

## The Philosophy Of the New Courier

The Courier-Journal's change-over this week to a tabloid form offers an appropriate time for stating the guiding principles which have prompted our changes and charted our future.

To know about religious news-events, especially those only casually or shallowly covered by the secular media, is to learn and to grow as a member of the Family of God.

But a diocesan paper is primarily the teaching voice of the Bishop and the recorder of the life of the parishes and organizations and agencies under his care. Bishop Hogan's work and words, and the life of the parishes of the diocese will hereafter have more space and emphasis than the hard-news of the international and national scene.

The teaching of the Church, expressed by the addresses of the Holy Father and joint statements of the Bishops of the world, plus the sermons and statements of the Bishop of Rochester, is the Courier's guide in matters of faith and morals.

Columnists and features which hew to this body of teaching, explain it and apply, it will be found in our pages. Their articles will contribute usefully to the questioning, reflective mind which marks the alert Catholic of today.

But in this age of inquiry and freedom the Courier will also use its journalistic competence to print frequently the truly significant events, trends and responsible opinions which have not been endorsed or approved by the universal Church. To question the existing order is not to doubt the faith; discussion often brings light and insight few possessed before.

The Courier shall be more dedicated to the education of its readers than ever before. Theology, scripture, history, all facets of Church renewal and the complexities of religion in our time will be the target of a new series of articles, "Know Your Faith", and of an enlarged group of byline writers. Diocesan priests and schools will be helped by the Department of Education to use these new features in homilies, catechetics work, study clubs and discussion groups.

Many readers have objected that the Courier has not been as forthright to report controversies or publish liberal opinions as they desired; other readers have as strenuously criticized this paper for printing this very same kind of material. Choosing copy that is responsible and meaningful is as chancy today as making editorial judgments.

We accept the risk of arousing both sides by our choice, believing that a newspaper should stimulate minds and generate convictions by supplying the opinions of thinking men of both liberal and traditional mold.

Reporting order and disorder, orthodoxy and free-thought is harder today than a generation ago. But Pope Paul recently told Catholic editors and reporters: "Your professional conscience can impose on you the duty of reporting untoward happenings which occur in certain areas of the Church community. But it obliges you to put them in their proper perspective and not to exaggerate them, and above all not to give the impression that you approve them, or that you try to justify them, especially when the teaching authority and the entire tradition of the Church reproves them."

Bishop Hogan has publicly asked the Courier, hopefully arriving and being read in every home, to help unify the diocese by reporting our whole family life and fostering our group strength. Insufficient personnel and space limitations may often hobble our effort to treat every organization or parish story with feature-style but we intend to work steadily on improving diocesan news coverage.

Pictures of people, places and projects important in diocesan life but little known throughout the 12 counties will be featured in weekly photo-spreads. Our entertainment, books, schools, sports and home departments will lighten the mood each week.

Several of the varied sections of the paper may be considered useless by some subscribers and one columnist or another may bore or displease the thorough reader. But we ask readers not to make judgment of this paper's value on any single feature or column or editorial. We are obliged to please the needs and tastes of a very broad spectrum of diocesan.

—Fr. Richard Tormey



### The Word for Sunday

## The Importance Of the Bible

By Father Albert Shamon



I suppose one of the reasons for next Sunday's Gospel is to confirm the certainty of Christ's resurrection. It is interesting how Christ Himself does this. He uses all the senses of the apostles. He offered auditory evidence by speaking to them, saying, "Peace to you." He offered them visual evidence, "Look at my hands and my feet; it is really I." He offered tactile evidence, "Touch me and see that a ghost does not have flesh and blood." To overcome their wondrous and joyful incredulity, He appealed to even greater sensuous evidence that of eating, "Have you anything here to eat?"

I mention this aspect of the resurrection story because Christ was the greatest Teacher who ever taught. And teachers, especially those on secondary level, are experiencing a communication gap between students and themselves. They can profit by examining Christ's pedagogical methods. He always used the cool medium.

