

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

New Zealand Update Renewals of The PLAIN TRUTH and YOUTH 83 made up a major part of the 6,000 items of mail received in November. Recently, the rate of responses to the first renewal letter for The PLAIN TRUTH has been running at around 45%. After the second, third and fourth renewals, the renewal rate for the magazine has been reaching a very pleasing level of around 70%. Renewals for YOUTH 83 are currently running at 55%. The renewal program for The GOOD NEWS is now being instituted.

We've now received over 1,900 responses to the full-colour inserts advertising The PLAIN TRUTH we placed in 231,000 newspapers in October. Over 550 responses have come in from the June 1983 READER'S DIGEST ad, and we're looking forward now to the second READER'S DIGEST ad in the December issue.

Mr. Armstrong's latest semiannual letter will be in the mail the first week of December, so the office staff is bracing itself for a big influx of letters.

We're preparing for a very busy and eventful summer in other ways too. The usual hectic time of planning for S.E.P. has a couple of added excitements this year. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is scheduled to be here in early January to visit S.E.P. and speak to the brethren in both Auckland and Wellington. Mr. Armstrong's visit will top off another exciting summer activity, "Ambassadors to New Zealand," a cycle tour organised by the Big Sandy P.E. Department. Faculty and students from Pasadena and Big Sandy, as well as YOU members from the U.S.A., Canada and Australia will join with local YOU members on this three-week tour.

To help provide for the many upcoming activities, the Eternal blessed His Church here with a 17.5% increase in mail income for November, bringing the year-to-date increase to 19.4%.

From Australia Income for November registered a most encouraging 29.2% increase over the same month last year, bringing our year-to-date increase to 12.2%.

Mail from interested readers came in steadily throughout the month and a total of 16,935 letters were processed. Mail year to date is currently registering a 12.5% decrease, primarily due to the drop in the number of letters reaching us from Asian countries. Measures introduced at the beginning of the year to control the burgeoning growth of the Asian PLAIN TRUTH subscription list have been effective and this has brought about a corresponding drop in mail from the Asian area. For Australia our letter count year to date is up 5.8%.

The advertisement in the November issue of READER'S DIGEST offering a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH magazine has pulled 1,221 requests so far.

The volume of literature mailed out year to date shows an excellent 57.6% increase over the same period last year, reflecting the increasing subscriber interest in the publications of the Church.

Our Summer Educational Programme begins December 27 and plans are progressing for what portends to be the most outstanding S.E.P. ever for our young people in this country. A hive of activity at the S.E.P. site at Lake Moogerah is already under way, and working bees [volunteer work parties] from the local church areas are making valuable contributions to the preparation of the grounds and buildings. This year 240 campers from Australia and Asia have been accepted, and excitement is already mounting in anticipation of Mr. Armstrong's visit to the camp in January.

Canadian Report November, as expected, turned out to be a very busy month for the office staff. The bulk of the Direct Mail returns came in during the second and third weeks of the month. Unfortunately, we did not receive the 6% response we had been hoping for. Presently we are running at a 3.5% response with replies still coming in. This represents 24,796 responses.

Working extremely hard, the data processing staff entered all the responses into the computer in a very short space of time. Once entered, reports were generated which allowed Mr. David Hulme and associates to analyze the lists we had used and the various Direct Mail packages. Some packages, as expected, pulled a much better response than others, and some of the lists were considerably more productive than others. By refining our mailing lists and improving our mailing package, we are looking for an increase of a few percentage points in our response ratio. The next mailing utilizing our latest findings will be in December, although it will only be a fraction of the size of our first mailing.

The November READER'S DIGEST ad in the English- and French-language editions is bringing a much better response than its counterpart of June 1983. The first English-language edition brought a total of 1,936 cards and coupons. The current one--which has been running barely one month--has generated 2,677 replies. The next READER'S DIGEST advertisement will be tailored specifically for Canada.

Income for November, while on the plus side, was nevertheless lower than expected. We registered a 3% increase over last year's figure, bringing the year-to-date total to a plus 12.8%. We are not certain why this fall-off occurred, but we certainly hope it is only temporary and not the start of a trend. Reports from the ministry show unemployment is still a problem in many areas, so this may have affected the income.

