

# LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, 35 Scio 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.

## Costa Column Draws Praise

Editor:

Probably you don't need to be told, but I'm going to tell you anyway. Pat Costa does a very honest and intelligent column and I truly appreciate her review of our new show. Her points are extremely well taken

and from such a sensitive, wonderful person I accept them all gratefully. She is very constructive, which elevates her from those who are interested only in the destructive aspects. I am sure she is appreciated by many, many of your readers; she should be.

Louise Wilson  
Director, Women's Programs  
WOKR-TV  
Rochester

## FR. ALBERT SHAMON Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings are all about faith. Faith is more than saying, "I believe" to a list of truths spelled out in a creed. Creeds generally begin with "I believe in God." The key word is "in." Faith is belief in someone, it means we love him and trust him. And because we do, we believe him. To have that kind of faith in a person — one that leads to complete trust and love — results from a lot of trusting and loving.

Abraham, for instance, is the father of faith (RII). What trust he had in God! Imagine leaving your homeland in 2,000 B.C. and striking out for an unknown land just on God's say so, Abraham did. Though in his lifetime he never got the land promised, he still believed it would be his children's. And he believed this even when he did not have a child and when it was humanly impossible for his wife, Sara, to conceive. Still he trusted. God rewarded his faith by making a sterile womb fruitful. But God's testing of Abraham's faith did not end there. When Isaac was twelve, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his child — a common enough practice then. He would have, too, for so marvelous was his faith that he believed God could raise the dead. The posture of men of faith toward God is trust.

And what is the posture, the attitude, toward life of men of faith? The author of Hebrews wrote that men of faith walked the earth like "strangers and foreigners." They were searching for a better, a heavenly home. Jesus likens them to watchful servants (RIII). "Servants," because they do their Master's will, "Watchful," because they know the Master's coming in death is sudden and unexpected.

On the 14th of April, 1912, the Titanic glided through the North Atlantic at 22 1/2 knots, disdainful of all obstacles. For the Titanic was "the ship that God himself couldn't sink!" At midnight she brushed an iceberg. Two hours and forty minutes later she upended and sank. Of her 2,207 passengers, only 705 survived. Among the passengers were the Astors, Guggenheims, Morgans—a passenger list worth \$250,000,000.

There was a king who had a

fool — the wittiest of fools. Whenever the king was mad or sad, the fool made him glad. One day the poor fool so delighted his master that the monarch crowned him "King of Fools." At the mock coronation, the king gave his fool a wooden sceptre with the words, "Sir Fool, keep this sceptre till you find a fool greater than yourself."

For years the fool kept his sceptre. Then one day the king himself was stricken. As he lay dying, the king asked to see his fool for the last time so that he might thank him for the many moments of merriment he had given him and say goodbye.

With cap and bells and sceptre, the fool came into the king's presence. The king smiled and said, "Sir Fool, I am going on a long, long journey."

"Master, where are you going?" asked the fool.

"I'm going to die," answered the king.

"How long are you going to be there?" questioned the fool.

"Oh," whispered the king, "forever and ever."

"Have you made preparations for this journey?" mumbled the fool, certain that the king had. "A house to live in? Friends to receive you?"

"No," the monarch replied, "I've never thought of that. I was too busy."

Shocked and hurt, the wise fool blurted, "Sir, when you crowned me King of Fools, you gave me this sceptre and told me to keep it till I met a fool greater than myself. You are going on a long journey from which you shall never return and you have made no preparations for it. I play the fool in this world, but you have fooled away the next. You have entirely neglected the world to come. Indeed you are a greater fool than I." The jester laid the sceptre on the king's bed and left weeping.

Men and women of faith trust God in this world, like Abraham, and work for the next, like servants with belt fastened and lamps burning.

## Group Seeks Members

Editor:

Since Vatican II a false ecumenism has arisen which stems from a shallow reading and false interpretation of the instructions and directives of the council. The thesis seems to be: "Since good-living, God-fearing Jews and Christians can be saved without actually being part of the visible Church which Christ established for the salvation of all men, there is no need to instruct these people in the Catholic, that is, the traditional Christian faith."

Obviously, this theory overlooks the fact that Christ's Church is the custodian of God's richest gifts to man and that mankind can receive these gifts only through the Catholic Church.

