

One Fold

Unitarians Promote Gays

Representatives of more than 1000 Unitarian Universalist churches voted at the association's recent conference to employ openly homosexual and bisexual persons in leadership positions of the denomination and in local congregations. According to president O. Eugene Picket, one of the denomination's major priorities is "rebuffing the emergent new right in its vengeful desire to smother the rights of women, gay people, minorities, and others who struggle for justice."

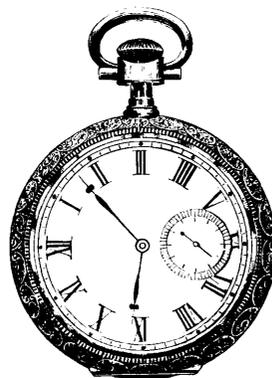
American Roman Catholics Increase

A recent Gallup poll indicates that since 1947, the high birth rate of Roman Catholics and the influx of Hispanics has resulted in an increase in the percentage of adult Americans who are Catholic—from 20 percent to 29 percent. Protestants dropped from 69 percent to 59 percent, and Jews from 5 percent to 2 percent.

Clergy Salaries

The July 18 issue of *Christianity Today* reports that the average American pastor earns \$10,348 annually, with a congregation of about 300. To supplement their income, more than 20 percent take second jobs. "Even if these salaries didn't include housing allowances or parsonages, the final annual figure would still fall short of providing a stable economic picture for

most pastors." The magazine compares the \$10,348 annual salary with U.S. Department of Labor figures which show that truck drivers average \$18,300, lawyers \$25,000, and dentists \$40,000. Low-paid ministers "feel negative about their churches . . . get angry at the injustice of their paychecks," and unable to retire at 65 or 75, become "a burden" to their churches.



Christian Priorities

A *Christianity Today*-Gallup Poll recently asked Christians which of six actions should be ranked as the highest Christian priority: A) Help to win the world for Jesus Christ; B) Concentrate on the spiritual growth of one's family and self; C) Join groups and support causes that will improve the entire community; D) Help strengthen the local church; E) Take part in efforts to

influence local, state, and national legislation on important issues; F) undecided. Southern Baptists voted overwhelmingly for winning the world for Jesus (78 percent), with personal and family spiritual growth coming in a distant second (17 percent). Roman Catholics also ranked evangelizing the world as their first priority (53 percent), with personal and family growth second (26 percent). Methodists showed the greatest interest in supporting community causes (16 percent gave it top priority), whereas less than 1 percent of all Baptists gave community interests top billing.

Among clergy, two-thirds of those over 50 ranked evangelism first, as opposed to little more than half of those 30-49 years old.

As for political involvement, 51 percent of the clergy believe it "very important" for religious organizations "to make public statements about what they feel to be the will of God in political-economic matters." In an apparent backlash against the activism of the sixties, only 44 percent of those under 30 felt it was "very important" to make such expressions.

Mormon Sesquicentennial Image

Despite an insightful and even-handed *Newsweek* report on Mormonism (September 1) much prejudice persists in religious periodicals. *Christianity Today* reveals its out-dated bias by listing Mormon-related books under "Cults." (The August 8 issue notes four: "The best and most exhaustive treatment is *The Changing World of Mormonism* by Jerald and Sandra Tanner.") *Christian Century*, on the other hand, takes Mormonism more seriously, recently devoting several pages to a feature article by Jan Shipps and regularly reporting, objectively, Mormon news.

SUNSTONE

SUNSTONE is pleased to announce the second in a series of quarterly lectures sponsored by The B. H. Roberts Society. On Tuesday, November 25, 1980, President David Gardner of the University of Utah and President Jeffrey R. Holland of Brigham Young University will address the topic, "Educating the Saints: Intellectual Inquiry and Revealed Truth." The program will include a response by

Dr. Chase N. Peterson, former Vice-President of Alumni Affairs, Harvard University, and presently Vice-President of Health Sciences, University of Utah. Committed to the examination of the Restored Gospel as it relates to contemporary culture, The B. H. Roberts Society encourages discussion in the spirit of fellowship and discipleship. For more information, contact SUNSTONE (801) 355-5926.