November mail figures are as follows:

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|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Total Incoming Mail: | 59,159 | (a plus 2.2%) |
| Total Outgoing Mail: | 297,034 | (a plus 60.1%) |

November saw us mail out Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter, thus the large percentage of increase in outgoing mail. However, this will mean a busy December and January handling returns.

TO BE READ IN U.S. AND CANADIAN CHURCHES1984 Feast of Tabernacles in China

We have received hundreds of applications for the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles in China. It is exciting to see everyone's enthusiasm. In fact, the applications have exceeded our housing capacity.

In the next few weeks we will finalize the itineraries for each tour, and work out the number of members we can accept. We plan to notify everyone of his or her status within three or four weeks.

--Festival Office

Comments From Monthly Church ReportsFrom the United States

NASHVILLE, TN--JAMES FRIDDLE: The Y.O.U. Bible studies and Y.E.S. lessons are a vital part of teaching the youth and parents of the Church. One can certainly see the parents and children being drawn together through these studies. Our thanks go to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and all those involved in the Y.E.S. lessons and Y.O.U. functions.

CHICO-EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: A number of the brethren are still unemployed. I decided to call the personnel director for this county to get more information about the Job Partnership Training Act (the new program which replaced C.E.T.A.). The director was very impressed that a church pastor would be so willing to help his unemployed members. He went above and beyond to give me helpful information and to open doors for these brethren to receive jobs and/or training.

KANSAS CITY (SOUTH), KS--BRUCE GORE: There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm for God's Church among the brethren. Mr. Armstrong's leadership and world events are keeping people on the alert!

BINGHAMTON, NY--BRITTON TAYLOR: PM activity remains very strong. I received more visit requests from Pasadena for one month than at any other time. PMS constantly remark how impressed they are with the content of the telecast and Mr. Armstrong's delivery.

TACOMA, WA--MEL DAHLGREN: God is blessing us with an outstanding number of new PMS who are coming right along toward baptism. Frankly, it is quite exciting to see the new ones, only half a year old, making "unheard of" spiritual progress, headway and giant strides in the right direction!

RICHMOND, VA--KENNETH GIESE: Our PT stand in the Richmond Airport is doing very well. It seems almost impossible to keep it stocked!

From Canada

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA--BILL RABEY: Brethren were very excited about the PLAIN TRUTH lecture held at the University of Victoria. It was the talk of the Church for many days. Indeed it was the highlight of the month and one of the highlights of the year for them. We are all very happy with the results of the lecture.

LONDON, ONTARIO--RICHARD WILDING: We have had seven to eight new people attend services as a result of the PLAIN TRUTH lectures. The Church continues to be stable with no general widespread problems. The two tapes on marriage were much appreciated, especially since, as elsewhere, they dealt with the number one personal problem of brethren.

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND--DAVID L. SHERIDAN: The two taped sermons on family relations were very well received. New visit requests continue at a high rate. Even though Christmas draws nearer, most seem willing to reject it totally. The superb Ambassador College ENVOY had members looking over the copies long after services.

WESTLOCK, ALBERTA--ROBERT J. MILLMAN: The economy continues to cycle downward in this area causing members to scramble for whatever odd jobs might come available. Hardships do test faith and endurance, and members are bearing up well. Everyone continues to remember Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. His example of endurance and faithfulness becomes more important as the years go by and the times become more trying. We are experiencing slow but stable growth.

From the Caribbean

NASSAU, BAHAMAS--KINGSLEY O. MATHER: God is blessing His Church in the Bahamas. PM activity is on the increase. We have received a number of requests for visits since the Feast. Sunday, November 27 was a special day for our brethren in Abaco: the first regular Bible study was held with seven adults and nine children present.

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD--VICTOR SIMPSON: Requests for visits are still running high. It is actually very challenging now to keep up with the first-time requests and visits as well as the follow-up visiting. There seem to be many people who have been exposed to the truth for a long time who are now beginning to respond.

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA--PAUL KRAUTMANN: Despite the worsening economic situation, members are still cheerful and trusting in God to provide their needs.

