

LETTERS

'Exorcist'

'Sick' Book

Editor:

Upon the recommendation of a priest friend I bought the "Exorcist" and read it. I must say that this book was written by a sick man, about sick people and if it has been on the best seller list for many weeks—this doesn't surprise me—for I have known for quite awhile that popularity does not necessitate good judgment or proper values.

The book is bizarre, unnecessarily explicit about black Masses, possession, etc., and theologically incorrect. That the author should thank the Jesuit order for training his mind, does not speak too well for the Jesuits, but then we have Jesuit Father O'Malley who recommends this book to his young readers as being an excellent moral book. I am thankful that Father O'Malley is going to Hollywood where he belongs.

May I take this way of saying how much I enjoy the Father Atwell column. He is a priest 30 years ahead of his time and one whose rare insight and keen intelligence states current issues as they are and does not hide behind the clerical smokescreen of stale clichés. He has the courage of his convictions and as I see it, he is about the only hope or champion that clear thinking, concerned and intelligent laymen have.

Anne Christoff
Rochester

Daily Mass Crusade Urged

Editor:

Our church is in a very serious crisis. Fallen away Catholics would run into the millions. Christ promised to be with the Church until the end of time, but He never said how many members it would have then. Christ always gives us the grace and the means to obtain it if we would only use common sense.

If there is anything that would touch the heart of Christ it is the innocence and the prayers of children. For years children attending the parochial schools attended daily Mass, they were not forced to but were encouraged to go to church each day. Why do the children of today stay away from church during the week? Surely they could pay a visit to their Eucharistic King.

If the Catholic schools do not promote daily Mass I say they are not worth very much. And the millions of dollars we spend on our schools could well be spent on the poor, the elderly and the sick. I really wonder if Christ would have any kinder words for us were he to come again than He had for the people of His day when He called them Hypocrites. I for one would surely like to see our Bishop start a crusade of prayers, starting with daily Mass for those of us who can attend, and to revive among the children this wonderful practice.

Leo Zeller
Canton Street
Rochester

'Hands of Mary' Seeking Help

Editor:

"Hands of Mary," a lay mission helpers group, is sorely in need of mission supplies.

If anyone could send discarded religious items they will be sent to India where they cannot be obtained. Needed are rosaries (especially), brown scapulars, medals, small statues, pictures (but no printed mat-

Courier-Journal

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 1½ pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

ter) crucifixes, and even sewing materials.

Needed drastically are small children's clothing for school wear. We would also greatly appreciate mailing cord and tape as these take out of our limited funds.

Articles may be mailed directly to Father V. Elanjipuram, Holy Family R. C. Church, Bathili P.O. Srikakulam Dr. A.P. India, or to "Hands of Mary," Eldora Scott, Director, R.D. 1, Footer Road, Holcomb, N.Y. 14469.

Eldora Scott
Holcomb

'Leaky Boat' Calls for Action

Editor:

Recently on a late-night talk show, Thor Heyerdahl said that persons from eight different countries sailed with him on his epic voyage. He said that they all got along very well together. The host suggested that this was because they were all together on a "leaky boat."

I wonder how much more time will pass before everyone realizes that we are all living on a "leaky boat." Some of the factors that make our world leaky are pollution, poverty and prejudice. Yet, even well-intentioned persons appear unable to work together to solve, or even reduce, these problems. How far into the water will our "boat" sink before pollution is removed from partisan politics and the various agencies that are attempting to alleviate poverty begin working together instead of duplicating each other's efforts and trying to outdo each other.

Judith Lockamyel
Summerville Drive
Rochester

Demonstration Violated Rights

Editor:

Members of the organization "Ecumenical Concern for Peace and Justice" disrupted the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Jan. 16 and distributed leaflets condemning American involvement in Indochina. Their intrusion violates the right of Americans to gather and worship without interference and indicates poor manners and a lack of consideration for others. This group has access to the communications media to present their views, but instead chooses to use abrasive confrontation tactics which have the effect of alienating opinion rather than winning sympathizers.

Although our activities in the world arena are far from perfect, we should realize that we live in a world which cannot exist half-slave and half-free. If we are truly concerned with peace and justice there is a fertile field for action in the super-states of the USSR and the People's Republic of China. Even though it may not be fashionable, it is not inappropriate to pray for world peace and for the conversion of Russia and China.

Richard J. Brzustowicz, M.D.
Rochester

A Tribute To Fr. Hester

Editor:

There lived and worked among us a spiritual and educational leader of remarkable character and impeccable reputation. Father Francis Hester's service to his Church and community has been a triumph over adversity and challenge.

He is responsible for the sta-

bility and sterling reputation of St. John the Evangelist Church and School. Every building block of the school, convent and rectory bears the imprint of his character and his concern.

His vision was incorruptible, his respect for truth steadfast and his judgment sure. Blessed with keen intellect, he could quickly determine the one best answer to a complicated problem.

The Spencerport community has lost a good friend. Members of the Board of Education extend deepest sympathy to the family of Father Francis E. Hester in their loss and bereavement. With them, members of the Spencerport school community mourn the passing of a fine individual and hold his memory in respect.

Dr. Leo Bernabi,
Superintendent of Schools,
Spencerport

Father Atwell View Assailed

Editor:

It is symbolic of the confusion within the Church today that you should print two such divergent views as you did on Page 5-A (1-26-72). I refer to columns by Father Atwell and Father Cuddy. Father Atwell cries real tears for the Berrigans and criticizes the "liberty and justice for all" U.S. government. Two columns away, Father Cuddy decries the "reverse justice" which makes martyrs out of malefactors and criminals out of victims.

