter, why not drop a line to your elected representative? If you wish to write to your Congressman, he can be contacted by addressing him in care of the House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. If you wish to write to either of our U. S. Senators (Clifford Case and/or Harrison Williams) address them in care of the Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

On a more local level, State Senator Mildred Barry Hughes, a long time fighter against pornography and the sponsor of a current bill dealing with that subject can be reached at The State House, Trenton, N. J. If you should wish to write a letter to the Governor just address your note to Hon. Richard Hughes, Governor, State House, Trenton, N.J.

WANTED:

Practical Catholics for membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Knight Digest

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CALENDAR

MARCH 13 — MONDAY
Regular Council Meeting
8:15 P.M., Council Home

MARCH 15 — WEDNESDAY
Regular Council Meeting
4th Degree, Council Home

MARCH 19 — SUNDAY
Family Life Conference
2:30 P.M.-5 P.M.
Council Home
Speaker:
Rev. Edmund P. Murphy
Wives invited

MARCH 20 — MONDAY
First Degree
8:15 P.M., Council Home

MARCH 27 — MONDAY
Regular Council Meeting
8:15 P.M., Council Home

MU 6-7464

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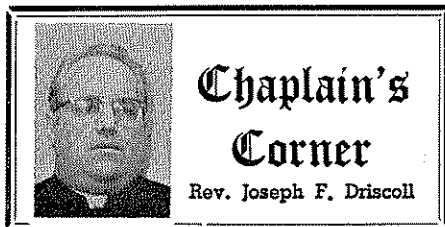
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Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Joseph F. Driscoll

Beloved sons, what is the greatest need of the Church at the present time?

We ask this of you who are led here by love for the Church, for the Church in her unity, authenticity and authority, of you who have some knowledge of the state of fervor and renewal in which the Church finds itself after the council and who surely take part with good will in the post-conciliar process of renewal, of reform, of innovation, of development which places both the clergy and the faithful in ferment and movement of thought, activity, customs, and institutions; of you who feel the stimulation of the Holy Spirit to arise from conformism, inertia, lukewarmness and to do something good and useful for the Church.

We shall give today a most simple answer which you can understand and accept because you are good, faithful and fervent; the Church is in need of obedience.

Yes, you sons who love the Church; the Church needs obedience. And more than a passive and enforced external obedience, she needs an inner and spontaneous spirit of obedience.

But if we have understood something of the central doctrine of the council regarding the mystery of the Church, we shall easily arrive at the persuasion that obedience, even before being a purely formal and juridical homage to ecclesiastical laws and submission to ecclesiastical authority, is first of all a penetration and acceptance of the mystery of Christ, who saved us by means of obedience. It is a continuation and imitation of this fundamental act of His: His acceptance of the will of the Father. It is an understanding of the principle which dominates the entire plan of incarnation and redemption.

Thus obedience becomes assimilation into Christ, who is the Divine Obedient One. It becomes the basic norm for our pedagogy of Christian formation; it becomes the indispensable coefficient of the interior unity of the Church, the source and sign of its peace.

It becomes an effective cooperation in Christ's evangelizing mission. It becomes the ascetic practice of humility and the spiritual practice of charity.

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

Last year as a prelude to Christian love, the Protestant and Catholic clergy of the township of Union, sat down with each other in a friendly manner to discuss matters of common concern. The emphasis was on mutual understanding, rather than on conversion or compromise. Although this action marked a memorable milestone in the community relations of Union, one aspect was lacking to make the spirit of ecumenism in our town complete. If the movement was to grow, if Christian unity was to develop, it would have to inspire not only the clergy but the laity as well. It was, therefore, inevitable that a service for Christian unity such as evidenced recently, should come to fruition.

In this initial effort at common prayer was reflected the kindling hope for a growing similarity in Catholic and Protestant worship. For those who consider such aspirations unorthodox, they have but to consider the efforts of Pope Paul on behalf of a common Bible or the changes manifest in the liturgical movement in Roman Catholicism. Neither can this be considered as exclusively a Catholic effort. Many Protestants agree that more symbolic ritual is finding its way into their services, and that sermons are being somewhat de-emphasized.

If this movement in our town is to gain further momentum, we Knights, as representatives of the lay leadership of Union, must take concrete steps to continue the dialogue. First we can contribute incalculably to it by prayer, which is necessary in drawing the dialogue to a successful conclusion. The second contribution we can make is to follow the admonition of our clergy at the Unity service that we continue its spirit of ecumenism in our homes by participating in "living room dialogue." These exchanges of home visits with our non-Catholic brethren presents us with an effective way of introducing them to our Church, its liturgy and teachings. One should not approach these meetings as the unfolding of a great ecumenical drama, rather they are a friendly interchange of the religious views between neighbors. Care should be taken, however, that these conversations do not dissipate into gossipy and fruitless coffee klatsches. No doubt the first meetings will be slow, plodding, and general, as we grope for mutual understanding. In time, following Christ's simple precept that we love one another, we may yet be one.

REMINDER

Are you the booster we're looking for? If so, please send your \$1.00 to Tony Duneliwicz, Journal Chairman for our Tenth Annual Ball.

Support Our Advertisers

Thanks to their generous support we were able to print the Digest again this year. Return the favor.

Grand Knight's Message

Walter Wasowski



Catholic Activity Chairman Bob Palasits, in cooperation with our Worthy Chaplain, provided those in attendance at St. Michael's Church recently an interesting and informative afternoon. "Confronting Christ", with Father James O'Brien of Jersey City conducting the conference, succeeded in its purpose of arousing thought on the role of the Christian in today's world. Informative discussion and comment followed Father O'Brien's presentation which included some provocative and controversial points.

Every Knight of Columbus should avail himself of every opportunity to participate in programs which will aid them to become the "intelligent", "informed" and "active" Catholics worthy to be called "the strong right arm of the church". Let us, in the future, be sure that our failure to participate does not stem from the many "time-worn" excuses usually reserved as reasons for not attending religious functions.

The efforts of our Youth Activity Chairman Joe McEnroe and his dedicated committee are certainly deserving of special commendation. A morning spent at the Four Seasons Bowling Alleys over-seeing the operation of the Youth Bowling League would seem sufficient for a day. The Committee, on a recent Saturday, took on the additional task of taking three busloads of our youngsters to the South Mountain Arena in West Orange for an afternoon of ice skating.

The souvenir journal commemorating our "Tenth Annual Ball" is due to go to the printer very shortly. Journal Chairman "Tony" Duneliwicz would certainly be appreciative of any assistance in the solicitation of ads, patrons or boosters.

In closing, on behalf of the Officers and members of the Council, I extend sincere condolences to our Worthy Chaplain Father Driscoll and his family on the recent loss of their mother.

GRAND BALL 1967

On Saturday evening April 1, 1967, Union Council will hold its Annual "Ball" at the Council home.

A cocktail hour has been planned, followed by dinner.

Tickets may be purchased at Kay's Hardware Store at \$20.00 per couple.

Music will be provided for dancing by Buddy Dee and his orchestra.

Seating will be arranged ten people to a table, and only a limited number of tables will be available. So, a word to the wise should be sufficient. **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.** Dress will be optional.



Knight of the Month

MARCH 1967

SAVERIO A. BRUZZI

Our Knight of the Month is a man whose artistic ability has been displayed and admired by everyone in the Council, Saverio "Sam" Bruzzi. Sam as he is better known in the Council resides in Union at 638 Colonial Arms Road with his wife, Jane, of 16 years and their three daughters Diane, Denise and Maryanne.

The Bruzzi's are communicants of Holy Spirit Church, where Dad is an active member of their Holy Name Society. Sam, a candidate for the forth coming Fourth Degree is employed by Westinghouse in Newark for the past 17 years. We are all aware of Sam's artistic talents but how many know of his proficiency on the harmonica.

May God grant you continued success in your chosen field.

Knights of Columbus State Convention

- 1967 -

Plans are now underway for our Annual State Convention at Atlantic City, on May 26th and 27th.

Reservations are available at the Colony Motel at \$12.00 per couple.

Hospitality room fee is \$10.00 per couple. All brother Knights who are interested in attending this Convention please contact Bill Donnelly, Ben Raymond, John Picyk or Ed Stonack.

Please keep posted for further plans Let's make it the best ever for Union Council.

Charity

The Sacrament of love is the Eucharist. We ought to love one another with that love with which the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us with the love with which He loves the heavenly father. We should love our brethren with the love with which we love Jesus.

Remember in your Prayers

the Soul of
MARY DRISCOLL



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Another thought is that when and if your son decides to join the Knights later, he will not have to take out any more insurance for the purpose of joining. Always remember you can never lose your Knights of Columbus insurance because you leave our Order, even if you are suspended. Of course the same applies to your family.

We have a complete insurance program for you, whether you are self-employed, an employer, or an employee. Why not take advantage of low cost, sincere and complete service with the largest Catholic Fraternal Society **IN THE WORLD.**

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Your prayers are requested for the souls of the following:

Mother of Father Driscoll
Mother of Clifford Morris

And a speedy recovery for those who are ill:

Mike Choppy
Edward Kleissler
Edward Cook
Sam Pennetta
Walter Adamczyk
Angelo Orchardo
Ralph Mercurio

If you know of the death or illness of a brother Knight or a member of his family please notify immediately Fraternal Activities Chairman Andy Tobia — MU 7-9348.

GET READY!!! --- to SWIM

Yes, it is only March but the 1967 Swim Season is less than ninety days away. **GET SET** — — — by mailing your dues (\$65.00) now to Columbian Swim Club, Box 1206, Union, N. J. As you know due must be paid by April 1st. If you plan to withdraw from the Club for any reason please send notice in writing to the above address.