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA--VICTOR SIMPSON: All the brethren survived the recent violent events in Grenada without injury or significant damage to property. Services were held as normal. We should be able to have Bible studies again next month. Generally, I feel the brethren have benefited spiritually from these recent events.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

1983 Record Year for Mail Received

It seems that with every other PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT we report another record has been broken. Once again, we're happy to announce that another milestone has been reached--more than 3.8 million pieces of mail have been received by the Church in Pasadena this year. This is an all-time high and a two percent increase over the previous best year, which was 1982.

Mail counts for 1983 had trailed slightly behind 1982 for most of the year. But because we have received a high number of responses from the recent semiannual letter, the new record was set this week.

Literature Serves Senior Citizens

Among the many letters the Church receives are those from older persons, some in their eighties and even nineties. Many of them have health problems and are limited in their contact with the outside world. They rely on our free literature because it keeps them in touch with current events, gives them encouragement and provides a positive outlook on life, besides increasing their understanding of God's Word. Despite limited incomes, quite a few send donations. Following are some of the letters received.

I am a senior citizen and wish I had known about you and your church and college long ago, as I could have lived a much better life. I have been a Christian, or so I thought for a long while, but you opened my eyes to a lot clearer meaning of being a true follower of Christ. I am enclosing a donation to the Worldwide Church of God to help in reaching others.

Mrs. M.H. (Oakland, CA)

I watch and listen to you each Sunday morning. I am a retired farmer past 88 years of age. My wife is dead; I live alone. Your program brings comfort to a lonely old man. Please send The PLAIN TRUTH and your booklet on Revelation.

J.P. (Vandergridt, PA)

Please accept a humble offering in appreciation for the free literature. We are especially grateful as senior citizens who enjoy The PLAIN TRUTH magazine and have benefited from it. My husband is a housebound handicapper who has had two strokes and is paralyzed. Your literature has been a godsend to him and the informative articles have given him a different outlook on life, which has proven to be beneficial.

May God bless all of you for the good you are doing in this world for people like ourselves and others. We pass our literature on

to other senior citizens in our community who are interested. You'd be surprised how many are.

J. & M.K. (Grosse Ile, MI)

I love my PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I look forward to it every month. I can't wait to read your "Personal" message. I'm a poor writer and a slow reader. I have arthritis in my hands so it's no fun to write. I love the many articles about world affairs. They are interesting.

I'm a 71-year-old widow and don't have much money, just my Social Security to live on, but I'm sending this to help in our Lord's work. I have learned a lot I never would have known if it weren't for your booklets.

V.R. (Lyons, WI)

Your messages, books and magazines have been a real blessing to us. For years the Holy Bible has been our church. Much of the Bible we did not understand very well. We listened to many broadcasts of the various churches and were more confused than ever. Then we happened to receive your message over TV one morning and answers to many of our questions became more and more clear. Now, we have most of your booklets and magazines.

We are old people, crippled to some extent with arthritis, so we have time to think and study God's Word. Sometimes I think our afflictions are really a blessing after all. My husband will be 91 in April and I will be 94 in May. We have so much to be thankful for. God has been so good to us, and we pray for you too. Thank you for the hope you are sending to our troubled world.

Mr. & Mrs. P.H. (West Sacramento, CA)

It is always a pleasure for us elderly people to receive your magazine and to hear your Sunday broadcast on TV. Some of us cannot get around as much anymore. Also, some of these daily newspapers do not always tell the truth.

I.H. (Portland, OR)

I am enclosing the renewal card for your magazine for another year. I am also sending a donation. It is not much as I am 88 years old and live on Social Security. I enjoy your magazine so much as I am not able to travel due to my age, so I visit all these places through your magazine.

A.M. (Norfolk, VA)

I find The PLAIN TRUTH is global in coverage, stimulating in concept and spiritual in application. It is my basic standard of thinking because it reduces to a minimum the verbiage so rampant in the media. I depend upon your editorial wisdom because it is far-reaching and expressed with a rare sense of justice for your readers to relish and grow with informed minds. I am grateful indeed for its contents each month and, although I am 90 years of age, I keep up! A thousand thanks to you and your well-equipped staff.

