

# 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.

## WCC Taken To Task

Editor:

Bishop Hogan (Courier-Journal 4-26-72) describes the World Council of Churches as an "outstanding" agency for Christian unity. Mr. Clarence W. Hall who wrote two articles on the WCC for the Readers' Digest would disagree with the bishop. These articles were in the October and November 1971 issues.

Mr. Hall writes that a special WCC fund aided 19 "liberation" movements, 14 known to be engaged in guerilla activities, many of them terrorist. Four of the most generously financed groups were avowedly Communist.

The author of these articles

raises the question:

Preaching the gospel of racial justice, the WCC is using church funds to back insurrection in the United States and Africa. Is this what Christ taught? Has this ecclesiastical United Nations become just another platform from which Communists seek to flay the free world?"

Nicholas Hober  
Lapham Street  
Rochester

## Be Consistent On War

Editor:

Letters by Mrs. Pierce and Anne Christoff and the column by Fr. Atwell (C-J, April 26)

prompt this reply. I agree that consistency seems to be a problem these days, but if we should be consistent we must be consistent! If we must speak out against American involvement in Vietnam, so must we speak out against Communist involvement in a war which they created. We must speak out, also, and with equal vigor, against Communist mortars and killing of innocents which they have been involved in since the '50s when U.S. involvement was very limited compared to Communist involvement. To condemn one side while ignoring the inhumanity of the other is certainly inconsistent.

I can't speak for others but I'm sure that most supporters of American involvement are just as disturbed about continued killing as the letter writers, Father Atwell and myself.

Attempts to compare war, abortion and other evils such as pornography, starvation etc. are understandable though not altogether valid. Legalized abortion is a relatively new crime in our society. It is surely proper for us to raise our voices in protest to try to eliminate it before it becomes commonplace. Unfortunately, war, pornography, starvation and other such evils are and have for centuries, been very commonplace. They are, however, now on the increase and it is also right that we raise our voices strongly to attempt to correct things now!

It seems quite impossible a task for mankind to eliminate and destroy evils which have existed since creation. What, then, is the solution? God is the solution! Prayer is the solution! Faith in God through prayer always has been and still is, the only solution! Vatican II and the new "freedom" within Catholicism cannot change this! If all Christians were to subscribe to the teachings of their Church on faith and prayer, there would be little need or desire for the aforementioned evils. If we would accept all our Church's official teachings without question, on faith alone, instead of accepting only that which is convenient, and rejecting all else, our world would receive the Divine help promised in Scripture! "Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. . . ." (Matthew, VII, 7). "Blest are you, Simon son of John! No mere man has revealed this to you, but my Heavenly Father . . . you are the 'Rock', and on this rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. . . . Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven; whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew XVI, 17-19).

John G. Lentricchia  
S. Goodman Street  
Rochester

## Glad Beahon Is Back

Editor:

Many thanks to the Courier for bringing Beahon back! We enjoyed his column for many years so it's great to see the Beahon by-line again.

Mrs. Richard Rapp  
College Street  
Lima

## CEF Backs Credit Plan

Editor:

A letter to:

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller; Lt. Gov. Malcolm Wilson; Sen. Earl Brydges; Sen. Thomas Laverne; Sen. James Powers; Assemblyman Perry B. Duryea.

Lower court rulings continue to deprive parents of freedom to select for their children schools of their choice, and per-

Wednesday, May 10, 1972



"I SUPPOSE YOU HEARD AWFUL STORIES IN THE SEMINARY — HERE'S YOUR ROOM — HOW I TREAT MY NEW, YOUNG ASSISTANTS."

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday

Ascension: (R1) Acts 1: 1-11. (R2) Eph. 1: 17-23. (R3) Mt. 28: 16-20.

Sunday Readings: (R1) Acts 1: 12-14. (R2) 1 Pt. 4: 13-16. (R3) Jn. 17: 1-11.

Ascension Thursday can be tied to the Sunday following it. The Ascension of Our Lord simply means that He is now in glory and sits enthroned as King at the right hand of His Father. "God mounts His throne to shouts of joy" (Response).

The Ascension involves two things. First it signifies a change of presence. Before His Ascension, Jesus was visible; after it, He is invisible. Before it, He was localized, restricted to one spot; after it, He is universalized, every where. Before it, His presence was but for a few years; after it, His presence is "till the end of the world."

Secondly, the Ascension signifies a change of power. Before it, the humanity of Jesus imposed limitations upon Him. In becoming a man — if He were to be authentic — Jesus had to act like a man, which meant accepting all the shortcomings of man (except sin.) Death, however, burst the bonds imposed by His human nature. The resurrection showed this. The Ascension further revealed the unbelievable extent of this liberation. It said, in effect, that our Lord could act with all the authority and power of the God that He is. St. Paul described Jesus' Ascension as

terminating in His sitting at the right hand of His Father. He sits; that is to say, He is equal to the Father. He sits at the Father's right hand, which says He enjoys primacy of place as head of the human race. As such, He can send power from on high. Such power was needed in the face of our Lord's command to "Go make disciples of all nations." The prophets of Israel were sent to only one nation; the apostles, to all nations — "witnesses to the end of the earth." A humanly impossible task! The prophets of old spoke only to their own people; the apostles were sent to all others. Again a lingual and cultural block, humanly insuperable.

