

More Letters to the Editor

Calley Caught In Dilemma

Editor:

The Calley case is a rallying point for all Americans who still have faith and confidence in their country. The Communist conspirators would like the world to think that the incident was characteristic of American behavior in general. The American people didn't buy it! A deluge of letters, telegrams and phone calls to the White House caused President Nixon to intercede in Calley's behalf.

This writer does not condone wanton, senseless killing of innocent people—but in Vietnam, who is innocent?

A Marine that I know tells of the little "flower girl" whom the corps had adopted as "mascot." Daily she would come to their post and the marines bought the flowers she was selling. Some of the marines would pick her up and make a fuss over her. One day she appeared as usual with her arm full of flowers. Several Marines gathered around her. One of the men bent down to pick her up when she exploded. The Viet Cong made her a human "booby trap." Yes, she was innocent, but was an instrument of war by an enemy that will use any method to kill. Calley should not have done what he did; but I can see how it could happen.

Is Calley guilty or innocent of the charges leveled against him? At the court martial, he was declared guilty. It is my opinion that he is neither guilty nor innocent. Lt. Calley is a victim of a dilemma from which there was no escape.

Our country is in a dilemma from which an escape is possible, if and when we recognize our enemy for what that enemy really is—International-Marxist-Leninist-Communism dedicated to one general purpose and plan—to bring America to it's knees and to liquidate all who stand in the way of Communist world conquest.

We must support our military. We must call for re-instatement of ROTC to our colleges. If the conviction of Calley is allowed to stand, our military forces will have been disarmed, and the United States will be left exposed to an unscrupulous enemy.

Duncan J. Parks
Watkins Glen

Father Cuddy Praised

Editor:

It is with concerned interest that I read the recent controversies over Father Cuddy's traditionalist column. How good or how bad are the "reforms" that follow Vatican II? Perhaps the answers should be considered from the point of view of the biblical advice: "By their fruits, you shall know them."

Personally, this is what I have observed as the "fruits" of Vatican II Council:

- 1) Breakdown of discipline in the clergy and laity;
- 2) Priests and nuns leaving their calling in droves;
- 3) Serious decline in church attendance, especially among younger Catholics;
- 4) Rampant pornography;
- 5) The spread of the attack on the sanctity and value of life—abortion, euthanasia, violence, crime.
- 6) Closing down of Catholic schools and secularization of some Catholic colleges;
- 7) Literature, art and music promoting anti-Christian, anti-

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morality, anti-family, pro-drug, pro-communist themes;

8) Catholic Chile becoming the first nation to vote in communism.

I remember a pre-Vatican II Catholic Church that was vital, respected and effective in the fight against evil. Our church can become great again. All we need are more men like Father Cuddy.

Nicholas Hober
Lapham Street,
Rochester

Resist War, Group Urges

Editor:

On Tuesday, April 7, we went to the Selective Service Offices to pray with those present because we believe that all of us share in the responsibility for the war in Indo-China. As Christians, we cannot leave unchallenged the policy of our nation

which causes the death of innocent lives.

American losses are only a small part of the total destruction of human life in this war; thus, Vietnamization will not end the suffering involved in continuing the war. We are pitting Asians against Asians as American body counts drop. We are concerned about an exaggerated sense of nationalism which has little or no regard for the severe human destruction that the Vietnamese are suffering. As Americans, we are outraged at this policy of devastation in our names.

These beliefs are rooted in our commitment as Christians. The law of God demands that we choose life in Him rather than unquestioning allegiance to the present order. We therefore call on all men and women of faith to challenge and resist, in whatever ways they can, these death-bringing elements in the present order.

Father Raymond Booth

The letter was signed by 19 other participants in the Tuesday prayer.

Is there a mystery about funeral costs?

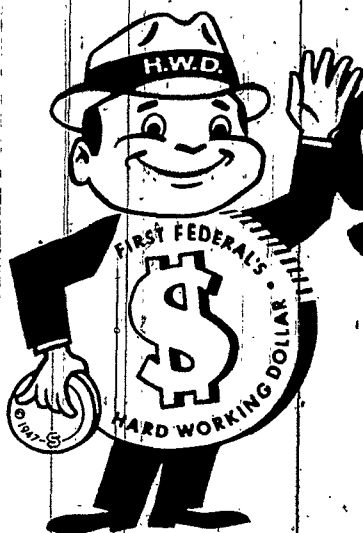
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