H.K. (Eliot, ME)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE"LUTHERJAHR" INSPIRES NEW ECUMENICAL LOOK
AT PROTESTANTISM'S "GREAT REFORMER"

Before 1983 fades into history, it would be well to take note of a recent significant anniversary--the 500th anniversary, on November 10, 1983, of the birth of Martin Luther. Strangely enough, the iron-willed ex-Augustinian monk who broke with Rome, who called the church of Rome the "whore of Babylon," is being held up today by both Protestant and Catholic theologians as an ecumenical beacon to enlighten the path toward church unity. Pope John Paul II, in recognition of Luther's quintecentennial, recently praised Luther for his "profound religiousness." Then on Sunday, December 11, the Pope made another conciliatory gesture--visiting a Lutheran church in Rome. Here is an ASSOCIATED PRESS dispatch from Rome concerning this historic visit:

Pope John Paul II, in a historic visit to a Lutheran church, said Sunday that despite bitter past differences between Roman Catholics and Lutherans, "we desire unity, we work for unity." It was the first time a Pope had attended a service of the Lutheran Church, which is founded on the precepts of Martin Luther (1483-1546). A German priest until his excommunication, Luther led the Protestant Reformation that split the Roman Catholic Church 462 years ago.

"I have come in the spirit of the Lord that calls us in our days, through ecumenical dialogue, in the search for full Christian unity," the pontiff said in German. "And in the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, we seem to discern from far away the dawning of an advent of a recomposition of our unity and community.... We desire unity, we work for unity, without letting ourselves get discouraged by the difficulty we encounter along our way."

John Paul was without his miter--the symbol of the papacy--when his host, Pastor Christoph Meyer, greeted him as bishop of Rome at the [Evangelical-Lutheran Christ Church].... The service did not include Holy Communion, a sacrament that the two churches celebrate differently....

John Paul has visited other Protestant churches in his travels around the world, but this is the first trip in Rome to a church that once considered the Pope the "Anti-Christ." The papal visit was announced on the same day last month that the Vatican released a letter by John Paul praising Luther for his "profound religiousness." In the letter commemorating the 500th anniversary Nov. 11 of the birth of Luther, John Paul also called for a re-evaluation of the man who shattered the unified Catholic Church in the West.

Luther was excommunicated in 1521 for attacking widespread views that salvation could be earned by good works, such as paying for Masses and indulgences to avert penalties in purgatory. His theory that salvation comes only through faith in God's mercy became a basic doctrine of the Protestant faiths, formed after

his excommunication. In September, a U.S. team of Roman Catholic and Lutheran theologians delivered a landmark declaration of convergence on basic doctrines. The commission agreed that salvation comes only through faith. They also concurred, though, that good works are a necessary result of the process.

Of course, neither church still understands the substance and intent of Christian "good works." Luther and his followers rejected the Catholic concept of works and substituted one emphasizing human faith in Christ alone, failing to understand the necessity of having the faith of Christ to produce godly fruits. While the Catholic church no longer is involved in the sale of indulgences and other admittedly corrupting practices, the Pope recently has reemphasized the importance of the doctrine of penance (as opposed to repentance from dead works).

An editorial comment in the November 11, 1983 NATIONAL REVIEW (published by William Buckley, a conservative Catholic) had this to say about the Luther phenomenon:

The world into which the Saxon miner's son was born five hundred years ago still shows like a rippled lake the effects of his passage. John Paul II says that he prays every night to know how to heal the breach, as Lutheran and Catholic theologians wrestle with their doctrinal differences. In East Germany, where the main sites of Luther's life are located, his birthday is being celebrated with more pomp than the hundredth anniversary of the death of Karl Marx--the sign of a legacy the Communists cannot ignore, even as they try to define its meaning and limit its expressions.

In THE TIMES of London November 7, 1983, reporter Peter Nichols, writing from Rome notes that Luther has been, in effect, rehabilitated, similar to the manner of the astronomer Galileo:

His [the Pope's] letter is historic to the extent that it accepts Luther's "profound religious feeling" and speaks of him as "driven with burning passion by the examination of internal salvation." The Pope added in his letter published on Saturday: "The break in the unity of the church cannot be reduced to the lack of comprehension on the part of the authorities of the Catholic Church, nor solely to Luther's lack of understanding of true Catholicism, even if both factors played a role."

