

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

Church Should Oppose War

Editor:

My sincerest appreciation to Father Henry Atwell for speaking on behalf of the Berrigan priests. Two men have had the courage to back up their convictions by going to jail as we pay for the bombs that are still being dropped. Had we as a Church supported these men at that time, Mr. Hoover might have been held accountable for his libelous accusations.

Our Church has dared to argue with our government in regard to aid for our schools, but not against war. We have fought against abortion, but not against war. Witness the energies being expanded in the Right to Life committee. Why are we so concerned about unborn babies, yet so apathetic about babies already on earth that are daily being killed or maimed by our bombs? The "Right to Life"? Yes, but what kind of life? To grow up to kill or be killed?

Shirley Thibault
Brook Street
Geneva

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings. (R1) Acts 10: 34, 37-43. (R2) Col. 3: 1-4. (R3) Jn. 20: 1-9.

On Good Friday, the enemies of our Lord were too optimistic; His friends, too pessimistic. Early in the morning Mary Magdalen went to the tomb to complete the burial. When she got there, the tomb was open. She supposed others had come and finished the task. Surely, Peter would know. She ran to ask him. But neither he nor John had the slightest inkling of what she was talking about. So they both ran to the tomb. At first Peter and John ran apace. But then the younger John outran Peter.

There is an air of breathless expectancy in the Easter story. Something is always the matter when grownups run. Young boys and girls hardly ever walk; men and women seldom ever run. When they do, something is afoot.

John arrived first at the tomb but just peeped in. When panting Peter arrived, he not only peered in but with his usual impetuosity he went right in. He saw the empty tomb and the linen shrouds. "He saw and he believed." So did John. Later the apparitions of Jesus confirmed their belief. Witnesses had to be absolutely certain of what they talked about.

The First Reading gives us Peter. It is about his first sermon to a gentile — the first to be received into the Church, the Roman centurion, Cornelius. The core of this sermon is the resurrection story.

You know, today, there is a

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Courier-Journal

Berrigans Not Heroes

Editor:

Yes, Father Atwell, this is the time for shame.

Today, when I see what is happening to some of our priests and nuns, I yearn for the bygone days when I had respect for any dedicated person of the cloth, but today I am depressed when I see radicals spending their time trying to shape our government's policies and at a time when we are in such great need of priests and nuns in our schools and churches.

I applaud and pray for the truly devoted priests and nuns, who humbly work for the good of the Church and care about their image both to God and to the people, these are the real heroes, not people like the Berrigans and the McAllisters, who disregard all the rules right down to how they dress, and go out on their own to impose their opinions on the world. They entered the Orders to serve God, not to meddle into the affairs of our government and state.

I would like to suggest, Father, that we not give these people a hero image, that we use all these energies and efforts to establish a stature that our young people can look up to with respect.

I guess I could sum it all up by saying "Let's hold up the cross and lay down the sword."

Nicholas E. Lauer
Paddy Hill Dr.
Rochester

More on Blue Army

Editor:

The letter on the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima (3/8) by Mr. Wiest was very well written, bringing out its history and Our Lady's message as given to the children at Fatima.

May I add a bit to the above?

As Wiest stated there are no dues or meetings as such, however, for those who might care for a more active apostolate it should be made known that we do have a Rochester chapter of Our Lady's Blue Army. They meet for a Holy Hour every Thursday at Holy Rosary Church at 7:30 p.m. (except Thursday preceding First Friday.) An all night vigil is celebrated each First Friday beginning at 9 p.m. in which different priests assist.

Please come and join us in our devotions in the name of world peace.

Membership applications are available at church or from any member.

Kay Sullivan
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Alcohol Not Same as Drugs

Editor:

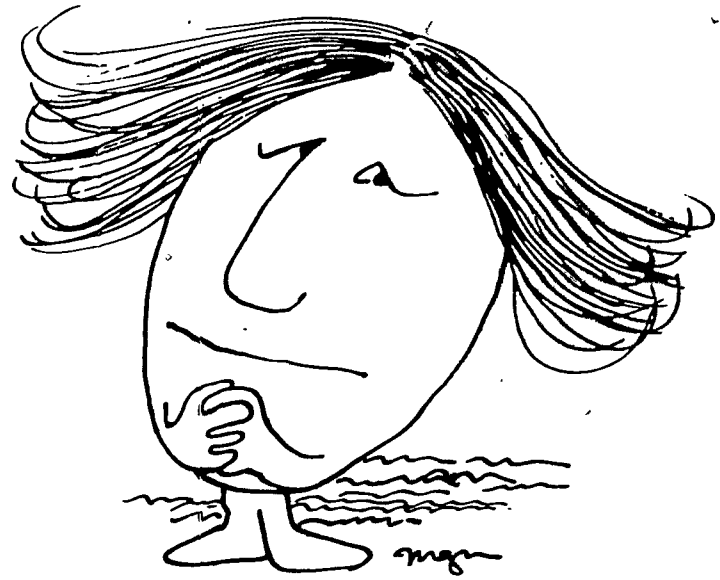
In a recent article in the Times-Union it was stated that sipping a martini could be equated with smoking marijuana or shooting heroin.

