

# LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, 35 Sals St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

## Pitch In to Repair Church

Editor:

As many Catholics are well aware, the church is in great turmoil. Many Catholics have turned their back on God, others are experiencing great doubts and some have even left the fold. This leaves the faithful with a heavy burden to bear, not only in regard to corporal duties, but also spiritual ones.

The pleading words of Christ to St. Francis, "Repair My

Church," are just as applicable today as they were in the sanded days of Francis. Each of us must help to repair the church in our own personal way. Those who are not actively engaged otherwise can offer their services for teaching the large number of catechism classes that are found in all our parishes. Others, gifted with the gift of a good speaking voice can be lecturers at Sunday Masses. Some might find a great happiness in visiting the sick, aged and lonely in all parishes.

Through His Words, "Woman behold thy Son," Our Lord placed the world in the care of

His Blessed Mother. As a result, Mary has become the mother of the Church. We should pray daily for her aid and constant intercession before the throne of Her Son. Only through Mary will the peace of Christ reign in our hearts to help us preserve in faith and to strengthen the church throughout the world.

William F. McCarthy  
2 Morrissey Hall  
Notre Dame, Inda. 46556

## Why Do Catholics Drop Out?

Editor:

Father Wood asks in his column "Where Have All the Converts Gone?" (7-7-71). He was deploring the decrease in the number of non-Catholics seeking instruction "in the faith."

When we confront his question with another: "Where have all the dropout Catholics gone?", I believe we should make the assumption: that the same conditions which keep both prospective "converts" and baptized Catholics out of Holy Mother Church must prevail today.

John Overlander  
Wimbledon Road  
Rochester

## Appeal For Coupons

Editor:

I appeal to your readers to "Save a coupon — Save a life."

The employees of Rochester Telephone Corp. are trying to collect 600,000 General Mills coupons available on Betty Crocker products.

With these coupons we hope to obtain a kidney machine for the Kidney Foundation of Genesee Valley.

The coupons should be trimmed and bundled in 100 point packs and sent to: Coupon Committee, c/o Rochester Telephone Corp., 100 Midtown Plaza, Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Our campaign will last until December.

Please help us fight the fourth most common cause of death.

Miss Sue Fay  
Rochester

# Q & A

Q. — A woman's husband has been missing in action or declared dead but his body is never found. After seven years she remarries. Then a few years later she learns that her first husband is still alive. What are the thoughts of the Church on this? — Elmira.

A. — The second marriage was entered in good faith, out of ignorance of the true fact of the first husband's survival. The marital life the woman enjoyed with the second man was not morally wrong. But the original marriage commitment was "until death": therefore she remains married to number one sacramentally as long as he lives. When she discovers he still lives she should leave the second man and resume the marriage with the first. There might be grounds for not rejoining the first man, but there is no justification for continuing in the invalid relationship with the second.

### CARE MEDICINE

MEDICO, a service of CARE, has medical teams at hospitals in Afghanistan, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Indonesia and Tunisia. The teams treat patients and train local medical personnel.

**HOLY HOUR  
ROSARY &  
BENEDICTION**

Thursday, 8 P.M.

by Father Albert Shamon

**HOLY ROSARY CHURCH**

414 LEXINGTON AVE.  
(off Dewey Ave.)



FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday

In the Koran it is written "God took Abraham as a friend." So honorable a title was given Abraham by Mohammed, because God had confided in Abraham, and not in Lot, what He was about to do in Sodom. Abraham, so to speak, knew the mind of God as any friend would; he felt the presence of God; he spoke heart to heart with God.

Sunday's Readings offer us two examples of prayer: of speaking to God as friend to friend. Both Readings (I & III) teach us what to pray for and how to pray.

Christ said, "When you pray, use us, our, we and not me, my I. Pray for other, especially for sinners. Say, 'Forgive us our sins.'" One of the requests of our Lady at Fatima was, "Pray for the conversion of sinners." Abraham prayed for Sodom, the city of sin. God's friends, like God, are concerned about others, especially sinners.

Christ said, "Pray persistently." In the Near East, men often journeyed after sundown to avoid the midday heat. In our Lord's story, such a traveler arrived in the middle of the night at his friend's house. The larder was empty. But hospitality is so sacred a duty in the Near East that the embarrassed host hurried to another's house and pounded on the door till he got what he wanted. "Pray like that," counseled Christ. "Ask . . . seek . . . knock."

Six times Abraham prayed for Sodom. He asked, God answered. He sought, he found God merciful. He knocked, God was open to all his requests. Yes, if ten just men could be found, God would spare Sodom. Abraham begged no more; surely ten such men could be found in Lot's household. If not, Sodom deserved to be destroyed. Then only did Abraham desist. If one might say so, who prays should hang on God's garments like a burr.

And who should pray? The friends of God should, above all others. Like Abraham, man is dust and ashes. Dust, and therefore mortal and helpless. Ashes, because man now is but the remains of what he once was in Eden. And yet Christ has recreated man.

"When you were dead in sin, . . . God gave you new life in company with Christ." We were not only "buried with Christ but also raised to life with him" (R II). And because we are, we are now the children of Abraham, the friends of God — He is Father.

What an obligation that imposes upon us. Two things as a matter of fact. First, to pray night and day for the conversion of sinners. Only when prayers in sufficient numbers go up to God, like vapors from the seas, will His grace of conversion rain down on the earth beneath.

Secondly, to strive to live good lives. Ten good men could have saved Sodom. Good men are the shields of the wicked, the saviors of nations. Like lightning rods they carry off harmlessly many a stroke of divine judgment. The Trojans believed that so long as Hector lived, Troy could not be destroyed. Homer called Hector "the immovable and unexpugnable pillar of Troy."

Well may it be said the defenders of a nation are the good men and women who dwell in it. So long as the virtues emblazoned on our flag — ideals, reaching to the unreachable stars, to God Himself, the red badge of courage and valor, the white of innocence and purity, the blue of loyalty and fidelity — so long as these virtues live in the hearts of the men and women of America, our nation will continue to be blessed by God.

Christ by His death has blessed us, so that our life and prayers may bless all others.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

BISHOP JOSEPH L. HOGAN  
President

Anthony J. Costello General Manager  
Carmen J. Viglucci Editor  
Rev. Richard Tonney Executive Editor

MAIN OFFICE . . . . . 35 Sals St. — 454-7050 — Rochester, N. Y. 14604

Courier-Journal

## Last Call for Campers



## Camp Stella Maris

Limited Openings Available In Most Periods

REGISTER NOW!  
Avoid Disappointment

WEEKLY ENCAMPMENTS  
JUNE 27th to AUG. 28th

FOR INFORMATION  
Call 716-454-2030  
or write  
CAMP SECRETARY  
50 CHESTNUT ST.  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14604

## A NEW WEEKLY FEATURE

Our Parish COUNCIL  
by Bernard Lyons

STARTING NEXT WEEK IN THE  
COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, July 21, 1971