

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Vol. 80 No. 19

20 Pages

Rochester, New York

Price: 15¢

Friday, Feb. 7, 1969



## KEEP UP WITH YOUR COURIER!



★ *The Catholic Press must be a journal recording the successes and failures and the projections of Christ's mission to the world.*

★ *It will be the trade-journal of people called out of the world to be unified with Christ and then to go into the world to Christify it. It will tell the faithful not only what has happened, but what ought to happen and what we will try to make happen for the sake of Christ and the Church.*

★ *The Catholic press will be the teaching instrument of the Church. The Vatican Council said that the first office of the Bishop is to teach. This takes it beyond the category of a newspaper and makes it not a record of crumbling foundations, but of trumpet blasts summoning to battle. It will fill up empty spaces in human hearts, illumine dark recesses of the mind, and channel the sacrificial spirit immanent in youth.*

★ *The Catholic press is the Fifth Gospel.*

*(Quotations from Bishop Sheen's letter on "Philosophy of the Catholic Press," printed in full on page 3.)*

### Courier-Journal Lists Positive Goals, Ideals

#### Pardon Our Puff!

Your Courier-Journal is sporting a special look for this week only. Pages 1 and 2 are devoted to an effort to inform all Catholics in the diocese of the necessity of subscribing to the Courier. This edition will reach thousands of non-subscribers throughout the diocese.

Not to shake things up too much, our normal format begins on Page 3 this week.

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#### IF YOU MOVE...

let us know about it so we can keep your Courier coming to you on time. Phone or mail us notice of your change of address. Include your old address and new address and the name of your parish.

Courier-Journal, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Phone 716-454-7030.

A consensus of editors, both priests and laymen, on the role of the Catholic press today, recently took this form: "To instruct people in what is happening in the Church today and to prepare them for what will be happening in the years ahead."

A layout of headlines clipped from the Courier-Journal in recent months is displayed on page two to illustrate the scope of this paper's efforts to discuss what is happening today, to prepare for what may lie ahead. The title-lines of all these stories reflect, we believe, what the Courier Journal is and what it has tried to be, better than hundreds of words of editorial self-praise.

Those head-lines make our selling point: An informed laity will be a responsible laity; knowledge unifies and strengthens each family's relationship with the Diocese and the universal Church.

The page two display proves the wide-ranging scope of our search to present news, documentations, observations and directives. Two international news services, feature sources, diocesan correspondents and our own staff-writers have ranged from Bishop Sheen's desk to Latin America, from inner-city Rochester to Southern Tier Elmira, from the draft to abortion, from diocesan apostolates to parochial events.

As this paper each February approaches the clergy and laity of the Rochester Diocese to ask for subscription-support — and this year to request a massive increase in circulation in every parish — we know our obligation to explain our goals and to justify our existence.

Eleven months ago when this paper received some small changes in staff and format, we stated that it would try to be a Courier and a Journal, a publication delegated to convey messages and information, preserving the image of teacher, announcer, promoter, apologist, the bearer of good and sometimes even mad news. We believe that our weekly presence in every home is essential for thinking Catholic men and women in this diocese.

The secular press reports major events of religious news. But its coverage is often shallow and frequently lacks respect or love for the Family of God. More often it's the troubled, unhappy side of the Church which is reported in the daily papers, events filled with tensions resulting in confusion.

But we hold that only a paper which believes information should lead to formation can help today's

searching Catholic. Only a press which loves the Faith will strive to bind clergy and laity together and help layman and priest find Christ's way through troubling times.

Our life as members of the Family of God makes us need a special family paper where the "successes, the failures, and the projections of Christ's mission to the world" are reported.

Ample information on significant parish life will induce the diocesan layman to cultivate a stronger sense of unity with his brothers. Honest airing of opinions will prompt sharp discussions and structure new insights. Full exposition of the official teaching mind of the Pope and the Bishop will exemplify the maternal care of the Church to guide its children. The Courier-Journal is geared to do all this.

Bishop Sheen, in a clear statement on the goals of the Catholic press, printed in full on page three, says that our diocesan newspaper is "the teaching instrument of the Church," "The Fifth Gospel"—and must strive to "fill up empty spaces in human hearts, illumine dark recesses of the mind and channel the sacrificial spirit immanent in youth."

The Courier-Journal as a teaching instrument will continue to present:

- The documents and sermons of the Holy Father and Bishop Sheen;

- Religious implications of action in Washington, Albany, the U.N. and world capitals;

- Interpretations of trends in liturgy, education, family life, spirituality, theology;

- Secular interests like movies and TV, sports, and new books, features for women and high schoolers.

In outlining what "ought to happen", our interpretive words — the editorials, columns and letters — will provoke involvement leading to improvement of Christ's life in our family through action and change.

We hope every regular reader will stay with us in the months ahead. The pace and interest of Catholic life at home and abroad will demand your continued reading. If you are NOT now receiving the Courier Journal, fill out the order-form to the right and join us for the next 52 weeks. An informed Catholic is an asset to parish and diocese.

—Father Richard Tormey

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