

OPEN WINDOWS

Demonstration and the Boletin Eclesiastico

The recent student demonstration against His Eminence, Rufino J. Cardinal Santos, poignantly lent credence to the popular opinion that there is indeed a "communication gap" between the Philippine clergy and the laity. It can be said that Vatican II, which has made the faithful conscious of their role in the Church, has not been followed up in this country with enough ecclesiastical direction corollary to this point, thus inevitably creating an informational vacuum.

It is therefore high time that ecclesiastical magazines like the *Boletin Eclesiastico de Filipinas* take cognizance of this problem. It is imperative that they stretch their field of readership and establish a dialogue with the laity, thereby closing or at least narrowing the said gap before it transforms itself from merely a communication snag into a greater burden of credibility. The need here is not for less theological dissertations and expositions or documentations of ecclesiastical articles but for more informative articles of laical interest.

But the effort in this regard should not be limited to publication of more articles for general consumption. As in the *Boletin*, there is the lack of attractive appeal in its outward appearance. It has been dishing out

important documentations and articles, including some which bear great relevance to a layman, but with such dearth of artistic or technical adornments that they hardly elicited a second glance from a lay reader. Here lies the initial setback in selling the right ideas to people, even to the clergy.

To attract lay people and to help the clergy in their own role of establishing smooth dialogue with their flock, may I suggest that the *Boletin* be given a new overall format? A varied cover lay-out is a must. The type of prints can welcome variety from bold to light to bold, etc, to clearly separate or bring out ideas. It will also be of vast help to adorn its pages with appropriate pictures or drawings. How about employing an artist in your staff?

It is hoped that the *Boletin* takes the lead in bridging the said "communication gap."

● REV. RENATO Y. MANANSALA
Masantol, Pampanga

Wide Range of Articles

Your editorial on the violence in the universities (March 1969) was a very enlightening and interesting reading. It could not but be impressed not only at your fine editorial writing on a very sensitive secular issue like student demonstrations, but more so at your having made it to the *Boletin Eclesiastico*.

It is without doubt that *Boletín Eclesiástico* has always been the first in bringing to the fore for the special information of priests and religious here in the Philippines and elsewhere the latest developments on doctrinal and pastoral matters. But I wish that your range of articles could be expanded so as to include also regularly those on issues of national interest and concern that affect directly or indirectly the church, as a whole, in the Philippines, the hierarchy, liturgy, religious organizations, religious events etc. It will be an added interest for us readers if these articles would be written in the style of an analytic discussion or full-length feature writing (Herder Correspondence-style, for example, or the style of Philippines Free Press' articles of the week) such as to stimulate healthy dialogue within ecclesiastical circles.

More power to the *Boletín Eclesiástico*.

● ERNO B. DIAZ

Ma-ayon, Capiz

Español de Vez en Cuando

La publicación e inserción de vez en cuando de artículos en español en el BOLETÍN es favorable también al español, y a los padres o sacerdotes nuevos que saben también español, los sacerdotes también de habla inglesa que saben también "spanish", por lo menos para poder conocer la historia y los escritos antiguos del país. También sería aliciente algún para algunos para que estudiara también

y se esfuerce en saber o estudiar el español.

● P. JUTO DE LOS REYES

Bolbok Parish

Lipa City

More Power

The *Boletín Eclesiástico* has done a laudable job for the guidance of the clergy in the past — both in matters of doctrine and liturgy. Today, the process of change in the whole Catholic world offers the same publication two great challenges: the challenge of the clergy and the challenge of the laity.

The challenge of the clergy demands of it to live up to its name as a teacher and liturgist specially in this period of change and renewal. The challenge of the laity requires of it to broaden its spheres so as to include, not only the clergy, but also a greater number of the laity among its readers because ours is the beginning of a new era of the lay apostolate.

The first challenge asks for more up-to-date and more matter-of-fact pronouncements on doctrine and liturgy. The second challenge requires of it: firstly — to introduce itself to the laity, perhaps, through advertisements; and secondly — to interest itself in the interest of the laity.

It is, therefore, with deep hope for the success of the *Boletín* in meeting these challenges that I visualize its more glorious future.

● WILFREDO C. PAGUIO

Rizal St., Pilar

Bataan

If we scrutinizingly examine the contents of the Boletin Ecclesiastico we will see that this contains in its issues relevant topics concerning the church liturgy in the Philippines, decrees and church legislations particularly intended for the church in our Islands and theological as well as doctrinal views and opinions voiced out by eminent Filipino Catholic Churchmen. It also includes timely treatment of present contemporary vital issues of the church such as birth control and family planning in the light of the "Humanæ Vitæ."

Moreover the articles that appear in every issues of the "Boletin Ecclesiastico" concern most particularly the ecclesiastics but also highly to be recommended to a well informed laity especially to those catholic laymen

and women who are interested to know more the functional and administrative structure of the church.

It goes out without saying that the different sections of the Boletin Ecclesiastico provide homilies, doctrinal evaluations which serve as further development of our christian faith and tenets. Also we cannot just forego the book reviews contained therein and the cases and queries which provide information on how to enlighten the ministers in the proper discharge of their sacerdotal functions.

Lastly, more power to those who make possible the publication of this highly scholarly work. May it sail on continuously.

● GODOFREDO R. PALINES
Alitagtag, Batangas