The letter avoids mention of the excommunication pronounced against Luther by Pope Leo X. It is seen to be comparable to Pope John Paul's public pronouncement on the personal integrity of Galileo, which again did not touch on doctrinal questions or on the behavior of Rome at the time.

In another article in the NATIONAL REVIEW, this time in its November 25, 1983 edition, columnist Erik v. Kuehnelt-Leddihn wrote:

In political matters, Luther, like Calvin, was harshly authoritarian.... To see Luther as the originator of modern democracy, liberalism, tolerance, philosophical relativism, and so forth can only be the result of a failure to distinguish between Luther and

post-Enlightenment Lutheranism. The ex-Augustinian doctor of theology who said, "Not even the angels can judge my doctrine," and, "He who does not follow my doctrine cannot be saved," was certainly not a relativistic liberal.... Today, Luther, a real conservative, a profoundly religious man...would probably feel more at home in a Benedictine monastery than at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

TIME magazine, in its October 17, 1983 issue, devoted considerable space to the impact of Martin Luther down through history and the posthumous role he plays today.

As the reformer who fractured Christianity, Luther has latterly become a key to reuniting it. With the approval of the Vatican, and with Americans taking the lead, Roman Catholic theologians are working together with Lutherans and other Protestants to sift through the 16th century disputes and see whether the Protestant-Catholic split can be overcome some day. In a remarkable turn-about, Catholic scholars today express growing appreciation of Luther as a "father in the faith" and are willing to play down his excesses. According to a growing consensus, the great division need never have happened at all.... Ecumenically minded Catholic theologians have come to rank Luther in importance with Augustine and Aquinas. "No one who came after Luther could match him," says Father Peter Manns, a Catholic theologian in Mainz.

In Germany, the Lutherjahr features an onrush of books, special lectures and films on both sides of the Iron Curtain. East Germany's listings of state- and church-sponsored events run to 66 pages; West Germany's to 69. The West German President Karl Carstens opened an exhibition at Nuremberg last June by declaring: "Luther has become a symbol of unity of all Germany. We are all Luther's heirs." Museums are mounting displays of art and artifacts, choirs are offering Reformation music. There are innumerable campus colloquia, with Catholics almost always participating....

The scope of his thought has made him the subject of endless reinterpretation. The Enlightenment treated him as the father of free thought, conveniently omitting his belief in a sovereign God who inspired an authoritative Bible. During the era of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck a century ago, Luther was fashioned into a nationalistic symbol; 70 years later, Nazi propagandists claimed him as one of their own by citing his anti-Jewish polemics....

The latest phase in the Luther assessment is discerned by, among others, Heiko Oberman, a Dutch Reformed clergyman who teaches at West Germany's Tuebingen University and is widely recognized as one of the world's leading Luther scholars. Says he: "There is a hunger for an ecumenical Luther, so now they are busy extracting all his teeth." Oberman contends that Luther would have condemned Pope John Paul II as a throwback to the politically meddling Popes he fought in the 16th century. Oberman also thinks that Luther, were he alive now, would attack Protestants even more fiercely, for having wandered far from "true Catholicity" by making political issues more important than doctrine and worship.

All scholars agree on Luther's importance for German culture, surpassing that of any single person in the English-speaking world, including Shakespeare. Luther's masterpiece was his translation of the New Testament from Greek into German.... The Luther Bible sold massively in his lifetime and remains today the authorized version in German-speaking Protestant churches. In the process, says Walther Killy of West Germany's renowned Herzog August Library in Wolfenbuttel, Luther virtually created the modern German language. Before his Bible was published, there was no standard German, but a profusion of dialects.... "It was Luther," said Johann Gottfried von Herder, one of Goethe's mentors, "who has awakened and let loose the giant: the German language"....

It is fortunate that Roman Catholics are in the forefront of Luther scholarship today, because the quest for Christian re-unification inevitably must come to terms with his teachings. Only a generation ago, Catholics were trained to consider Luther the arch-heretic; given his florid polemics against the church of Rome as the "whore of Babylon" or against the "idolatry" of the Mass, they had ample grounds for offense....