So our Lord advised the Twelve not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Power from on high, the baptism of the Spirit. That is precisely what we find them doing in the first reading for Sunday. They were waiting. But not just waiting. They were praying. But not just praying. "They devoted themselves to constant prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus." Their prayer was devout and constant. To these prayers of theirs, Jesus had already added His own prayers the night before He died.

In the gospel Jesus prayed first for Himself. "Give me glory at your side." He asked for glory only that He might give it to those whom He loved. Then He prayed for His disciples: "For these I pray — not for the world." The world needed conversion but the Twelve had the job of preaching conversion. Their need was top priority. The answer to His prayer, the answer to the Twelve's prayer — well, Pentecost Sunday gives the answer.

Through the power of that Spirit, the Twelve became apostles, witnesses of Jesus to the ends of the earth. Even more, they rejoiced in suffering, were happy in the face of insults.

Yet the work of witnessing was to go on until the end of time. The torch is thrown to us. The task is just as herculean now as it was then. Shall it be done? It will, if we do not just wait, but wait in prayer for the Spirit. Our Lord has set the example. He sits at the right hand of the Father. What is He doing there? He is praying always. And what is the answer to His unceasing prayer? It is the unceasing sending of the Holy Spirit upon His Church and us who believe in Him. And why? That we too may be witnesses of Him to all, even to the ends of the earth — witnesses by what we say and by what we do. The rest is up to us.

## COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

Anthony J. Costello  
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 87, No. 3 May 10, 1972

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00. Canada and South America \$8.50. Other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices: Richford Building 67 Chestnut St. Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



Courier-Journal

mit the power of the State to be used to impose inequitable economic hardships on such parents.

Citizens for Educational Freedom applauds your efforts, the intent of the governor, and the actions of the legislature to provide appropriate legislation, which will preserve parental freedom and equitable treatment. We note also that President Nixon is determined to avail his office and the Congress of the route the Supreme Court has said exists to aid non-public school parents and children.

The State Board of Citizens for Educational Freedom, in session today and aware of time limitations, the urgency of aid to parents whose children attend non-public schools, and the inequity of present provisions, supports at this time Sen. Brydges' proposal incorporating appropriate aid to such parents through the tax credit feature.

Citizens for Educational Freedom (CEF)  
George Kuipers, president  
Kenneth O'Loane, secretary

## Communion Issue Taken

Editor:

A survey of a few Catholic newspapers leads one to conclude that the RNS article "Unofficial Survey of Bishops Favors Communion in the Hand" (Courier-Journal 4-19-72) is a deceptive promotion but not the position of the majority of U.S. bishops. The sole merit of "Unofficial Survey . . ." is Bishop James Malone's factual statement that the disobedience of taking the Holy Eucharist in the hand should be stopped.

There was no vote among the 237 bishops at the NCCB meeting; it appears that the unofficial survey pre-dated the NCCB meeting. Cardinal John J. Carberry said he was unaware of such a survey, and he is the chairman of the St. Louis Liturgical Commission. It would be interesting to learn the method selected for obtaining a non-selective sampling of the 301 U.S. bishops for the unofficial survey results: 106 yes, 89 no.

It is most disconcerting that Bishop Malone reported only reverence in taking Holy Communion in the hand (in countries which requested approval from the Holy See). Bishop Malone failed to mention the many, well-documented, contemporary sacrileges that have resulted with taking Holy Communion in the hand. Perhaps Bishop Malone does not know why the earlier Church practice of receiving Holy Communion in the hand was discontinued.

Bishop Malone confidently expressed that the majority of Bishops (and implicitly the Holy Father and Holy See) will in time

mature to his understanding. However, many individual religious and laity, and organizations such as CREDO, POPE, and Catholics United for the Faith (CUF), choose faith in the words of Our Lord's Vicar and the Holy See. Other voices such as not kneeling for Communion, taking Communion in the hand and delaying first Penance after Holy Communion should not be imposed on any diocese, parish or individual — nor promoted.

Joseph J. Murray  
Wyndover Road,  
Rochester

## Hanoi Should Be Target

Editor:

Anti-war protestors through aggressive behavior and demonstrations constantly are thrusting themselves into the limelight. Their actions are not beneficial in bringing to a conclusion the present War in Indo-China on just terms since their dissent and acts of civil disobedience, and disorderly conduct are aimed solely at the government of the U.S.A., and not at the Communist government of North Vietnam which is responsible for the present situation in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. One can only question, therefore, where their loyalty lies.

It is with deep regret that concerned Catholic lay persons are confronted daily with news of members of religious orders, forgetting their views of humility and obedience, and prime responsibility to serve in our Catholic schools, orphanages, hospitals, and homes for the elderly, who instead join such protestors and commit actions which do not reflect well on their community. The arrest on April 17 in front of the Internal Revenue Bureau of members of a group named Clergy and Laymen Concerned, lying on the sidewalk, on charges of disorderly conduct, is just another public action which embarrasses both religious devoted to their vocation and assignment, and Catholic lay persons who have respected the veil and Roman collar because it symbolized a desire to serve the community in a charitable and peaceful manner, and with no desire to disrupt.

Why these same "Concerned" persons do nothing to help bring about a just and peaceful solution to conditions in South Vietnam by pressing the matter instead with Hanoi and Russia and backing their own U.S.A. government which has attempted to assist the South Vietnamese in their problem of resisting Communist infiltration and subjection is a question which they should answer truthfully.

Ethel E. Sercu  
Green Knoll Drive,  
Rochester