It appears that someone slipped by mentioning alcohol and drugs in the same breath. Alcohol is a food and drugs are not. Of course anything taken in excess or overindulged in can turn into addiction — food, cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, etc.

People who take alcoholic beverages mildly should never be compared to those who take drugs. There seems to be an element undermining this nation of those who casually join drug-

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"GREAT MEN ARE NOT ALWAYS WISE" (JOB 32:9)



...YET VERY RARELY POOR

taking to sipping alcohol. It was Jesus Christ who raised his chalice and said, "Drink this wine for it is my blood." He did not say to the Twelve, "Roll up your sleeves, boys, I am going to puncture you." Wasn't it also wine that Christ made from water in one of his miracles?

With all the alcohol and drugs in easy access, why is it that 190 million Americans are not addicted? Is it that drugs and alcohol are sick or that the people who form the addiction are sick? Only if one is in severe mental or physical pain should an excuse be made for this over-indulgence.

Anthony Guarino
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Booklet On Shrine

Editor:

Last August I spent a week at the Shrine of the Virgin of the Poor for All Nations at Banneux, Belgium. I was much impressed by what I saw and heard there. Since this is a shrine that is so little known in America, I have been trying to acquaint our people with it.

In a sense, it is similar to Lourdes. There is a spring there. Miracles take place. A booklet explains what happened there in 1933. There is a translation from the French of what the Bishop of Liege, in whose diocese this shrine is located, wrote in the official account of the eight apparitions of Our Lady to Mariette Beco. In 1949, after ecclesiastical investigations, Bishop Louis Joseph Kerkhofs officially announced that these apparitions were found to be genuine.

Anyone who sends me an 8c postage stamp and their name and address, will receive one free copy of this booklet, "The Apparitions of Our Lady at Banneux."

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'Option' Has Consequences

Editor:

Mr. Thomas Sharkey, toward the end of his letter (Courier-Journal 3-22-72) states: "They (the children) are given the option of adopting the Christian beliefs and life or rejecting them. I think it is fruitless to try to force children to believe."

Options were built into human nature by the almighty when he gave man free will. That does not

mean that God's revelations are optional. God gave the commandments to Moses amid thunder and lightning. Jesus gave the Jews of his day the option to believe in him, or not to believe; but that did not mean that their choice of him and his teachings was optional. The Jews were told, again and again, that they MUST believe if they were to inherit eternal life. They were given the option to believe but were warned that the wrong use of that option meant eternal damnation.

It is not the purpose of Catechetics to present the children with options but to teach them the Catholic faith, to convince them of the truth of that faith, and to warn them that to reject the Catholic faith is to reject Christ and eternal happiness.

Parents are everywhere complaining that the Catholic religion is not being taught as it should be. A considerable number have taken their children out of CCD classes, grade schools, and high schools because they feel that their children would be better off with less instruction if the instruction they receive is based on misinformation and false theories. At times this misinformation, dangerous trends, and fallacious theories seem to originate in the very CCD training courses. At other times they may represent the personal views of the instructor and may result from his personal reading. It is the duty of the bishops and the pastors to investigate from time to time just what is being taught in our schools and CCD programs.

Parents who discover objectionable teachings and trends should expose them in the columns of the Courier.

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan
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Ecumenism Questioned

I would like to ask Father Henry Atwell what has been Protestantism's contribution to ecumenism? It seems that for ecumenism, it has been a complete give-a-way on the part of Catholics.

To me ecumenism is like the U.N., great on parties, great on talk, taking care of minor items but when it gets down to large scale shooting wars the U.N. is ineffective.

Mention the Pope as head of all Christendom or aid to Catholic schools and ecumenism goes down the drain faster than you can pronounce it.

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