

Readers' Never Had It So Good,' Says Newsman

(Steve Fitzgerald is a veteran newspaperman, long a member of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle editorial staff.)

By STEVE FITZGERALD

As one who is well and favorably acquainted with the merits of The Courier-Journal from its start and has had personal relationships with its staff, I would like to cheer the general diocesan reaction to your annual subscription drive.

I am amazed and pleased by the wide, 100 per cent family coverage you are achieving in so many parishes. It must be heartening to your small, hard-working staff — a lift to your spirits when the job gets a bit rough and trying.

MY PERSONAL interest goes back nearly a half-century when I was Cathedral correspondent for the Journal and turned in the necrology and sociality and social doings — cribbed for the most part from the monthly calendar — to Editor Ryan for the modest pay of two bits per week.

This was my first venture in journalism and I must admit I wasn't underpaid. In addition, I attempted one vacation period to hawk dollar subscriptions Fuller brush style from door to door.

It was a discouraging chore because the four to six-page Journal, whose few hundred copies creaked uncertainly from an outworn, flatbed press and hand-set type, had little appeal. It was a sad, unprofitable adjunct to a little job printing shop.

Wherefore, considering the fine and varied news coverage Catholics of the diocese enjoy today — reliable accounts of worldwide happenings, feature articles by competent writers, a well-splendid editorial page, selected parish happenings, timely pictorial work and eye-catching makeup, I feel like shouting to your readers, "You've never had it so good."

It should be no secret that The Courier Journal not only enjoys a top reputation in the national Catholic field, but also is highly regarded by the Rochester secular press for its efficient and tempered handling of news which easily can be distorted or overplayed. This I know from personal experience.

IN THIS regard I would like to call attention to an article by John Cogley in this week's The Commonweal, entitled "Anathema Sit," in which he objects to what he terms an open season on "liberal Catholics," a practice which I know, happily, cannot be tacked on you.

"Within the past few months," writes Cogley, "in certain sections of the Catholic press, purges have been carried out regularly; a self-appointed inquisition has tried the 'liberals,' who are invariably found guilty, and then burned them at the editorial stakes for the weekend edification of the righteous..."

He quotes from a Midwest Catholic weekly which front-paged this portrait of a "liberal," — that he thinks "...his soul's salvation is a part-time work; that the Church ought to make a concordat with him personally. The 'liberal' Catholic likes: the company of the faithless more than the company of the faithful (he consorts with sinners); the catch phrases of the day more than eternal truths; both God and Mammon, but is more at home with the latter; to solve in minutes problems which stagger the Church for years; to be an outstanding Catholic without being outstandingly Catholic. His main concern is not how to please God but how to please himself without displeasing God."

Cogley points out that in some sacrosanct Catholic editorial circles the "liberal" is a "phony Catholic, full of hypocrisy, puffed up with pride, irreligious and impious; his soul would appear to be an open book and his spiritual standing is just about zero. Let us all thank God, brothers, that we are not like these publicans and sinners."

This writer, whom I hold in high esteem, thinks "it is time to complain publicly about the treatment meted out to the 'liberal' Catholic — by which is usually meant any Catholic who does not agree with The Tablet, Father Gillis, Senator McCarthy, et al."

HIS IS NO plea for the toleration of heresy or near-heresy, he concludes, adding: "But it is a demand that if anybody insists on charging a fellow-Catholic with heresy he either put up or shut up. It is a demand that the business of applying motives and moral judgments which seem to be picked out of the partisan air be stopped. It is a request that political disagreements be kept political; that controversy be kept decently impersonal; and that a man's sins — even a 'liberal' Catholic's sins — or his supposed sins, be kept as private as his confession."

Cogley, in my opinion, merits a hand for thus chiding that small segment of the Catholic press whose editors usurp an annoying holler-than-thou orthodoxy on questions that usually are more political than moral or theological; and lump all dissenters in their catchall category of "liberal," an outworn, semantic dodge that should be retired from intelligent controversy.

"This desideratum, 'devoutly to be wished,' might be hastened if charity-lacking editors would abide by Cardinal Newman's famous definition of a gentleman — 'one who never gives pain' — in his idea of a University in which that great and gentle prelate portrays such a person, in part, as one who, "... is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out..."



COUNTY COMMANDER of Monroe County American Legion, William T. Cavanaugh, will receive a scroll in recognition of the Legion's success in the "Back to God" movement at Monroe County Catholic War Veterans Communion Breakfast, Sunday, March 7 at Hotel Sheraton. Rev. James R. Barnett, S.J., McQuaid High School rector will speak at the breakfast. Mass will be at 7:30 a.m. in St. Joseph's Church, Rochester for veterans and auxiliary members.

20 Religious Carried Off By Reds

Hanoi, Indo-China — (NC) — Twenty religious carried off by the Communist Viet-Minh in a raid on a motor convoy in Laos included the French mother superior of the mission in Thakhek and 18 Laotian nun novices, it was disclosed here.

The other religious were four French missionary priests, among them Msgr. Jean Arnaud, of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, Prefect Apostolic of Thakhek. Monsignor Arnaud has lived in Laos a quarter of a century.

All the missionaries at Thakhek had been evacuated when the Reds reached that city on the Mekong River in their drive across the narrow waist of Indo-China. More than 100 were left in the mission group, including orphans in the mission's care and personnel of the nursery. With a civilian convey, protected by a military column, they sought refuge at Pakse, 250 miles south of Thakhek.

Monsignor Arnaud later led the group of missionaries back to Savannakhet, between Pakse and Thakhek, and the raid on their convey occurred before the religious reached that city.

Worker-Chaplain Apostolate In Holland 10 Years Old

Amsterdam, Holland — (NC) — The recent controversy over the priest-worker movement in France has focused attention on a somewhat similar apostolate carried on in Holland for the past ten years.

The Dutch apostolate has differed from the French in that the priest serves as chaplains to the workers rather than as workers themselves.

THE APOSTOLATE is carried on principally in the Dutch capital and in Rotterdam by the Jesuits, Capuchins, Franciscans and Carmelites.

The urgent need for continuing this apostolate is seen in statistics released recently by the Catholic Social Church Institute.

The statistics show that in Amsterdam 66 per cent of the dock workers, 60 per cent of the building and industrial workers and taxi drivers do not attend church.

Rotterdam statistics showed that 47 per cent of the dock workers, and about 40 per cent of the building and industrial workers and taxi drivers stay away from church.

IT WAS discovered that in the eyes of many of these wage earners the Church remains allied with "hated capitalists."

The worker chaplains are permitted to visit the factories and observe procedures and the workers at their jobs. They continue their contacts with the workers at private meetings generally organized by Catholic Action leaders among the workers.

Opens W. A. Franke, Naasua, N. H. (NC) — Members of the Naasua Board of Aldermen have voted to open all future meetings with a prayer and pledge of alliance to the American flag.

Worker-Chaplain Apostolate In Holland 10 Years Old

Amsterdam, Holland — (NC) — The recent controversy over the priest-worker movement in France has focused attention on a somewhat similar apostolate carried on in Holland for the past ten years.

The Dutch apostolate has differed from the French in that the priest serves as chaplains to the workers rather than as workers themselves.

THE APOSTOLATE is carried on principally in the Dutch capital and in Rotterdam by the Jesuits, Capuchins, Franciscans and Carmelites.

The urgent need for continuing this apostolate is seen in statistics released recently by the Catholic Social Church Institute.

The statistics show that in Amsterdam 66 per cent of the dock workers, 60 per cent of the building and industrial workers and taxi drivers do not attend church.

Rotterdam statistics showed that 47 per cent of the dock workers, and about 40 per cent of the building and industrial workers and taxi drivers stay away from church.

IT WAS discovered that in the eyes of many of these wage earners the Church remains allied with "hated capitalists."

The worker chaplains are permitted to visit the factories and observe procedures and the workers at their jobs. They continue their contacts with the workers at private meetings generally organized by Catholic Action leaders among the workers.

Opens W. A. Franke, Naasua, N. H. (NC) — Members of the Naasua Board of Aldermen have voted to open all future meetings with a prayer and pledge of alliance to the American flag.

More Things are Wrought by Prayer Than This World Dreams of...

Cardinal Spellman's PRAYER BOOK

During Lent and every day of your life use Cardinal Spellman's Prayer Book, for no other prayer book will so fully satisfy your spiritual needs. It contains prayers for every need, every occasion, every moment of your daily life. It will bring God closer to you and keep you close to Him.

A CHOICE OF FIVE BINDINGS AT \$1.25-2.50-4.00-6.00-12.00-17.50
Special Edition in White Leather \$15

If your local bookstore cannot supply you, write for more of our list.

The EDWARD KENNEL CO., INC.
PUBLISHERS
48 BARCLAY ST., NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

Dine at RUND'S

and be sure of wholesome—flavorsome food served in an atmosphere of comfort and relaxation in food and in Cocktails

RUND'S is incomparable

You will find the following RUND specials each day they are marked IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR MENU WHICH HAS EARNED FOR US A COUNTRY WIDE REPUTATION

Lenten Specials

On The Menu Every Day During Lent

- Every Monday Braised Short Ribs of Beef
- Every Tuesday German Sauer Bratten (Potato Pan Cake)
- Every Wednesday Pig's Knuckles and Sauer Kraut
- Every Thursday Corned Beef and Cabbage
- Every Friday Lobster Meat Sauté'd in Butter (Creole in Rice)
- Every Saturday Bar-B-Q Loin Spare Ribs
- Every Sunday Southern Fried Chicken (with cream sauce) Leg and Breast Only

RUND'S IS THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF SUCCESSFUL MEN AND WOMEN IN EVERY LINE OF ENDEAVOR.

Distinctive dining in an atmosphere of contentment

RUND'S

48 SOUTH AVE.
(Block Block from Main St.)
Oyster Bar & Steak House

McCurdys

NOW... B.V.D.* introduces an exclusive NYLON'D process to premium combed cotton... to give it greater strength make it easier to wash, quicker drying... and a guaranteed permanent fit.

Every inch of yarn in the new BVD underwear is bonded with Genuine Type 8 DuPont Nylon... insuring more tensile strength, more abrasion resistance.

- TEE SHIRTS 85¢
- MEN'S BREVS 85¢
- ATHLETIC SHIRTS 65¢
- BVD SHORTS 85¢

Come in! Phone BAKER 3000! Or mail this coupon:

McCurdys, Rochester 4, N. Y.
Please send me the following nylon'd B.V.D. underwear:

| Item | Quantity | Style | Size | Color |
|------|----------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Name: _____
Street: _____
City: _____ Zone: _____ State: _____

Charge Check Money Order
Please add 2% to total if delivered in Monroe County.

McCurdys Men's Shop, Street Floor
also, McCurdys' Northgate
*Reg. U.S. Patent Office and Foreign Countries