

Catholic Church's Political Influence Over Its Members Asked of Editor

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

How much political influence does the Catholic Church exercise over its members? That question will come up in a great many private conversations during the next few months. It lies at the heart of the religious issue that has been raised in connection with Sen. John F. Kennedy's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Since the discussion is inevitable, many thoughtful Catholics as well as non-Catholics believe it should be brought into the open now, with the facts laid on the table as objectively and fairly as possible.

The distinguished Catholic editor John Cogley points out in Commonweath magazine that the facts can be obscured by two kinds of extremism.

One is that of the religious bigot who depicts all Catholics as puppets on strings pulled by the Vatican.

The other is that of well-meaning people who are "so imbued with the spirit of good will and tolerance" that they deny any difference between Protestant and Catholic attitudes toward the authority of the church.

Cities' Important Difference

There is a difference, says Cogley, and it is an "important" one.

"Unlike the Protestant, the Catholic believes that the church is a visible body, hierarchically organized, which speaks with God-given authority on questions of faith and morals."

In other words, a Catholic, if he is true to his faith, regards his church as a divinely established institution which has been endowed with infallible teaching authority in certain realms. A Protestant may subject any teaching of his church to the test of private conscience, accepting or rejecting it as he sees fit.

But a Catholic who asserted such a broad right would be guilty of very grave sin in the eyes of his church.

Cogley notes, however, that the areas in which the Catholic Church speaks to its members with infallible authority are "very clearly defined."

They are the areas of "faith and morals."

Disagree On Application

In applying the church's basic moral teachings to specific problems, Catholics can and often do disagree. Even when high prelates of the church have expressed forceful opinions on political issues, a Catholic office holder may continue to hold opposite views. This was demonstrated recently when the Catholic premier of Italy publicly took issue with Pope John XXIII, on the need for limitations on press freedom.

What all this comes down to is that a Catholic, while bound in principle to obey the moral teachings of his church, is free in practice to exercise a considerable degree of private judgment in deciding which moral teachings are applicable, and exactly how they apply, to specific public problems.

Or, as Cogley puts it, "the individual Catholic's conscience is formed by the teachings of his church" but his decisions on "concrete problems" are "not easily predictable."

It is pertinent in this connection to observe that individual Catholics may vary widely in their responsiveness to guidance by church authorities. Some — for example, members of religious orders — readily accept a very high degree of ecclesiastical discipline over their attitudes and actions. At the other extreme are nominal Catholics who ignore the teachings of the church even in areas — such as attendance at Mass and birth control — where it has been spelled out most explicitly.

Kennedy Expresses View

The Catholic Church has no monopoly on this phenomenon. It exists in every denomination. There are, for example, Quakers who ardently uphold their fellowship's traditional pacifism. And there are Quakers like Vice President Richard M. Nixon who do not subscribe to pacifism at all.

There is, in short, no pat formula for determining how much influence any church can exert over any one of its members. It all depends on the circumstances — and the man.

Senator Kennedy expressed his personal view of the matter in a Look magazine interview last year. He said: "Whatever one's religion in his private life may be, for the office holder nothing takes precedence over his oath to uphold the Constitution and all its parts — including the First Amendment and the strict separation of church and state."

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Apostles' Creed To Be Sermon Series Subject

Beginning Sunday at the First Presbyterian church Dr. D. Kirkland West will preach a series of sermons on the Apostles' Creed. The topics will be, "I Believe in God," "I Believe in Jesus Christ," and "I Believe in the Holy Catholic Church."

The Westminster choir will sing, "Lead Me Lord" at the 9:30 a.m. service and the chancel choir will sing as their anthem, "Be Thou Near Me, Lord" for the second service. Karen Lytle will sing "O Saviour, Hear Me!" at both services.

Junior High Fellowship will meet at the church Sunday at 5 p.m. for a program to be led by Phil Frohnmayer and Jon Stewart. Worship and refreshments will be provided by the eighth grade.

Westminster Fellowship for Senior High young people will be held Sunday at the church beginning at 7 p.m. Caroline Denyer and Ruth Milligan will lead the program with Fireside following at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Jones, 49 South Modoc ave. WF Youth night will be held at the church Wednesday, choir practice at 5:15 p.m. followed by potluck supper at 6 o'clock and Bible study.

Geneva Fellowship meets each Friday at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study at the home of the Rev. and Mrs. G. Robert Jacks, 649 J st.

