

# From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

"PLEASE USE ALTERNATE ROUTE"

Text: "When they approached the Mysian border they tried to enter Bithymia; but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them, so they skirted Mysia and reached the coast at Troas." Acts 16:78.

**PAUL'S EXPERIENCE--Roadblock.** "Road closed, please use alternate route."

Paul was not at all the kind of man who took delight in being contradicted. When he had set his heart on going northward, not selfishly, but in the serving of his Lord, it was a bitter experience to have his road blocked.

A point to note is that he was never more widely or divinely guided than in the hour when he thought he was baffled.

He was checkmated, and yet he won the game. He was thwarted and it led him to his crown. Eager to advance with his good news, there arose before him the divine "Please use alternate route." And yet that hour when he was hindered so, was the hour when God was honoring him wonderfully, and leading him to such a mighty service as at his highest he had never dreamed of.

**OUR EXPERIENCE--Roadblock** is not only a rather frequent experience during a journey in a car, it happens again and again in practical life.

Sometimes it is a matter of plain duty. Many a man has yielded his hopes for those he loves and thereby has entered into marvelous richness of life.

Grief may be a roadblock pointing to an alternative route. When Leland Stanford recovered from the first shock of grief at the loss of his son, he decided to adopt the sons of California. Out of that concern, a great University was born.

God sometimes blocks our way to material satisfactions so that we may lift our hearts to things that are eternal and unshaken.

What do we make of the hours when we must choose an alternate route?



REV. D. M. CLARK

# Baptismal Rites At Doolittle



This was the highly dramatic and spiritually moving scene at Doolittle Center Sunday when the Rev. F. N. Addison, Pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church conducted immersion rites of Baptismal ceremonies at the Doolittle Pool.

## ALTAR CALL

By EMORY G. DAVIS, D. D.  
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

REVOLUTION COMES TO THE CHURCH

The days of authoritarian clergy are drawing to a close. There are fewer laymen who will follow blindly wherever the clergy leads, be it the local parson or the pontifical hierarchy.

Never has there been a more positive thrust of the laity than is taking place in the Roman Catholic Church in Chicago. The eyes of the Catholic laity throughout the Nation will be upon this huge, sprawling archdiocese to see where they too might come to life.

A GROUP of concerned Catholics had been disturbed by such things as the Archbishop's "Project Renewal"--a multi-million dollar building program and the lack of endorsement by this same Archbishop of the activities of the Catholic Inter-racial Council. Certain powers allegedly close to the archbishop have felt the CIC was entirely too militant in its civil rights marches and other activities.

The conveners of the Conference to consider these and other matters they felt they should have a voice, sent invitations to about 400 people. News of the Conference spread like wild fire and by the date of the Conference over 1,500 loyal Roman Catholic lay people showed up ready for action.

Thunderous opposition to the building program was voiced. Concern that such a program would interfere with the Archdiocesan Commission on Human Relations and Ecumenism--the program set to take place in every parish to give leadership in opening housing to all people, in all parts of the metropolis. Other issues concerning lay representation at the policy-making level were given high priority at the Conference.

TO WITNESS such a reaction on the part of the Catholic laity is to behold a new day. Where there is demigod leadership on the part of the hierarchy, there is usually the abdication of the laity, who just stay home; who cease contributing. The more exciting and meaningful role is now being played by the (Catholic) Chicago Conference of Laymen. They are going to do something about their discontent.

Many pastors have experienced lay people suggesting what the clergy should do to change the course of an oft-irrelevant church, never realizing that their unified effort is by far the most effective instrument for change. The laity is best equipped for this action since they are not dependent upon the institution for their sustenance.

The Altar of Change from an irrelevant church to one that is significantly relevant to this age beckons the laity of all churches. The church needs such a revolution.

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