

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut 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.

Superstar 'Worthwhile'

Editor:

I am writing in regard to Mrs. N. Hober's letter. She wrote against Jesus Christ Superstar and even went so far as to say that it was going to lead to the destruction of our generation.

I am a college student who believes that Mrs. Hober couldn't be more wrong.

Superstar is the most worthwhile thing pertaining to our religion that we, the "younger

generation" have received in quite some time. With so many important issues facing us, we are constantly being told to "have faith in this or to "believe" in that. Superstar is something tangible that tells us clearly who and what we are having faith and believing in.

Superstar is specifically for youth or those who can put aside their close-mindedness. Jesus was truly God and Man, then He must have had the same doubts that all of us face at some time because we are men. If Christ was human, who is to say that He didn't have some emotional feelings for Mary Magdalen — and if he

did, what is wrong with that? Emotions are important to humans.

Superstar describes Christ as he really is — a superstar. Sometimes we get so bogged down with the God image that we forget that he was also a man. For youth to believe in someone who was not too far removed from us is more meaningful than to believe in a "force" up beyond the sky and stars.

We can respect and feel the presence of someone who had to face indecision, who could humanly love, had "normal" friends who could have a good time and enjoy themselves, and who found His purpose for coming into this world.

Along with this respect comes our acceptance of Jesus as we know Him. Maybe it isn't the way adults know Him, but we believe and have faith in Jesus as a superstar who can (and will) back us up in times of doubt and trouble and help us build, not destroy.

Kathi Smith
Solmar Drive
Rochester

Superstar A 'Degradation'

Editor:

When one considers the article in the Courier-Journal (10-6-71) "What Makes Catholic Schools Different?" — and the aftermath dealing with "Jesus Christ Superstar" showing at St. John Fisher College, one wonders about: "formation of conscience", "bad or good education", "Christian and Gospel interpretation".

An invitation is generally regarded as: friendliness, acceptance, agreement. To have such a well-known Catholic college invite the showing of "Superstar" is a degradation to all Catholic and Christian principles!

Any wonder that many question, "What's with Catholics, anyhow?" Romans Chapter 2, Vs. 20-24:

"An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which has the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law:

Thou therefore which teaches another, teaches thou not thyself?"

Mrs. J. A. Robinson
Lapham Street
Rochester

Editor's Note: The show in question originally was booked into the Auditorium Theater but because of a conflict had to find another stage.

Student Lauds 'Superstar'

Editor:

I had the opportunity to see the controversial rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" last July and found it to be most extraordinary.

Superstar proclaims the message of Christ in a way that kids can understand. It isn't only the music that "turns them on" but the idea brought through by music. Christ is portrayed in a human, personal way, not by denying his divinity but rather emphasizing it.

Certainly everyone is aware of the teenagers' loss of interest in the Church. Turning on drugs is not the answer to war, crime, and poverty. If kids can learn to hope in Christ through Superstar, then certainly it should not be condemned, but encouraged in the Church.

Sue Shellenberger
Geneva High School

Wednesday, November 3, 1971

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14; (R2) 2Thes 2: 16-3:15. (R3) Lk. 20:27-38.

In the days of windjammers, a tyro on a sailing boat was ordered to climb the main mast to help unfurl the sails. As he neared the top, he started to look down. An old timer watching saw the lad becoming dizzy and swaying. Quickly the old salt shouted, "For God's sake, Lad, look up, look up!"

The message of Sunday's liturgy is to look up to the life beyond — to the resurrection of the dead. The thought of the resurrection seems to affect our lives but little, today. We tend to take this truth for granted. So, periodically the Church must dust it off, that it may shine forth in all its undimmed splendor and touch our lives.

The First Reading is from the Book of Maccabees. This book, written as late as 150 B.C., has some of the clearest Old Testament statements about a bodily resurrection. Seven brothers die horrible deaths rather than break the Law of Moses. What sustains them in their frightful agony is the thought that "the King of the world will raise us up forever" (R1).

In the Gospel Christ teaches that this resurrection from the dead is to a new, and far superior, kind of life. The Pharisees tended to identify the future life as a crude continuation of the present, a glorified carnal life. The Sadducees, who

accepted only the five books of Moses, did not believe in an afterlife. Moses, they claimed, never spoke of such a life. For the same reason they repudiated the popular belief in angels and demons, which grew up late in Judaism — after the Babylonian Captivity and under Persian influence. In baiting the Pharisees about the resurrection, the Sadducees tried to show the ridiculousness of such a belief by posing the case of the woman who had been widowed seven times. Her seven husbands had been brothers. At the resurrection, the Sadducees asked, whose wife would she be.

This case always drew a laugh. But Christ took it very seriously. He told the Sadducees they were wrong about the resurrection. The woman would be nobody's wife. For in the resurrection there would be no need for marriage, since no man will die in the afterlife. Therefore, no need to propagate the species or provide a legal heir.

Our Lord then pursued the issue further. Adapting Himself to the fact the Sadducees accepted only the books of Moses, He proved from Moses that there is a resurrection. Our Lord based His proof on the most sacred moment of their history; the time God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush. At that time God told Moses, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Jesus pointed out that God did not say, "I was," but "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" — implying thereby that they were still living. The Scribes were impressed with Jesus' argument. "Well spoken, Teacher," they commented.

St. Paul in the Second Reading simply presumes the resurrection. He wrote that Jesus Christ is very much alive; in fact, He is our strength and hope. Therefore look beyond to Him. He is risen to help us rise.

Unnumbered sorrows, woes beyond belief,

A world aflame with hate and grief,—
"Look Beyond!"

This little life so short—a span at best,

And that short span a torment of unrest,—
"Look Beyond!"

Before Life's crosses Hope and Love are dumb.

"Hold to your Faith! God's best is still to come,—
Look Beyond!"

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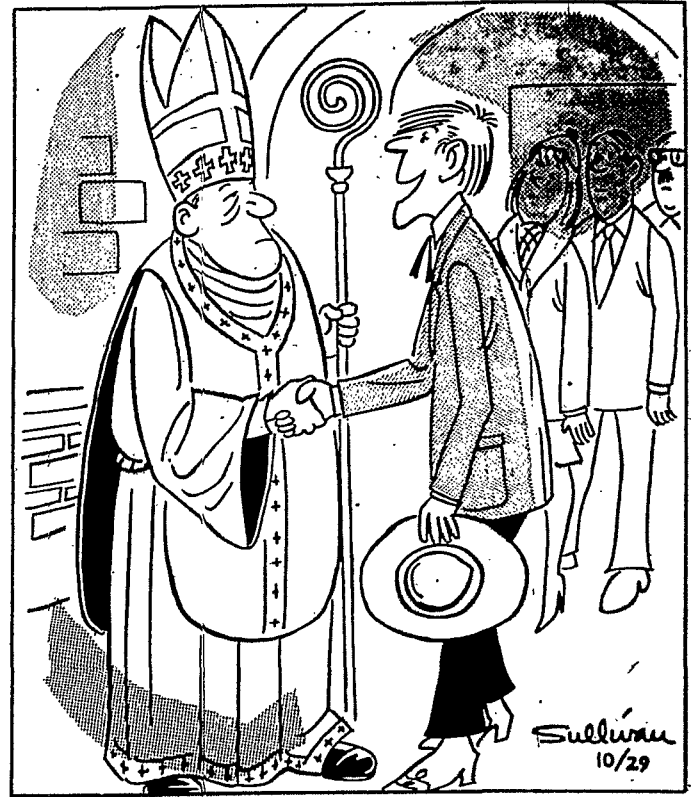
Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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