Saturday, Jan. 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. a musical workshop will be held at the church. This will be conducted by Mrs. Norman S. Uhl, minister of music from Portland. Mrs. Uhl taught the music workshop at Lewis and Clark Training school this summer and also a music workshop at Pacific university.

This workshop is open to all interested in any field of music. Reservations may be made by calling the church office, SPing 2-2830. The reservation fee includes luncheon and nursery.

Next Sunday will be missionary Sunday at the morning worship hour. As is customary, a separate offering for missionary work will be taken for the purpose of opening more of the closed churches in rural America. Village Missions, with which the local church is affiliated, heads such an enterprise.

Young people of the church will meet at the Elga Abbott home next Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Dedication of Altar Set Sunday

A complete altar set, comprising cross, candlesticks, and flower vases, will be dedicated to the glory of God and the memory of Mary Geneva Kengla by the Rev. George R. V. Bolster at the 9:30 a.m. service at St. Mark's Episcopal church Sunday.

The late Mrs. Victor Kengla, who died last year following a prolonged illness, was a communicant and church school teacher at St. Mark's for many years. Following the dedication the altar set, given by her family and parents, will be carried in procession by former members of her class from the church to the Guild Hall chapel and placed upon the altar.

The entire junior school will attend the dedication rites, and friends of Mrs. Kengla and her family are invited to be present.

Parents' Sunday Set At Christian Church

Gold Hill—Jan. 10 has been designated as "Parents Sunday" by Mrs. Rex Allison, superintendent of the Gold Hill Christian church Sunday school. During the Sunday school hour which begins at 9:45 a.m., recognition will be given to youngsters, who have been successful in getting both parents to attend Sunday school, on that date.

"He Is No Fool" will be the title of the sermon by Miss Jean Cunningham, minister of the Gold Hill Christian church, at 11 a.m.

Bible study will be held each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. instead of Tuesday evenings. Further information may be obtained by telephoning either Mrs. Rex Allison ULrich 5-1179 or Mrs. Leonard Andrews ULrich 5-1140.

Ascension Lutheran Sets Sunday Events

"The Great Preacher" will be the Sunday 11 a.m. worship topic by the Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson, pastor, at Ascension Lutheran church, 2501 Barnett rd.

Baptism of children, confirmation of adults and reception of new members will be held during the service. Dr. and Mrs. Justin Dyrud will sing.

A potluck lunch will follow the worship service. The congregational meeting will be held around 2 p.m.

Pre-Easter Program Starts Sunday at First Christian

The pre-Easter program of the First Christian church will get under way this week. Sunday the Rev. William C. Piper will preach at both services on the subject "Build the Church Through Prayer." At the first service the junior choir will sing "Prayer" and at the second service the chancel choir will give the anthem "Rejoice."

The School of Missions will continue Sunday, starting at 6 p.m. with study groups for all age levels. The adult group will continue the study of primitive Africa with Mrs. Ralph Cook as leader. "Wem-Bi" portraying an elderly African man will again tell stories of the folklore of the African tribes. At the general assembly the Christian Youth Fellowship will present the program.

Monday will begin the week of prayer. About 168 people will take part in this and each person will spend one-half hour alone in the prayer room.

The Angel choir which was organized recently of children of the first four grades, will practice Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in the church annex. Miss Julie Latham will direct them.

A new leadership training class will start Monday evening in the church annex. Mrs. Glenn McKerrrow will be the teacher. This class is primarily for Bible school teachers and others who are interested in learning teaching methods.

Tuesday the elders of the church will meet at the McKerrrow home at 7:30 p.m.

'Know God,' Speaker Says

"To gain freedom, healing, and harmony, learn to know God spiritually—seek and find the truth of being."

So stated Joseph Linggen Wood, Vancouver, B.C., in a public lecture on Christian Science last evening at the Medford High school auditorium.

Mr. Wood, a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, said that the basis of all human troubles is ignorance, ignorance of God's power, presence and love.

"It is seeking which unfolds the realization that one of the main points emphasized in the Bible is the supreme importance of learning to know God, to gain a spiritual understanding of Him."

The speaker challenged material theories that present God as unknowable or as responsible for suffering and disaster.

Speaking of Christ Jesus' promise of life more abundant, the lecturer pointed out that the Master taught that freedom and abundance would be gained by loving God with all the heart, mind, soul, and strength and loving one's neighbor as one's self.

Christian Science teaches, he concluded, "that the way to gain the consciousness of God's ever-presence is this: we must follow the teachings and example of Christ Jesus; we must purify, spiritualize our thinking."

