

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.

Rev. Wurmbbrand Project Lauded

Your article, Nov. 3, regarding Rev. Richard Wurmbbrand and his organization "Jesus to the Communist World Inc." is a welcome recognition of this heroic survivor of Communist prison torture-chambers. Upon his escape to America, Rev. Wurmbbrand was shocked to find us in Step 2 of the Communist take-over plan: — 'Lull them to sleep'. Author and lecturer, he is devoting his time

to awaken America, — the last hope of enslaved humanity, and the last defense of the free world!

In accordance, with Christ's command to "teach the gospel to all nations", Rev. Wurmbbrand's organization prints Bibles and hymnals in many foreign languages, and smuggles them to the underground church. In addition, religious literature, as many as 160,000 a day, have been distributed behind the Iron Curtain. Letters of encouragement and sympathy, as well as material aid, are also sent to the fami-

lies of the martyred Christians. Plans are also being made to widen the work to include Red China; — also starving for the WORD OF GOD!

It is apparent that the Communists have achieved one of their primary goals, the complete domination of the UN, and its potential One World Government. It was Russia that insisted the UN be located in the United States; — to function as a base of operation to infiltrate and subvert our nation. Russia is happy to permit the United States to remain in the UN as the greatest contributor to the financial support of the UN.

The free world should not permit the UN to wage its war of violent peace, annihilating all opposition, to achieve a world peace, — the kind that exists in the enslaved Communist bloc nations and Red China!

Praying that it is not too little and too late, let us heed Wurmbbrand's appeal for support of "Jesus To The Communist World, Inc."; and, with true Charity, open our hearts to the least of our brothers, — those imprisoned, starved, and tortured for their Christian Faith.

Mrs. Jeanne Lucarelli
Davis Street, Elmira.

Right to Life Unit Lauded

Editor:

It is the usual practice in journalism to include the name of the group sponsoring an event, if such an event merits publicity. Having read of Sen. James Donovan's recent talk in Rochester, I noticed that no mention was made of the fact that the Rochester Right to Life Committee sponsored this program.

Credit should certainly be given to the group which was responsible for bringing him to your area. The program apparently was most worthwhile and Rochester was indeed fortunate to hear from such a committed spokesman for the "Pro-Life Cause."

Jane Callahan
West Fourth Street
Elmira

Father Erb Sends Greetings

Editor:

We have been very busy here in Aura, Ghana, too. Since last Christmas our department has conducted two courses in communications; mounted two exhibitions (one 2,000 sq. feet at the Ghana International Trade Fair in February and another in August for the Pan Africano Malagasy Laity Seminar); assisted in the publicity for the seminar (press, radio and TV programs — 16 altogether!); cooperated in the production of two documentary films on the Catholic Church in Ghana (BBC, London and GBC, Ghana); produced a documentary also about the ordination of our new Bishop Andoh; and finally — provided documentation for our people on the various problems facing us: family planning, abortion and all that.

I think we have much to be grateful for and we thank God and you through whom He has helped us. May God bless and reward you! I only hope you aren't listening to those people who say missionaries are no longer relevant. I'd say we are more relevant than ever! We have no trouble here cashing checks or international money orders — but if its more convenient for you in the USA,

Wednesday, December 1, 1971

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) Is 11:1-10. (R2) Rom 15:4-9. (R-3) Mt. 3:1-12.

"A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse." What a beautifully alliterative sentence! The shoot, of course, is Christ. The Hebrew word for "shoot" is naser. When Matthew writes that Jesus shall be called a Nazarene, he is playing on the word Naser and Nazareth, as if to say the Nazarene is the shoot.

And the shoot sprouted from the stump of Jesse. Jesse was David's father. From that root blossomed the large tree of Juda's kings. What Isaiah foretold was that only when this proud tree had been cut down, when Juda's kings no longer reigned, when the royal house was reduced to a charred stump, a bare handful, levelled to the ground, would the shoot bud out — the Messiah come.