In the gradual rapprochement since Vatican II, an international Lutheran-Catholic commission, at work on the basis for a possible reunion, has declared that the two sides agree on basic doctrines and can reconcile their theologies of what occurs in Communion. In 1980 the group settled on this statement: "It is solely by grace and faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit in us that we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit who renews our hearts and equips us for and calls us to good works." A similar dialogue commission in the U.S. also worked through key disputes, and has just issued a highly significant 21,000-word joint statement on justification. The document embraces much of Luther's thinking, though with some careful hedging from the Catholics.

There is doubt, to be sure, about the degree to which Protestants and Catholics can, in the end, overcome their differences. Catholics may now be permitted to sing Luther's A Mighty Fortress Is Our God or worship in their native language, but a wide gulf remains on such questions as the status of Protestant ministers and papal authority.... Church structure also divides contemporary Catholics from Protestants. In the end, Luther's rebellion was against the authority of the papacy....

Meanwhile, the internal state of the Lutheran church raises other questions about the lasting power of Luther's vision. Lutheranism in the U.S., with 8.5 million adherents, is stable and healthy; after decades of strenuous effort, several Lutheran groups are scheduled to merge into a united Lutheran church by 1988, though not the conservative Missouri and Wisconsin synods. The church is also growing in Third World strongholds. But in Lutheranism's historic heartland, the two Germanys and Scandinavia, there are deep problems....

Only 6% of West Germans--or, for that matter, Scandinavians--regularly attend. A government poll in Sweden found that only

48% believe in any concept of God, the lowest figure in Western Europe, compared with 80% of Swedes who believed in 1947.... What seems to be lacking in the old European churches is the passion for God and his truth that characterized the original Lutherans. Instead, much of Protestantism has come to represent individualism, doctrinal confusion and a proliferation of separate churches; some outsiders like Father Daniel Olivier of Paris' Catholic Institute contend that in contemporary terms, "Luther was not a Protestant." But whether Protestant or Catholic, Luther retains the potential to shake people out of religious complacency: given Christianity's need, on all sides, for a good jolt, muses Oberman, "I wonder if the time of Luther isn't ahead of us."

While at the same time Roman Catholics and Lutherans are searching avenues of unity, the rift between the Vatican and the Catholic Church in the United States is widening into a gulf. Here are excerpts from an article entitled "Going Their Own Way" written for the NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE (October 10, 1982) by the popular (and quite liberal) American priest, Andrew M. Greeley.

Shortly after the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, 20 years ago..., Pope John XXIII told a visitor that he intended to open the window and permit fresh air to blow through the Roman Catholic Church. In the United States, the papal breeze turned into a tornado.

Evidence of the devastating effects of the turbulence can be seen in the rubble strewn around the once sedate and stable American Catholic Church: Weekly church attendance rates among the 53 million members declined almost immediately from around 70 percent to approximately 50 percent. Massive numbers of Catholics dissent from official teaching on divorce and birth control and act accordingly. As many as a fifth of the priests in the country have left the active ministry and a higher proportion of nuns have withdrawn from religious life, while the number of young men enrolled in seminaries is less than a third of what it was in the early 1960s.

Bishops can no longer count on pastors to obey them. Pastors cannot assume any more that their religious associates will do what they are told. And many parish priests have learned that they must consult with, not command, the laity about what needs doing. Only Pope John Paul II seems to think that issuing edicts is an effective governmental style. And while the Pope may be personally popular, few American Catholics are attentive to what he says....

In direct defiance of Rome, many parish priests permit women to act as acolytes at mass. ("If the Pope comes to our parish, we won't use them that day," says one pastor)... "Do-it-yourself" liturgies, sometimes tasteful but often not (Ry Krisp and whisky instead of bread and wine at communion), are taken for granted in many places.....

A Rembrandt landscape after a storm: ineffective, confused and conflicted, if sincere, church leaders; poor religious education; disheartened priests; unenlightened preaching; angry women; a vigorously independent laity; a moribund sexual ethic;...short-ages of priests; democratization of local institutions; fads; conflict; shouting; anger; hope, and a new religious sensibility among the young--thus American Catholicism 20 years after Pope John XXIII's breeze became a whirlwind after crossing the Atlantic.

There is no reason to think that the storm will stop blowing for the next two decades.... The American Catholic Church will continue to be a noisy, contentious, disorderly place.

More about this very important trend in a succeeding report.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau