

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.

Time to Worry About Abortions

Editor:

As Catholic, we have been taught to spread the gospel of love. We have learned to respect each other because we are created in the image and likeness of God. We all have memorized the Commandments and know by heart "Thou shalt not kill."

Yet are we doing anything about our beliefs? We read or hear about abortion every day. But do we know what abortion is? Abortion is the killing of an unborn child. Even though this child is unborn, this child has a soul.

We can't let this go on. Let's do our job as Catholics. Teach your children while they're young about sex. Don't let them become pregnant first and then offer abortion as a remedy. Pray every day for this mass killing to stop. Let's speak out at group meetings, at work, in church, in our neighborhood. Let's write to our legislators. Let's find solutions in adoption agencies or better laws for the welfare of the mother and child. Remember, it's up to us! How many more nails have to be pounded into our Lord's body before we stop sinning and hurting Him?

Linda Perry
Portland Avenue
Rochester

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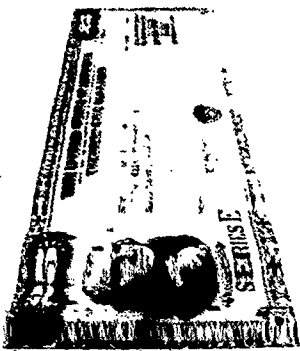
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Courier-Journal

New Catechetics Draws Fire

Editor:

Re: "Catechetical Aim; Conscience Formation, Courier-Journal (2-16 and 23-72). Along with all the new language that goes with the new religion, the collective dads are given a little treatment to make them feel collective guilt. I think someone is trying to make parents feel that they haven't done a very good job and maybe they had better not question these new ideas someone is giving their children. I guess we're we should let someone else try supposed to think that maybe to do a better job than we have done.

All I can say is Junior is going to have to learn to lie and cheat a whole lot better than dad if he has any intention of pursuing a career in education, particularly, the New Catechetics! You have to be pretty good at cheating to try convincing parents that "Simon Says games", Value Sheets, and Sensitivity Training constitute a Catholic education. Catechetics under any other name would have to be called humanism.

I recall hearing Evangelist Leighton Ford discussing conscience on a radio program. I can't quote him exactly but he said something like this: Don't let your conscience be your guide unless it's programmed right. It must be fed by the input of proper standards. God's data must fill our minds.

It keeps occurring to me that children today are not changing, they are being changed. They are being programmed

wrong. Mostly, they are not being fed God's data. They are spending too much time "discussing" things like relevant, cherish, value, treasure, choose freely, choice, ad nauseum! Did you know that all the while we parents thought our children were getting to know God in religion class they now spend time getting to know themselves? That's how the teachers explain this to the kids.

Betty Jean Lindsay
Hampton Road -
Rochester

Father Atwell Gives Hope

Editor:

Congratulations to the Courier for bringing back Father Atwell. His optimistic views for the present and his hope for the future are indeed comforting. How different from purely personal reminiscences.

Germaine A. Wickes
Durfield Drive
Rochester

Special Praise For Courier

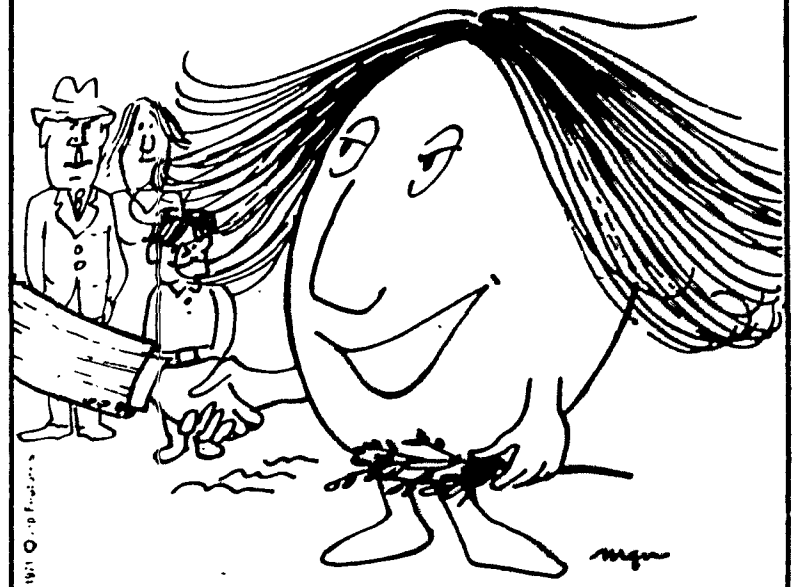
Editor:

I am a subscriber to your paper, and I just want to tell you how much it means to me. In my opinion it is the best little magazine; it touches on everything that's going on. The paper and the pictures are the best and the articles are the finest. I love Bishop Hogan's letters and all the other columns too.