If Christ said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you," and this is possible only in the Catholic Church to which the Eucharist has been committed, how can these theorists teach that the sacrament is unimportant to the lives of those who are outside of the Church, albeit through no fault of their own.

The Eucharist is the greatest gift of God to man because the Eucharist is Himself. The Mass is the projection of Calvary into time and space: the sacrifice by which the world is redeemed. Yet only those who are part of the living body of Christ, the Church, can receive God's gift of Himself in the Eucharist and participate in the offering of the Sacrifice of the World's Redemption.

An international group of clergy and laity, known as the CMOA. Convert Making Our Apostolate, with headquarters in New York City, seeks to combat false ecumenism and to promote the true preaching of the full gospel message entrusted by Christ to His Church. The society has just celebrated its Silver Jubilee and numbers among its members many bishops and outstanding priests and laymen. Its purpose is not only to make converts but also to train men and women to bring the complete gospel to those outside of the Church. Officers would like to see units established in Rochester. Pastors, priests and lay men and women who are interested should write to me at 789 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14607, or phone 473-3079.

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan  
East Avenue  
Rochester

## Church Needs Converts

Editor:

Relative to Father Wood's question (Courier-Journal 7-7-71), "Where have all the converts gone?" One wonders that this is taken so lightly. Excusable to the point that ecumenism and convert work do not mix well. Should this be the case, ecumenism is the wrong approach as a Christian Catholic.

Ecumenism hopefully and prayerfully seeks the unity of all Christians to the one faith. If we take our apostolate seriously it makes sense that our mission as members of the Catholic Church in the ecumenical movement should be to encourage more converts to the faith. In our present day society of permissiveness and freedom, if we are to work towards unity, converts should play a part in the life and the works of the Church.

Wednesday, August 4, 1971

I'M A ROMAN CATHOLIC,  
TOO, AND MY CONSCIENCE  
DOESN'T OBJECT TO  
YOUR BEING  
DRAFTED



'Conscientious Objection'

Chicago—This Joe Noonan cartoon on the cover of the July 21 issue of "The Christian Century," the ecumenical weekly, is designed to show the difficulty faced by many young Roman Catholics seeking conscientious objector status. The subject of Catholics refusing to serve in the armed forces is dealt with in the magazine's cover story by Joseph Pisani, a free-lance writer and coordinator of Catholic Peace Fellowship activities in Connecticut. Pisani says that while the Roman Catholic Church has not been traditionally considered a "peace church" and while many Catholics still cling to the belief in "just wars," a growing number of Catholics are beginning to concede that a just war is no longer possible in the nuclear age. This change in attitude, Pisani holds, has been brought about mainly by Vatican II, Pope John XIII's encyclical "Pacem in Terris," the Vietnam war, and a new generation of college students. (RNS)

## Q & A

**Q.** My son intends to marry a fine girl who insists that their wedding shall be held in her Lutheran Church. And she wants her uncle, a Lutheran minister, to witness their vows. Can this be done?

**A.** There used to be a penalty of excommunication for a Catholic who got married before a Protestant clergyman. This was abolished in March 1966. But the marriage described would be invalid now unless a proper permission and dispensation is obtained from the local Bishop. By rules published last Fall, a Bishop — for special reasons such as the blood-relationship of the non Catholic to a Protestant minister — may delegate that minister to be the official witness of a mixed marriage wedding. Then the wedding may take place in the church desired, also.

Close to 2,000 years ago Jesus Christ established His Church that is to live and grow until the end of time. With the decline of converts and the drop-outs, what hope for the future of the Catholic Church? We should have concern.

Pope John opened the windows. Not that we fly out. But that all faiths have a better understanding of one another.

Alice A. Walsh  
High Street  
Elmira

## School Financing Clarified

Editor:

The Martin Luther King Summer School, which was featured in the July 21 edition of the Courier-Journal, is a

project planned and contracted for by the Social Action Cell.

The Social Action Cell is an ecumenical group of concerned Christians in the 16th ward, whose base is St. Francis Xavier Church. The school is open to all children in the area.

The article reported that \$12,000 was received from the Office of Human Development. That is the total cost of the project. About 80 per cent of that sum has been received from the federal government through the Summer Youth Opportunity Program; the remainder is a matching grant from local sources, one of which is the Office of Human Development.

Sister Eileen Conheady  
Program Coordinator for  
Martin Luther King  
Summer School



"GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY DIET BREAD..."

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Page 4-A

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