The shoot would blossom into a Man — a Man upon whom the Holy Spirit with His seven fold gifts would rest. For this King would come to judge and judge justly. Peace and harmony would follow. For peace is the work of justice. Wolf and lamb, calf and lion — those hostile by nature — would become friends. "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever" (Response).

The shoot becomes a Man, the Man dissolves into a mountain — the mountain of the Lord, His Church towering over all others because God dwells in it. The Gentiles shall seek this

mountain "set up as a signal for the nations" (R1).

Nearly eight centuries later, John the Baptist came out of the desert. He echoed Isaiah. He preached about the Messiah coming, not as a babe, but as a judge. People flocked to him in fear of that judgment. He baptized them as a sign they were sincerely resolved to quit their drunkenness, their lusting, their cheating, their backbiting — whatever shamed their lives. They were going to make a clean start!

But another group came to him. Religious people! Respected people! The Pharisees and the Sadducees! The people must have been impressed by such a fine show of humility and example. Not John. "You brood of vipers," he called them, "who warned you to flee the wrath to come?" The serpent as the image of the devil goes back to Genesis. The early Christians believed that the Jewish leaders were possessed by the devil. Jesus himself told them, "You are of your father the devil" (Jn. 8:44). As serpents leave their holes to escape an approaching fire, so the Pharisees and the Sadducees felt that by simply running to John they could escape the flaming wrath to come. They had not thought of reforming.

Running away from the Church is never an answer to religious problems. Nor is turning off religion. What John demanded, and what the Church demands, is change. The call is to reform — not so much structures as ourselves. The heart of reform is to reform the heart. The renewal of the Church must always begin there and end there.

Paul depicts the specifics of the reform John preached (R2). He appealed for charity toward one another. "Accept one another, as Christ accepted you." Isaiah's striking image was — reconcile irreconcilables: lamb and wolf, child and snake, calf and lion! In other words enemies become friends. Be a peacemaker! By being just yourself. By acting as arbiter between a quarreling husband and wife who are your friends. By praying for peace between Protestant and Catholic Irishmen, between Pakistan and India, Egypt and Israel, between Blacks and Whites, radicals and conservatives. You complete the list yourself.

Of course this means forgetting self. But that is what the stump metaphor is all about: only when we begin to see we are nothing can God begin to make something of us, can make us "messiahs" — peacemakers.

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Courier-Journal

Beyond the Stained Glass



"DON'T POOH-POOH ME, GEORGE! WHEN SONNY WAS HOME ON VACATION OTHER TIMES HE NEVER READ THE WANT-ADS!"

you can forward your checks to me, care of

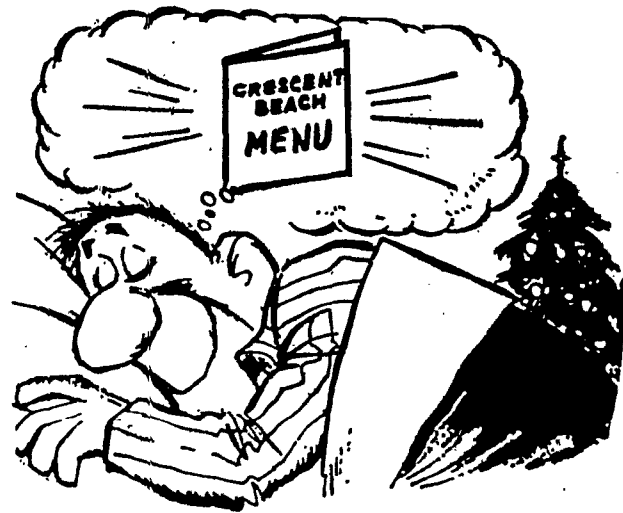
Father Francis Kamp, SVD,
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During the next half year I'll be busy getting film offices opened in the eight dioceses of Ghana . . . Then in July I'm

supposed to go back home again for three months of rest and recreation

May God bless you all! Have a nice Christmas. May 1972 usher in a better time for all God's children.

Fr. Charles, SVD
Aura, Ghana



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