Trio to Sing Sunday At Gold Hill Church

Gold Hill—"The Task of the Church" will be the title of the sermon by the Rev. O. L. Kendal, pastor of the Gold Hill Community Methodist church Sunday at 11 a.m.

The church trio, Mrs. C. Norman Gail, Mrs. Paul Mollay, and Mrs. Roy Eskew, will sing a number during the church hour. Mrs. John Bruce will be organist.

Instead of the regular Bible study Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Roy Eskew, chairman of the commission on mission of the local church, will be in charge of the first lesson from the book entitled "The Way of Africa." Slides of Africa will be shown at this time as well as during the church school hour which begins at 9:45 a.m.

Human Relations is St. Mark's Subject

In concert with the Protestant Episcopal Church throughout the nation, services at St. Mark's Episcopal church Sunday will focus on human relations on the inter-national level, with special emphasis on the increasing threat to civilization from the atomic "cold war."

Speaker for the occasion will be Harlan P. Bosworth Jr., vice president of the California Oregon Power company. He will also enlarge on some of the peaceful potential of the atomic age. His address will be presented in place of the sermon at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

First Presbyterian Church

Eighth & Holly • Phone SP 2-2830
Dr. D. Kirkland West, Pastor
A cordial welcome awaits you Sunday morning.
Services 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Church School classes for all ages 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

MEDFORD CHURCH DIRECTORY

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalm 23: 1-3.

- ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELC
2501 Barnett rd.
Elvin S. Tollefson pastor
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.—Sunday school and Bible class
9:45 a.m.—Divine worship
Wednesday: 8 p.m.—Senior choir
Thursday: 8 p.m.—Inquirer's class
Saturday: 9:30 a.m.—1st year confirmation class
10:45 a.m.—2nd year confirmation class
- BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
1225 E. McAndrews Rd.
L. D. Krause, pastor
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.—Sunday school
11 a.m.—Worship service
Wednesday: 7 p.m.—Bible and prayer hour
- CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
608 North Central ave.
John Heberling, minister
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.—Bible school
11 a.m.—Morning worship
6:30 p.m.—Youth hour
7:30 p.m.—Evening worship
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
648 South Ivy st.
D. E. Nelson, bishop
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.—Priesthood meeting
10:30 a.m.—Sunday school
6:30 p.m.—Sacrament meeting
Wednesday: 10 a.m.—Relief society
7:30 p.m.—Mutual Improvement
Thursday: 4 p.m.—Primary
- CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Escil Hiser, pastor
Sunday: 9:45 a.m.—Church school
11 a.m.—Worship
6:30 p.m.—Adult Bible study, youth fellowship, junior-hi fellowship and children's Bible hour
7:30 p.m.—Evening worship
Friday: 8 p.m.—Booster class

Alaskan Films To Be Shown

"Land of the Midnight Sun," an Alaskan feature picture by Eldon and Lela Hutchins, will be shown Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Lincoln school gymnasium, Rogue River Academy is sponsoring the program.

The first film, "Alcan Travelogue," is the story of the 1,526 mile wilderness trip Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins took last year in their pickup-camper from Dawson Creek to Fairbanks over the Alcan highway. Included is a side trip to the famed Dawson City and Klondike Gold Rush area.

The second film, "Alaskan Wildlife," shows all kinds of Alaskan animals, including Kodiak grizzly, moose, caribou, buffalo, and many others. The pictures are all in color with sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins make their home in College Place, Wash., where they have a son and daughter attending Walla Walla College academy. Their 23 months old baby girl went with them on their trip. They are visiting Mrs. Hutchins' brother, Don M. Wilson and family of South State rd.

Mr. Wilson is associate pastor of the Medford area Seventh-day Adventist churches. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins' next trip is to be down the Mackenzie river in Alaska by canoe.

Guild Officers To Be Installed Sunday

"Gifts of the Wise Men" will be the sermon subject at the Zion Lutheran church, Fourth st. and Oakdale ave., Sunday by the Rev. H. C. Covert.

There will be an installation of officers of the Women's Guild at the service and the sacrament of holy baptism will be held. There will be a coffee hour immediately after the service.

A meeting of the Senior Luther League will be held at the church at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The Sunday school teachers meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. and the annual congregational meeting Thursday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Subject Told for Sunday

"How can we know that the Bible is the Word of God?" is the topic chosen for the 11 a.m. Sunday sermon at St. Peter's Lutheran church by the pastor, the Rev. John E. Simon.

The Sunday school for all age groups begins at 9: