

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.

Bishops Should Lead Parade

Editor:

So much has been written against the evils of abortion by lawyers, theologians, doctors, philosophers and politicians, individuals more learned and more gifted in a journalistic sense than I. People have been encouraged to write to their legislators urging the repeal of the abortion bill in New York State. Yet, having written my share of those letters, I wonder if all of this letter writing is making one tiny dent in the overwhelming problem that faces us.

I encourage a real celebration of life, a show of numbers, which would force legislators and others who support anti-life measures to recognize the power of those who believe in the sanctity of life. If the bishops of New York State, as shepherds of their people, would lead a May Day demonstration in our state capital in support of the right to life, I really believe that we would be able to exert a positive influence on our environment. The fact that our bishops would be taking such a definite stand, would encourage those people to come forth, who were wondering just what they as individuals could really do.

I write this because it is my community, my New York State, which is responsible for the

murder of so many innocent infants, and because I know how precious life is.

Sharon Tette
Geneva

State on Way To Ruin

Editor:

During World War II Winston Churchill was quoted as saying "I did not become the King's first minister to aid in the dismemberment of the British Empire." Where is the British Empire today? The parallel to that statement is applicable today in our own Empire State. Gov. Rockefeller sloganized his purpose during the last gubernatorial election in New York. "He has done a lot, he can do more." Where is the Empire State today?

The highest taxed state in the Union, the highest sales tax in the nation and it appears in both these fields we shall continue to break our own records.

Essential and vital industry has voiced concern which goes unheeded and is presently in the process of locating outside the boundaries of our state.

We have lost to California our long held first place in population. Marriage is mocked and ridiculed. Race suicide is encouraged. Divorce, birth control and abortion have been legalized and are most liberal and inviting.

The poor are being intimidated and stigmatized as though they were guilty of this tragic happening of fiscal irresponsibility and state bankruptcy. The aged and the fixed income group are being pauperized. The opportunities of youth to secure higher education are being curtailed. The discouraged and frustrated employed citizenry are helplessly overburdened with fees, assessments and taxes with no relief in sight. Our cities are collapsing; our farms are rapidly decreasing. Our elected "representatives" ignore the warning voices and increasing signs of concern and despair but continue to patronize and support the whims and wishes of the established political power structure.

The day may well come, in the not too distant future, when a venturesome soul, from a far away place, shall stand on the pinnacle of an empty and crumbling Empire State Building, a tombstone to the surrounding abomination and desolation, viewing the remains of what was once known as a thriving, vibrant, alive metropolis.

And upon scanning the distant horizon, discerning dimly the ruins, that were once Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, and finally Albany. All dilapidated, devastated, gone.

Harold L. McCadden
Scottsville

Protect All Life

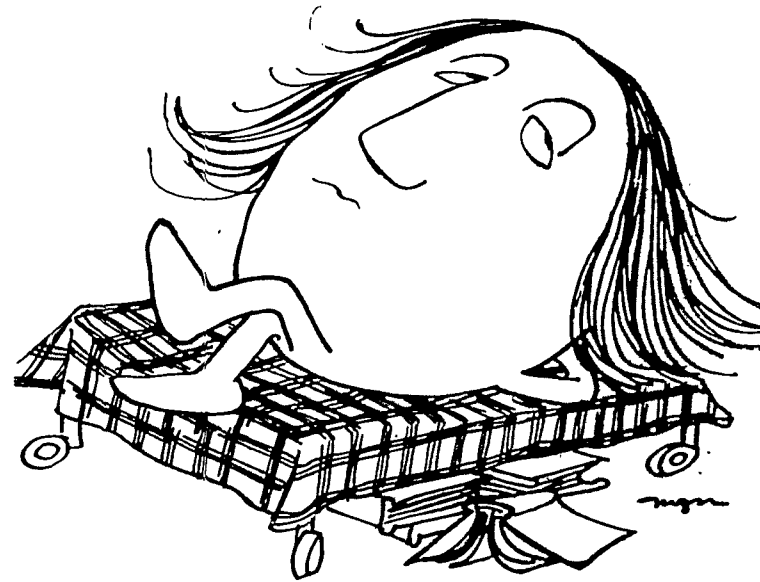
Editor:

I heard a homily this Sunday on the right to life, the right of the innocent to live and the denouncement of those who would destroy the human life.

The homily moved everyone in the church and so it proved to

QUIRP

"MY SON, HEAR THE INSTRUCTION OF THY FATHER AND FORSAKE NOT THE LAW OF THY MOTHER" (PROVERBS 1:8)



REMEMBER, THEY PAY THE TUITION

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings: (R1) Acts 6: 1-7. (R2) 1 Pt. 2: 4-9. (R3) Jn. 14: 1-12.

The gospels for the remaining Sundays of Easter will be drawn from Chapters 14 to 17 of St. John's Gospel. These chapters offer inspired insight into the meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This Sunday's gospel narrates an incident which occurred right after the Last Supper. Our Lord had announced to the disciples that He was soon going to leave them. Panic resulted. Our Lord tried to pour oil on troubled water. As always He arrowed to the source of the truth — the heart within, not the problems without. "Let not your hearts," He said, "be troubled." As a remedy, He urged faith. Have faith in God and — like One who is really God's equal — He exhorted them to have faith in Himself. "Have faith in God and faith in Me."

Words are poor comforters. The disciples became only more perplexed. "Where was He going?" "Where is this father's house?" Worse still, "Who is this father?" Jesus seemed "hung up" on His Father. As a child in danger calls for his mother repeatedly, Jesus mentioned "Father" forty times on the way to Gethsemane; twelve times in this short talk. Almost petulantly, Philip burst out,

"Show us the father. That will be enough."

Then, like the rending of the temple veil on Good Friday, Jesus answered, "Who sees Me sees the Father. He and I are one." Jesus is the revelation of the Father! In Him we can see God. Through Him we can see what God does for us. Jesus loved sinners; the Father loves sinners. Jesus showed concern for the poor; the Father is concerned about the poor. Jesus died for us; the Father is totally committed to us. Jesus loved His followers; the Father loves the followers of Jesus. No wonder Jesus could say, "I am the way."

What Jesus was, we and the Christian community are meant to be. He revealed the Father to the disciples; we must reveal the Father to the world. Of course this is a big idea and big talk. We must therefore guard against two dangers.

The first danger can be to confuse big talk and big ideas with action and goodness. If talk is substituted for action and thought for goodness, then the profession of loftiest faith is worthless. The second danger is to be so overwhelmed by the magnitude of our vocation as to do nothing at all. To be "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation." What a calling! Chosen, therefore called to be different. Royal, therefore called to serve a king; holy, therefore called to love what is good steadfastly. How can we fill this bill?

The first reading shows us how the early Christians went about translating high ideas and ideals into everyday language. When they were confronted with the same economic problem that is always with us, they did something about it. The haves helped the have-nots. The rich saw to it that the poor were not needy and the charity to the poor supplied the needs of the rich.

When discord — even then — broke out in the Christian community, the Apostles did not hesitate to institute new offices to meet the crisis: They acted.

As for the Apostles themselves, they let neither economics nor dissension distract them from their essential vocation: to pray and to be ministers of the word.

Perhaps the trouble today is too much talk and nothing else! Or maybe it is too much busyness about marginal things together with unconcern for the things that really matter.

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Rochester

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