

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.

U.S. Irish Slow to Help

Editor:

Dr. Samuel Johnson once said, "The Irish are a fair people — they never speak well of one another." Today he would surely say that the Irish are slow to lift a finger to help their persecuted kinsmen in the six counties mis-governed by England. Although about 30% of the American clergy and religious are of Irish origin, very little leadership in mobilizing public opinion for Irish freedom has come from them.

The active concern of American Jews for their co-religionists in the Soviet Union is in sharp contrast to the apathy of the American Irish. The Russians have been pressured into allowing 40,000 Jews to leave for Israel this year.

Britain has promised that the Irish held in concentration camps will be released provided that the Catholic minority in northern Ireland is quiet. At the same time, they have sentenced Bernadette Devlin to jail. This effectively deprives 500,000 Catholics of representation in Parliament. The Irish will be quiet indeed.

They will be stifled in any public discussion of their grievances.

Although the Stormont government is gone, women and children still live on a diet of tranquilizers while English troops armed to the teeth prowling the streets of their ghettos. One out of every hundred adult male Catholics is held in prison without any charges or any legal recourse. A plebiscite is promised on reunion with the Irish Republic because the Unionists will win, but local elections, many of which would certainly be won by Nationalists, are suspended indefinitely. Barred from all the avenues of peaceful redress, violence is accepted as a last resort. Although they are greatly outnumbered and lacking in resources, the Nationalists continue to fight for human dignity.

If the moral support of the millions of Irish in exile could be organized, the British would be quickly and peacefully forced by world public opinion to put a stop to oppression. On the other hand, when we are indifferent to injustice, we give passive consent to a moral wrong. Sins of omission are seldom confessed, but we should be aware that we will be judged for our lack of concern for fair play.

George M. Korb
St. Anthony-on-Hudson
Rensselaer, N.Y.

Priests Senate Only Advisory

Editor:

The Courier-Journal (4-19-72) reports the action of the Priests' Senate questioning Father Moynihan's cautions about the inability of many parishes to bear further financial burdens no matter how good the cause may seem to be. The senate is reported as seeing the "power and responsibility of the council" being questioned.

The "power" of the Senate as indicated by Vatican II is to advise the bishop. Its power, therefore, is advisory, not legislative. The council, the Courier states, feels its responsibility is questioned by the chancellor's statement on finances.

It seems to us that to increase the quotas of the parishes even for so appealing a cause as inner city schools would be to push not a few parishes "over the brink." The people in the pews, the contributors in the parishes, are almost the sole source from which the diocese can get its financial support. Those who make decisions on financing cannot do so from an ivory tower. We must be mindful of our people in our parishes who carry the great burden of supporting our diocesan programs and the works of the special ministries.

We are grateful that we have Father Moynihan as Chancellor, a priest who sees the picture realistically. It seems to us that his fears represent more than a "crisis in nerves."

(Rev.) Joseph F. Hogan
St. Vincent's Church, Corning

(Rev.) Thomas F. Brennan
St. Mary's Church, Corning

Reverence Is Needed

Editor:

"Unofficial Survey of Bishops Favors Communion in Hand." The above headline on Page 1 of the (Courier-Journal 4-19-72) — startled me.

I was raised to believe that only priests whose hands were consecrated by the Bishop could touch the Sacred Host. On reading further I learned that there were 106 yes votes and only 69 no's.

For the past six years or so Our Blessed Mother has been appearing to Rosa Quattrini, at San Damiano, Italy, and given Rosa messages to be given to the world. On Nov. 9 1969, her message read in part: "They receive Jesus in their hands! What sorrow for me and my Son! When the Bishops consecrate their sons (priests) what care they take, what care the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, takes to consecrate their hands, to make them pure, to make them saints, to make them apostles of MY Son and to make them MY apostles."

The Holy Eucharist is trampled under foot. My children take the Holy Eucharist in their hands!

True the Church has not as yet sanctioned the San Damiano apparitions but the many miracles the thousands of pilgrims who have and still go there and above all Our Lady's promise to come there even after Rosa dies, even to end of the world — makes me wonder why such a vote was even taken.

There is little reverence any more, but — just as sure as Jesus is in the tabernacle we should KNEEL to receive Him from the sanctified hands of His priest.

This I believe.

Mrs. Bernice M. Zeller
Kislingbury Street
Rochester



"WELL, WHAT'S THE SENSE OF HAVING A PARISH COUNCIL IF WE HAVE TO WATCH EVERYTHING WE SAY?"

Clinic Head Supports

Editor:

Mental health problems still constitute our greatest single cause for social, disability and suffering. Mental health services are never enough to meet the need despite the rapid expansion of these services in the last two decades.

In 1954, our State Legislature passed the Community Mental Health Services Act which gave state aid to communities for services on a matching basis. For each dollar the community allotted for mental health services, the state also gave a dollar.

In Monroe County, there are several mental health service agencies receiving some or all of its support (after fees and other income) in this way. The DePaul Clinic is one of them. After fees, the deficit is made up by 1) the Community Chest — 25 per cent, 2) the County of Monroe — 25 per cent and 3) the State of New York — 50 per cent.