I am not alone in my deep concern with clergymen who encourage their followers to break laws according to the dictates of their conscience. How can such priests and nuns call themselves followers of Christ? When disruption of the Mass is called "irritating action"; when destruction of government (or any other) property is condoned for any reason whatsoever; when the FBI is made fun of because they pose as bird-watchers to catch a Berrigan (although such action presumably would have been condoned had the result been the capture of "calloused criminals who wreck thousands of young lives"); when Catholic bishops are criticized because they aren't upset by "this newest of grisly presidential atrocities"—all according to Father Atwell, then I think it's time to halt printing of this kind of drivel.

We lay persons have been told that we must strive for unity and brotherhood. In fact, brotherhood was Christ's fundamental message to mankind. How then, can Father Atwell forget Christian charity to the extent of extolling the virtues of a criminal while berating the rest of the world for being out of step?

Whether one supports the Vietnam war or not; whether one supports the draft or a volunteer army; whether one agrees with governmental policy at home or abroad—is immaterial in the real quest for brotherhood, for brotherhood cannot condone violence in any form.

I would suggest that Father Atwell read the latter part of Father Cuddy's last paragraph: "America is in danger of losing its liberty because people will become so discouraged or angered or frustrated by constant and unrequited agitation and destruction and divisiveness of the lawless, that the law-respecting citizens will hand a hapless government over to a strong oligarchy, and with it, they will hand over their liberties."

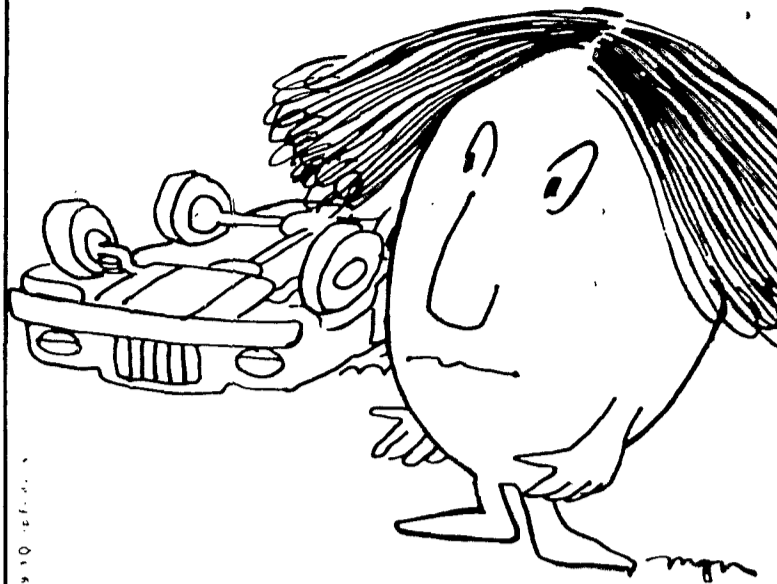
Mrs. Michael J. Fonte
Penfield

Other Letters On Page 19

Wednesday, February 2, 1972

QUIRP

"BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS
AS YE HAVE" (HEBREW 13:5)



EVEN THOUGH THE GUARANTEE
HAS RUN OUT

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings: Is. 58: 7-10(R1). 1 Cor. 2: 1-5(R2). Mt. 5: 13-16(R3).

Last Sunday the Beatitudes described the heights a man could reach. They told what a man should be in heart and mind and feeling, what would fulfill him.

This Sunday the Liturgy of the Word tells us that the virtues of the happy man are not to be cloistered. "You are the light of the world." Your Christianity has got to show. If it does not, you haven't got it. If you've got it, you can't hide it. It will show up in the way you treat somebody who works for you, in the way you talk to a waitress in a restaurant, the way you play cards or bingo or any game, the way you drink or park your car, in what you see, in how you talk. You might just as well try to drop an atom bomb in secret as hide what you are.

St. Paul says this light of ours is not knowledge — "Faith doesn't rest on the wisdom of men" (R2). Our light is our good works: taking care of the essential needs of others as much as we are able — needs as basic as food, clothing and shelter (R1). The goodness that is in a man must break forth like an eastern dawn, splitting the sky with streaks of light. "Your light must shine before men so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father" (R3). The good life is to be lived for others — to be an example, a guide, a servant.

"You are the salt of the earth." You must show others that goodness is happiness — seasoning, flavoring, spicing life. Often religion and virtue are viewed as taking the joy out of life. In Camelot, Modred sings of "The Seven Deadly Virtues." "These," he sings, "were made for chaps who love a life of failure and ennui." As if goodness were that! Everybody loved Maurice Chevalier because of his joie de vivre. "Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone." For this brave old earth must borrow its mirth. It has troubles enough of its own." Some Christians read like the morning newspaper — full of gloom, doom, disaster and tragedy. Whoever could tell from them that the Gospel is good news of great joy?

One feels that the salt has gone flat. How does this happen? Almost imperceptibly. Every time moral standards drop a notch, every time corners are cut in honesty regarding work or words, every time a principle is compromised, every time we give in to what people say rather than what conscience says, the salt becomes flat. And flat salt just can't season.

Christ said we are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He is demanding that we must unceasingly strive to reach His heights. He means that we can never rest content with life that is in any way less than Christ-like. For He, too, is the Light of the World, and the earth's salt.

Christ knew what He was demanding. He knew that when men seek a decency no greater than that of the society in which they move, then that society will never be transformed and uplifted. A man's morality will then depend on his environment and not the other way around. Not only will he never rise above his surroundings, but when the average morality declines, he will go down with it.

Only men and women with standards far above those of their surroundings, like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope Paul, Cardinals Mindszenty and Wyszynski, can be as salt to season society or a light to guide it on the path to salvation.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Vignucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Volume 84, No. 41 Feb. 2, 1972

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