Most adults grew up in a linear age: they learned chiefly through the printed page or lectures. Youth today lives in a sensate age: his senses are incessantly bombarded by sights and sound, so that he is conditioned by an audio-visual world. This world is the one real to him. For him, a hot medium, like the printed page, high in content but low in involvement, means little; whereas the cool medium of sights and sounds, high in involvement and low in content, "gets to him."

Pope John XXIII in his opening speech on why the Vatican Council had been called singled out the matter of presentation of religion. He seemed to say the problem with religion today is not its content but its communication. "The substance of the ancient doctrine of faith is one thing, and the way it is presented is another. And it is the latter which must be taken into great consideration."

A second lesson Christ taught us about religion teaching is that it ought to be biblical. Re-

call how often the evangelists spoke of Christ opening up the Scriptures to His apostles. Scripture study was the burden of His discourse to the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. Apparently it was a frequent topic of His, for He said, "Recall those words I spoke to you when I was still with you: everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms had to be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to the understanding of the Scriptures."

You might think that Christ being God's Word might have taught without using the Scriptures — but He did not. He used it, because He wanted us to use it. And He wanted us to use it prayerfully, for He alone can open our minds to understanding it.

Years ago a Bible scholar wrote: "We have done almost everything that is possible with these Hebrew and Greek writings. We have overlaid them, clause by clause, with exhaustive commentaries; we have translated them, revised the translations, and quarrelled over the revisions; we have discussed authenticity and inspiration, and suggested textual history with the aid of colored type; we have mechanically divided the whole into chapters and verses, and sought texts to memorize and quote; we have epitomized into handbooks and extracted school lessons . . . There is yet one thing left to do with the Bible: simply to read it."

## Letters

### Trip to Ireland Defended

EDITOR:

A letter in last week's Courier decried the trip made to Ireland by the Bishop Kearney High School Band as money spent unwisely. **NOT ONE RED CENT** from the school budget was used to finance the trip. It was all raised by the band members and those parents wishing to pay their way on the trip.

We hear and read so much in the papers and see on television what youth is doing wrong and how they are all going to pot. Here you have a group of youngsters working very hard almost all year round, keeping out of trouble, giving the area a good name and that doesn't seem to satisfy some people.

It is alleged that these youths should be willing to see that such money be used for better reasons. This would indicate that they are blind to the social needs of the world. I can speak only for my own son who made the trip. His summers are spent as a volunteer at the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, where he learns that there is another side of life worse than being poor.

Yes, the money could be used to aid school problems. There is no end to such a statement. Why buy a new station wagon? Why not keep the old one for another year and write out a check to some school fund? Why hold a spring dance? Why not instead have the people write out a check for \$10 or \$12 for the school library? Why not scrub the football program that costs the schools plenty of money for only a few participants? This type of thinking is endless!

If a hundred kids can raise so much money for an overseas trip, why don't the objectors go out and raise money for their projects? All that it takes is time and some **WORK**.

—Bernard H. Florack  
169 Brookview Drive  
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

### Nuns Should Look Different

Editor:

I would like to express my opinion on the contemporary dress among the nuns of the Roman Catholic religion.

Nuns have a special God-chosen vocation. They have devoted their lives to the service of God. They give up pleasures that laymen don't.

Therefore they appear different from the rest of the people. Their habit identifies them with their vocation. If they wear the contemporary styles we could no longer recognize them as God's few chosen on earth.

Habits could be changed to fit the contemporary styles of today, but they should keep their basic design and mode, the habit should be kept uniform. The nuns are doing a great job in their work and I hope they will continue.

—Carmella Battaglia  
Eighth Grader  
601 Arnett Blvd.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

BISHOP JOSEPH L. HOGAN  
President

Msgr. John S. Randall Managing Editor  
Carmen J. Viglucci Editor  
Rev. Richard Tormey Executive Editor

Anthony J. Costello  
Advertising Director

Arthur P. Farren  
Associate Editor

MAIN OFFICE ..... 35 Scio St. — 454-7050 — Rochester, N. Y. 14604  
ELMIRA OFFICE 317 Robinson Bldg., Lake St. .. RE 2-5688 or RE 2-3423