I also enjoy the letters to the

QUIRP

"HE THAT RULETH OVER MEN MUST BE JUST" (2 SAMUEL 23:3)



... AND WIN ELECTIONS

editor, some I like, and others I disagree with, but everyone is entitled to his opinion.

I bet you can't find any other Catholic publication like this anywhere.

Mrs. Mary Weger
Post Avenue
Rochester

Editor's Note: Mrs. Weger is a longtime reader of the Courier — "ever since you started."

Unit Formed To Help Irish

Editor:

The Catholic people in Northern Ireland have had more than enough violence to contend with, not only from bullets and bombs but from 50 years of the most severe job discrimination and gerrymandering. Yet

neither government in Belfast nor that in London is mentioning these problems.

When the Church in this country was little more than a mission, the Irish people sent their sons and daughters as priests, nuns and dedicated laity to help support our churches, schools and other institutions.

They need our help now, particularly in telling the story of their persecution so that they too can enjoy the benefits of living in the 20th century. Our proposal is to dominate the media with that story.

We are forming a strong national organization called United Ireland. Those who wish to participate may do so by sending their names to me at 86 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10024.

Daniel Lyons, S.J.

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) Ex. 17:9-17 (R2) Rom. 5:12, 5-8. (R3) Jn. 4:5-42.

Lent came into being as a preparation of candidates for baptism. The catechumenate in the early Church was for three years. At the end of the three-year-old period, only certain catechumens were chosen for baptism — those approved by the Christian community. Those chosen were given final preparation for their baptism, administered on Easter eve, by a 40-day exercise of penance and instruction. In this way Lent originated.

One of the favorite texts for this baptismal catechesis was the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. This incident in Jesus' life was singularly apt for a baptismal catechesis.

Jacob's well was near the spot where he had dreamed of a staircase between heaven and earth, with angels ascending and descending. It was easy to point out that Jesus is now that bridge, the mediator between God and man. In His Person, God is in communication with the world.

The Samaritan woman, confused as she was in her religious notions and morally lax, could well symbolize any person before he had come to Christ.

Gradually, Jesus led her, as the Church instructs all catechumens, to confess that He is the Messiah. First she calls Him "Jew," then "Sir," then "Prophet," and finally, "Messiah."

Water is spoken of, so necessary for a weary, traveling man. His thirst for souls drew her to Himself, as it does all men to the faith. His "give me a drink" elicited her "give me this water." This "living water" could mean the fresh, flowing water of a mountain stream.

But Jesus meant life-giving water — water that would give eternal life, because it gives the Holy Spirit. As water came from the rock (R1), so the Holy Spirit flows from the waters of baptism (R2) ever since blood and water flowed from the opened side of the rock, Christ. Incidentally, the Second Reading is from the same chapter of Romans which contains the texts most frequently used to support the existence of original sin (Rom. 5:12), which baptism removes.

When the woman is drawn to ask for living water, Jesus withholds His gift till she does two things. First, "Go, call your husband." God's gifts are given not merely to be enjoyed, but to be shared — especially with those nearest and dearest. Charity begins at home, but it ought not stop there. The woman ends, telling the whole town about Jesus. Secondly, she must confess her sinfulness. "I have no husband."

Often men shrink from hard demands, like these, by sophistries and intellectual "difficulties." Some are real, some are escapes. Thus the woman said, "Where should we worship God?"

Jesus answered, "Not where, but how. Worship God in spirit and truth."

"How can I know?" she persisted.

"Because I am He — the Messiah you are really looking for."

One can readily see to what a wonderful catechesis this dialogue can lend itself.

Each one of us can substitute himself for the Samaritan woman in the dialogue with Jesus.

Jesus: Do me a service (give me a drink.)

Anyman: How is it that You ask anything of me?

Jesus: Really it is I alone who have something to give.

If only you really understood what the gift of faith and baptism is.

Anyman: Give me this gift.

Jesus: I shall, provided you are willing to share your blessing and confess your sins.

Anyman: But I have a problem: there are certain things I don't understand.

JESUS! YOUR REAL PROBLEM IS IN your heart, not in your head. Pray and be sincere. Worship in Spirit and truth.

Anyman: I'm not sure.

Jesus: I AM!

Wednesday, March 1, 1972

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