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## Betty Beale: Washington

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# The wedding of Nixon's controversial Jesuit aide

WASHINGTON — President Nixon's Jesuit priest "in residence" will be married by the time this column is printed. Dr. John Joseph McLaughlin, 48, the Roman Catholic clergyman and White House staffer who made front-page headlines by his strong defense of Nixon despite those revealing tapes with "expletives deleted," has resigned from the Jesuit order to marry Mrs. Ann Lauenstein Dore yesterday.

Shelley Buchanan, wife of former Nixon aide and now syndicated columnist Pat Buchanan, was to be the bride's attendant; Peter Corr Royston, a Bridgeport, Conn., stockbroker, best man.

Married or no, McLaughlin remains a priest but can no longer perform the rites of a priest. His "clearance," which means acceptance of his resignation, went all the way to the top — to the Pope himself.

The woman for whom the controversial cleric renounced Jesuit vows after 30 years is the 33-year-old comely brunette public relations expert who managed his unsuccessful senatorial campaign in Rhode Island in 1970. Winner of the Outstanding Young Woman of America award in 1965, Ann met the dynamic Father McLaughlin when she invited him to lecture at Marymount College, Tarrytown, N.Y., where she was director of alumnae relations. She has since been press secretary to the inaugural chairman, director of public relations for CREEP (Committee for Reelection of the President) and public affairs director for the Environmental Protection Agency. Now she is working in Washington in a similar capacity for Union Carbide Corp.

Ann said marrying a lifelong priest was a challenge but she had no misgivings. "If anything, I feel lucky. This man cares, more for me than I could ever imagine anyone caring. He is very exciting to be with, very stimulating."

Dr. McLaughlin acquired almost as much fame for living in the plush Watergate complex, which seemed far removed from the perpetual poverty vows of a Jesuit, as he did for saying history would judge Richard Nixon "the greatest moral leader of the last third of this century" and "a moral man thirsting for the truth." The latter comment brings a smile today to the strong-chinned face of the over-six-footer. When he said that, he had no suspicion of

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**"Watergate priest" John McLaughlin and bride, Mrs. Ann Dore**

what the June 23 tape was to reveal. He was still taking Nixon at his word. The highly articulate doctor of philosophy defended Nixon 77 times on TV and radio in just the first three months of 1974.

What did the so-called "Watergate Priest" mean by "greatest moral leader"? "In the light of revelations in the June 23 tape I would want to revise my statement," he admitted with a flicker of his delightful sense of humor. But if the Vietnam war was immoral, he said, ending it was an act of morality. The ending of massive violence and aggression will still give Nixon high marks, he thinks.

His Watergate lifestyle and the \$30,000-a-year job as presidential aide stirred up such a hue and cry McLaughlin's Provincial Superior in the Jesuit order summoned him to Boston "for prayer and reflection." But the Rev. Richard Cleary was on shaky ground and no match for the seasoned, brilliant McLaughlin. The latter had received permission to work at the White House; he was living in no more luxurious style in his one-bedroom flat than many Jesuit priests who take on worldly callings, and he came out of the whole thing, as the official Jesuit New England newspaper stated, "smelling like a rose garden."

McLaughlin said he felt no guilt at all in giving up his priestly duties to marry. "Marriage is a holy state. I want to share my life with a gifted and lovely person who, surprisingly, wants to share her life with me. Also, we would both like to share our lives with children."

Besides, he pointed out, "surveys report that the majority of Catholics — even a consensus — would prefer that their priests have the option to marry." He noted that two Catholic bishops have married in recent years, the presidents of two Jesuit universities, a Jesuit Provincial, the rector of a Jesuit theologate, and hundreds of other Roman Catholic priests. The Jesuits approved his decision, he said, "and helped clear the way for me to marry."

Except for a handful of intimate friends sworn to

say nothing, their engagement was a deep secret. McLaughlin gave up his Watergate apartment a few months ago to Interior Secretary Stanley Hathaway (who has since resigned for reasons of health) and moved to the Cosmos Club. Ann acquired new digs at a fashionable Washington apartment, where they will live with his ever-present basset hound, Oliver. McLaughlin will continue to write, lecture and serve as a corporation consultant on communications, public affairs and government relations.

Happy Rockefeller is no spendthrift. As every smart hostess knows, the most economical way to entertain if you have to give several parties is to have them all in a row. But nine housewarmings on nine successive days in honor of the U.S. Congress might be a bit exhausting. So Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller will give three in succession in three different weeks to show off the first official vice presidential residence. You can count on flowers lasting three days, you know. All of top official Washington and "representative citizens" from all walks of life and every state have been divided up among the nine parties that start Sept. 7.

Princess Grace, Prince Rainier and children are due in Middleburg, Va., Aug. 28 for their week's vacation in the Hunt Country, but "I understand she was going to see her mother," said Grace's first cousin, Mrs. Edward Shirley Turner. "Her mother still summers in Ocean City, N.J., where Grace's sister, Mrs. Lizanne Lavine, has a house and a daughter Grace who is Caroline's age."

Grace's older sister, Peggy Conland, and her two married children; Jack Kelly, Jr., and his five children; Jean Turner and family; nephew John Lehman, who is deputy director of arms control and disarmament, and all the other sisters, brothers and cousins go to Ocean City every summer for "a sort of reunion of the bunkhouse gang." The bunkhouse was a big garage converted into a dormitory when they were kids, said Mrs. Turner. So Ocean City may be getting a glimpse of the Rainiers about now.