

Some More Letters to the Editor

Be Proud Of Our Schools

Editor:

Orchids (or more fittingly prayers) for Father Albert Shamon for his article "What Makes Catholic Schools Different" (Courier-Journal).

It was most welcome especially coming from our diocesan vicar for education. As a lay person, I have been bugged for some time over our literally "hiding our lights under a bushel."

I received only four years of Catholic education, ages 8 through 12. To quote Father Shamon, "dimension was added" to my life during those four vulnerable years. My philosophy and meaning of life were formulated actually during those years.

I was not fortunate enough to have received parochial education at high school and college levels but feel the "foundation" was firmly laid in four years of dedicated guidance and teaching in parochial school.

Surely our schools need and should receive financial aid but not at the cost of dodging our heritage. Let us call a spade a spade, stand up and be counted.

Thank you, Father Shamon, and God bless you.

Kay Sullivan
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Parents Weak On Doctrine

Editor:

It is of deep concern to me that Catholic parents show such a gross amount of ignorance regarding their faith and beliefs. If parents cannot teach their children simple doctrines of faith such as preparation for Communion, Confession and Confirmation, why then does the Church accept children from such families? Does it not merely perpetuate future, indifferent and ignorant parents of doctrine?

Some may ask who can refuse a child Jesus? My answer

is a further question, who will assure us that the child will mature as a thinking, practicing Christian if he is raised in an indifferent family style of living where example speaks louder than words? Why are we so sentimentally foolish when we say "God will look after them" and then sit back and do nothing to insure a future generation of earnest, knowledgeable and sincere Christians?

Our Bishop wonders and is quite concerned about "early marriages" and is now requesting priests to make sure the young people receive adequate instruction before allowing them to be married in the Church. This is good. However, I think he should get at the source of the problem — the parents and home life. Unless we strengthen the family through education as a family, we will continue to have A & P Catholics... Catholics who are unbelievably ignorant of the simplest doctrines of faith and have remained frozen at about an 8th grade level of Christian doctrine, if that. If you think I am wrong I challenge the diocesan office to take a survey — a questionnaire of Catholics in this diocese — questions at the primary level of doctrine — and I daresay 75% will have failed.

Anne B. Christoff
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Disagrees With Story

Editor:

I attended the meeting at Becket Hall Oct. 16 and 17. The Courier-Journal article stated that it was the consensus that parish councils should not be "mandated". In my opinion it was the consensus that parish councils were not advocated which would be mere extensions of a board of trustees but they were insisted upon as not only necessary but urgently necessary as bodies of true renewal in liturgy, social action and the community life of the parish.

I would just like to add to the report in the Courier that renewal was defined uniformly as getting back to the original message of Christ, to the simple commandments of lov-

ing God and neighbor and working these out in practical ways.

In my opinion, the whole meeting primarily concerned renewal and there was an urgency expressed by the 80 people attending that seemed to be at the point of an explosive force, being controlled with great difficulty. This urgency for renewal stemmed from a recognition of realities of priest friends and sister friends and lay people friends and young people friends leaving the Church.

Practical means of implementation were suggested such as immediate education of the clergy as to these matters, a body sent from the pastoral office to meet with a minimum of 15 lay people and the pastor from each parish, recognition of racism in the Church and going about the ways to combat it and also to have a liturgy in each parish that would revive our Spirit for the week instead of it being a liturgy that we have to work up all our spirits for to go to the Mass. This last suggestion by the way was made by a priest with much concurrence from the laity.

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Superstar Seen As Human

Editor:

By now you may be assailed with the pros and cons of Superstar. Though not wishing to undertake a personal vendetta with Mrs. Hober (Courier-Journal 10-20-71), I'd enjoy refuting her objections.

Superstar is a rock opera. If you don't like rock (and you'd find yourself in many a music critic's company), you'll have to hoe harder to weed out the reasons for not liking it. But music aside, it still stands on its own merits. Superstar's idea is to see Jesus as the men of his day saw him... the crowds, the Magdalenes, the Judases, the friends, the Romans. Until the Last Supper, surely even his Apostles did not know his true identity (John 16:28-31).

Scripture shows he admitted

his Soul was troubled (John 12:27). "Everything's Alright" implies, to be precise, that while he can rest, he'd better. His pace has been far too much for one man to bear, and M. Magdalene and his friends would keep the world from his door for this little while that he might sleep. To imply sexuality in this is over-reaching. Does she not say... "so forget all about us, tonight"...

Were not bread and wine served at the Last Supper? Does this make drunkards of the Apostles because they sing of wine and woe?

Luke 22:41-44 shows Jesus as wishing this cup to be taken away, if God is willing, even as in Superstar he says... "God, they will is hard... take me now before I change my mind."

And see John 17:12, referring to Judas. Are not all things known to God, who yet allows our free will to lead us to where He alone knows. So Judas chose. The compassion Superstar has for Judas is one of its most beautiful features.

We, who are taught not to judge, can we not pity this man who was filled with remorse, who said... "I have sinned... I have betrayed innocent blood..." (Matthew, 27:3-4). Does not Superstar show his agony most eloquently?

Though the music may agitate you, you can't close your eyes to its merits. It may be irreverent, but weren't they then and aren't we now? It is a stark portrayal of Christ as human, which he was as well. But it isn't blasphemous. It has reached many who are turned off by formality, and turned them on, through its realism and compassion.

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