

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.

Can't Tamper With Faith

Editor:

Replying to the letter of Mr. Thomas Sharkey (Courier-Journal 4-12-72) I should like to clarify certain points.

1. In his first letter, Mr. Sharkey seemed to imply that our Catholic faith should be taught on a "take it or leave it" basis. However, Christ said to his Apostles, "Go into the whole world, preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, he who does not believe shall be condemned." (Mark 24, 15-16). Because of this divine mandate the Apostles preached with conviction; the Catholic teacher must do no less. If the Apostles had presented the faith on a

"take it or leave it basis", they probably would not have died for the faith. They would simply have said to the people of their day — Jews and pagans — "Now don't get excited — you don't have to believe if you don't want to." Instead, they preached with conviction and laid down their lives in testimony of their faith.

2. With regard to non-Catholics, the Church has always taught that even pagans can be saved by virtue of a baptism of desire if they try to live good lives. As regards Protestants, we distinguish between material heresy and formal heresy. In the first case, a material heretic is a person in good faith; in the second instance, the formal heretic is a person who leaves the Church, or refuses to embrace the faith because of personal motivation rather than from sincere conviction. The for-

mal heretic is guilty of grave sin; the material heretic, if he leads a good life, will certainly be saved.

(Rev.) G. Stuart Hogan
East Avenue
Rochester

Rosary Films Available

Editor:

Rosary films for May! What better time for viewing Family Rosary films, the creation of Father Peyton himself, than during the month of Our Lady?

The complete series, 15 films depicting mysteries of the Rosary which indeed are a composite of the life of Christ, are available for showing for religious education for private groups. They require 16 mm projectors. If a group requires a projector or help in showing, arrangements are available.

There is no set charge for use of film or service. However, where financial situation warrants we welcome donations to help the cost of the films which we are paying for currently.

When a group is unable to make an offering we still heartily invite participation. We want to reach all with — the message of Our Lady of Fatima, the Rosary for World Peace.

Contact Miss Agnes Damien, 328-0499 on evenings or weekends.

Katherine D. Sullivan
Lilac Drive
Rochester

Any Saving In No-Fault?

Editor:

Over the past two years a number of articles have appeared in newspapers concerning no fault insurance. I note in particular that of Mr. McGee (Courier-Journal 4-5-72).

Unfortunately because of the vast number of proposals and amendments to proposals pending in the Legislature it is difficult to discuss no fault insurance except under general terms.

The term "no fault insurance" has a rather appealing ring. Everyone obviously would like to collect insurance money regardless of whether he is right or wrong in a situation and simultaneously to enjoy a premium reduction. What does not appear very often in print is the fact that in exchange for this miracle the residents of New York State will surrender, except under certain extraordinary situation, their present right to obtain recovery for personal injury caused to them by the negligence of another.

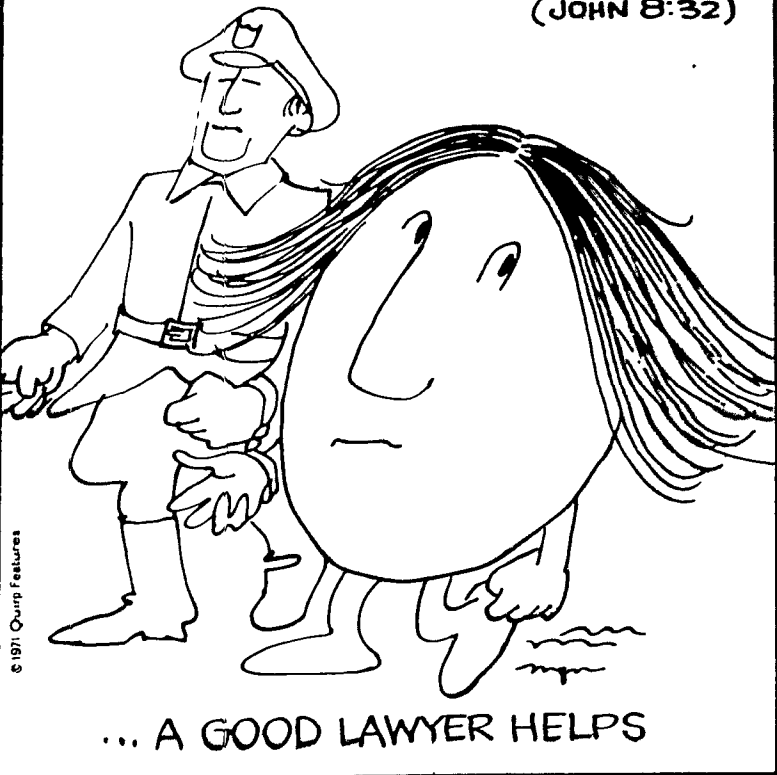
If the people under our democratic form of government wish to affect this fundamental change in their present insurance protection and coverage, then, of course, it is their right and privilege.

However, there is absolutely no magic saving in no fault insurance. If the insurance protection you now receive is eliminated or substantially reduced, it follows then that your premium cost should be correspondingly reduced because you're getting less coverage for your money.

But will there actually be a saving? Let us take auto collision insurance. Under the present insurance system, many drivers elect not to carry collision insurance on their cars, relying on their own driving ability to avoid causing an accident and further relying on the fact that if someone wrongfully

QUIRP

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"
(JOHN 8:32)



damages his car, the guilty party will pay for it. Not so under present proposals. You must carry collision insurance on your own car even though it is damaged by someone else. Thus anyone not carrying collision insurance under the present proposals would be rather foolish. How many of your readers have recently priced the cost of auto collision insurance?

Second, one proposal calls for paying a maximum of \$2,000 of your net economic loss resulting from an automobile accident. What do you do about additional coverage? The obvious thing is you must carry, at your own expense, additional insurance. How many of your self-employed readers have recently priced the cost of income interruption insurance?

It is quite true that improvements are needed in the present system. I would suggest that one way to avoid delay and court congestion might well be that in negligence cases, as in contract cases, interest be paid by insurance carriers from the date of injury rather than from the date a judgment is entered. I am sure this will cure present procrastination.

Richard I. Mulvey
Seneca Building
Ithaca

Want Prayer To Archangel

Editor:

We just read in the Courier-Journal (4-5-72) the article "No Devil?"

We are very pleased that Father Malley has incorporated the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel in the Sunday Liturgy. Knowing it was such a powerful prayer and needed so much today, we wondered why it was ever discontinued.

We hope this prayer will become a part of the Liturgy again.

The Reisdorfs
Seymour Street
Auburn

Our Lady Shows Way To Peace

Editor:

Everyone wants peace! We can have it by merely following the "message" of Our Lady at Fatima. Her requests are not impossible to follow. While they were made in the year 1917 they are still to be used in this age. What are they? Offer your every day to God; — Say the daily Rosary (this is on the radio nightly at seven); — wear the Brown Scapular as a sign of personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; fulfill

the First Saturday Communion request; Make one hour of adoration, if not in church (this is of course, the best) at least at home. Do these and stop offending God and we can have peace.

I was disgusted to see a stamp advertising "Family Planning" on an Easter greeting card sent to me by a member of my own family! I am going to refuse to purchase these stamps, and would suggest all Catholics to do likewise. It is about time that we vote God back into Power over the world and stop taking his place in planning who should be born, and who should die!

Sincere thanks to everyone for all the wonderful religious and other articles sent in response to my letter requesting aid. Father Elanjipuram in India sends his blessings to all who responded.

Eldora M. Scott,
International Director,
Hands of Mary

Time to Act On Abortion

Editor:

I read with interest recently in one of the Rochester Gannett newspapers that our legislators are finally beginning to wake up to the groundswell of opinion among the people that abortion on demand is repugnant.

As one who has perhaps not done enough in the anti-abortion cause may I also commend the statement by the bishops of New York State (Courier-Journal, 4-12-72). I urge all who are against planned and systematic elimination of the unborn to make their voices heard in behalf of those who cannot speak.

Everyone should write to their legislators before our lawmakers call it a day and leave Albany for the campaign trails.

George Wilson
Elmira

Courier Tour 'Glorious'

Editor:

It had been a desire of our life time to go to Rome and this is a sincere thank you to the Courier-Journal for planning this wonderful trip. It was a glorious experience.

Our spiritual adviser, Father Paul Cuddy, worked hard to make it possible. We also made many new friends.

Please keep these tours going. They're something no one should miss.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Ziefel
Westminster Park,
West Henrietta

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus drew the allegory of the shepherd and his sheep after He had witnessed the cruelty of the Pharisees toward the blind man He had cured. A true shepherd would never have treated his sheep like that. Re-read the incident in John 9.

In the second reading Peter explains why Jesus is a true shepherd. He laid down His life for us when we "were straying like sheep."

In the first reading Peter himself assumes the role of the good shepherd, as he urges strays back to the fold.

So there are good shepherds and bad ones. In fact there are all kinds of "sheep experts" all over the place. Some are theologians, some are priests, some are bishops, some are lay persons. Inside the fold and outside of it, they are talking all the time. You'll find them in print, on the airways, on TV. They are everywhere. And, of course, they are always disagreeing with each other. People as a result often panic, become confused, or angry.

Well, relax. Life is long. History is deeper and more complex than men's opinions. Expert opinions come and go — Kant, Schleiermacher, Renan, Schweitzer. Common sense

based on experience lasts a bit longer. But Jesus last forever. "The Lord is my Shepherd . . . even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil."

In the long run anyone who really wants to hear the Shepherd's voice will be able to discern it despite all the other noise around. To train one's ears to pick out the Shepherd's voice, here are some helpful hints.

First, read your bible, especially the New Testament — for the word of God is the voice of the Shepherd. Why not begin each week with this column. Read the passages of next Sunday's liturgy prayerfully in conjunction with this article. Get inside of the scripture message, and it will get inside of you. Why not memorize Psalm 23 (the Response) for a starter — "The Lord is my Shepherd." How personal can you get — "my" Shepherd?

Secondly, don't despise your fellow sheep, no matter how much they disagree with you. I know all "liberals" are creeping apostates and all "conservatives" wrongheaded diehards. But what does that make me? An unchristian Pharisee! Most people are sincere, honest, earnest. Be patient with differences. Peter and Paul differed. In loving the sheep, we love the Shepherd.

A third hint is let the Pope do his particular job in the Church. He is not the whole Church, but he is the good shepherd. Jesus prayed that He "strengthen His brethren." Boy, do we need that confirmation today! We have Paul VI. Oh, he is no Hamlet — don't kid yourself. He is intelligent, moderate, sensible and modest. Have you ever read his encyclicals or allocutions? What green pastures! Try "On the Development of Peoples," and if you want to get your bearings on Christians and politics peruse his letter to Cardinal Roy on the eightieth anniversary of Rerum Novarum. "The sheep hear His voice."

Lastly, cultivate a sense of discrimination and a sense of humor. Don't treat every new opinion of the "sheep experts" as a terrific crisis or a massive new revelation. Dogmas develop, they do not change. The Lord is still shepherding, no matter how often people stampede, panic, or run away. "Your rod and your staff give me courage."

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