Each dollar the Community Chest allows is doubled by the county and quadrupled by the state. One dollar of Community Chest funds provides four dollars for clinical services for the community. Your Community Chest contribution supports local mental health services as well as the many other services for the handicapped.

A. W. Sullivan, M.D.
Director
DePaul Clinic

Albany Protest Described

Editor:

This is a summary of the demonstration against abortion on April 17 in Albany, which I attended.

It began at noon on the Capitol steps with Ed Golden, head of the State Right to Life Organization, acting as master of ceremonies. Such speakers were present as Senator James Donovan, sponsor of the Donovan-Crawford bill to repeal abortion on demand, Assemblymen Fred Fields and Neil Kelleher of Albany.

Song sheets were passed out, and the group sang to the accompaniment of a Schenectady high school band. Buttons with the slogan "Abortion Kills — Choose Life" were also distributed throughout the crowd.

The chant, "All we are asking is give life a chance," was heard loud and clear throughout the Capitol area as it was sung by the 800 in attendance.

The majority of people held

hand-made posters with slogans such as "Christ Was a Fetus," "Adoption — Not Abortion," "What Next, Death at 65," "You could Be Next, Senator," etc. The banners were abundant and available to all.

Mrs. Jean A. Black
Cross Gates Road
Rochester

Let's Fight To Win War

Editor:

Everybody says "Stop the war in Vietnam."

How do we go about it? I have an idea! Let's tell Hanoi that all war is immoral, illegal, cannot be condoned, and that they must stop. We could even send a bunch of conscientious objectors to Hanoi to picket the premier's office, their House of Representatives (?), and their Senate Office Building (?). As a last result, should they still refuse, we could threaten to buffet their generals with marshmallows.

Seriously, why do people take the tack that this country is responsible for the Vietnam War (and all the death and suffering that has gone with it)?

If the United States is responsible for this war, then why aren't we also responsible for World War I, World War II and the Korean War?

If you really want the war (and killing, maiming, destroying, and suffering) to stop, let's put forth a huge effort as we did in World War I and II and end it in three to six months. Start yelling for a military victory for the Allies... not for the Communists.

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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday

Sunday Readings: (R1) Acts 8: 5-8, 14, 17. (R2) 1 Bt. 3: 15-18. (R3) Jn. 14: 15-21.

From now till Pentecost the Sunday readings will focus on another aspect of the Easter mystery: the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the gospel, the Spirit is promised. In the first reading the promise is fulfilled. (The passage used is the classic text for proving the sacrament of confirmation.) The second reading explains that confirmation obliges us to be defenders of our faith — "Be ready to reply should one ask the reason for this hope of yours."

The chapter from which the gospel is taken is full of "ifs." The "if" in "if you love me" is a mighty important one. It goes to the heart of the matter, which is the heart. One never trifles with the heart — or shouldn't. It is the mainspring of life. From it all great issues flow. It is the seat of love.

For St. John there was only one test of love, namely, obedience. Jesus showed His love for the Father by obedience; obedience is the way to show our love for Jesus. A girl said to her mother, "I love you." Her mother answered, "Well, I wish you showed it a little more."

The test about loving Jesus is plain, simple and doubled-barreled. First question: "Do you love Jesus?" Answer: "Yes, only if you keep His commandments. Only if you copy Him. Only if your deeds match your creed — you live what you profess." Second question: "Do you keep the commandments?" Answer: "Yes, only if you do them out of love for Me. Not just out of love, mind you. But out of love for Me! This excludes all secular humanists, do-gooders for the sake of doing good, eye-servers, clock watchers.

A love that issues in obedience and an obedience that springs from love are not easy. So Jesus

promised not to leave us alone. "I will ask the Father to give you another Paraclete."

If we wanted a synonym for "paraclete," a good one would be lawyer or legal counsel. A paraclete is somebody called in to help somebody else in trouble. A lawyer, for instance, gives expert advice, puts heart into the defendant, and enables him to win his case. The Holy Spirit will be a Counselor, Friend, Enabler.

The word "another" must not be passed over. "Another" means that the Holy Spirit will be for us all that Jesus was for His apostles. Whenever the apostles were in trouble, they went to Jesus. Whenever they did not understand what Jesus had said or done, they asked. Whenever the apostles felt unable to do what they knew they should, they turned to Jesus. We must, in other words, establish the same relationship with the Spirit as the apostles had with Jesus. In trouble, puzzlement, in pain, in doubt, He will always help. Again the big "if" — "If we ask Him."

What prevents people from asking the Holy Spirit for help? One answer is worldliness. Those taken up too much with the things of the world have no time for God. Beauty, it is said, is in the eyes of the beholder. The botanist sees more in a flower, the astronomer reads more in the sky, the artist perceives more in a painting, the musician in a Bach symphony, than does the untrained eye or ear. So only the man of God, recognizes God — "You recognize Him because He remains with you."

Then, too, passion blinds, Lust, conceit, self sufficiency, and self indulgence can as effectively crowd out all taste for the Holy Spirit as blindness shuts out light. Everything is so conditional: if you love me — if — if if, "I will reveal Myself to you" and love will burst into obedience.