

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.

Bishops Rate Praise

Editor:

Worthy of great praise for their Christian courage and Catholic moral leadership in doing what was right and just in spite of the criticism by some members of their diocese, are Bishop McNulty of Buffalo and our own Bishop Hogan of Rochester.

Bishop McNulty is deserving because he made available a tract of vacant land in the residential section of Lackawanna where the working people, many of them black, would be able to buy homes away from the dirt and smoke of the steel mills.

Bishop Hogan deserves praise for going to Washington, D.C. with a group from Rochester to protest the most recent escalation of the Vietnam War to our elected representatives.

The duty of Christian leaders

is to provide moral leadership on all moral questions including peace and justice by deed as well as word, regardless of the vocal and economic pressures and threats of the materialists, nationalists and racists in their flock.

Bishops Hogan and McNulty have fulfilled their duty with courage.

Walter O'Hagan
Sherman Street
Auburn

A Plea For Missions

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the

addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway,
14, Castle Street,
Cork,
Ireland

Cooperation Praised

Editor:

On Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and May 14, what took place at Bishop Kearney High School will long be remembered by all who participated and all who saw. This was the weekend for the McQuaid Parents Showtime. We found ourselves without an auditorium for our event and when we approached Brother Tracey at Kearney for the use of theirs, we were most warmly received and were given the auditorium even though it meant that they would have to reschedule their band concert.

In these days when our Catholic and other private schools are striving to stay open, it does your heart good to know that the schools themselves are working together, and if any doubt should be in one's mind as to why, the answer could be, "this is what it is all about," a true feeling of giving, sincere Christianity and brotherhood.

As president of the Mother's Division of the Parent's Club at McQuaid, I felt it worthwhile that the community be made aware of this.

May God's Blessing be with the people at Kearney always.

Mrs. Russell Gugino
Eagle Rock Drive
Rochester

Peace Pilgrims Out of Line

Editor:

After reading the headline "Frustrating Day for Peace Pilgrims" (Courier-Journal 5-17-72), I could not help but wonder who appointed these people experts in foreign policy.

I imagine if President Nixon journeyed to Rochester for the sole purpose of protesting one aspect of Bishop Hogan's administration he would be indignantly denounced, yet our bishop feels he is qualified enough in U.S. foreign policy to tell President Nixon what he should or should not do in Vietnam.

When a person or group demonstrates for peace, they should address protests to both parties involved in conflict. For years now, the North Vietnamese have been invading South Vietnam, murdering women and children and otherwise violating the 1954 Geneva Agreements which they signed.

The current invasion of South Vietnam by the North Vietnamese should have invited protests from those sincerely interested in peace but instead the United States was criticized by these "peace pilgrims" for helping the South Vietnamese resist the North Vietnamese aggression.

It is rather strange to see men of God protest defensive actions in the face of atheistic Communist aggression.

I hope our bishop at least left a thank you note in Washington regarding the President's support of abortion repeal.

Robert Bart
N. Geneva Street
Ithaca

Celibacy Opinion

Editor:

Here is my opinion on the celibacy.
Wednesday, June 7, 1972

Beyond the Stained Glass



bacy quandary. Rabbis are almost told in the Old Testament to marry; most ministers are married; so why not Catholic priests? Are doctors or undertakers who are on 24-hour call any less family men or professionals because of the interruptions in their lives?

There would be many, many problems and changes to be made such as rectory life as it now exists, but I feel there is definitely a place in this large "family", the Church, for family men as priests. Except that Christ knew He would only be there for 33 years, who knows maybe He would have been married too! After all it is a dignified state of life!

Mrs. Leonard Metzger
Steko Avenue
Rochester

Takes Issue With Berrigans

Editor:

I deny the sincerity of the Berrigans on very specific and practical grounds. Never have they spoken against the massive theft of land from the Palestinians, massacres such as Deir Yassin, Khan Yunis, Jabalia, Rafah and others nor have they ever mentioned the so called "Defense Laws" the most barbaric laws on any country's books. I would be interested in knowing what the transcendent principle is with them.

J. Reynolds
Owasco Road
Auburn

Can't Trust Viet Reds

Editor:

The Courier-Journal 5-24-72 contains a letter signed by a group of priests of the Rochester diocese requesting a withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Vietnam. The Times-Union, the same day, features a large picture of two U.S. soldiers each carrying two little orphans being evacuated from Pleiku, South Vietnam, to Saigon. The GIs are wearing big smiles and seem very happy with the work they are doing. Are these priests suggesting that the GIs drop the children and run for their lives?

Lt. Col. John Patrick O'Gorman, father of seven children and a Catholic, in a front page news story in the D&C (May 12), said: "I know that many people are killed by my actions (bombing), but I justify my actions and the war on two counts, at least in my mind. When I was stationed in Bien Hoa during my first tour here in 1965, there must have been 27 Catholic churches on the Bien Hoa to Saigon road, with people who had come from the North. Those people came here for a reason. They didn't want to live under Communism. We owe them

much consideration before we leave them. How can the United States sit at a conference table, if we just leave? How could anyone trust such a nation?"

People who talk so glibly about negotiating with the communists seem to forget that Hanoi has stated that it will negotiate only on the condition of the surrender of South Vietnam. These people do not seem to understand or realize what a Communist takeover will mean. Dr. Tom Dooley tells us that when he came to one town, he found children with their tongues cut out because they dared to pray.

What we Americans cannot understand (probably because we do not wish to understand) is that communism has an official policy of inaugurating a reign of terror, wherever it is able to establish itself, to subjugate the people and bring them into submission. This official policy has been documented and is contained in a study prepared for the U.S. Senate's Committee on the Judiciary. It is entitled, "The Human Cost of Communism in Vietnam". The document can be obtained at 55 cents per copy from the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. What is so remarkable about this document is the abundance of official Communist source material quoted which proves, without a doubt, that the Reds intend to win control of South Vietnam by brutally murdering as many of its citizens as necessary to insure final victory. Their assigned victims were village officials, police chiefs, security guards, youth leaders, refugees, relatives of military men, union representatives — any person the Communists considered unfriendly to a Red takeover.

Is this the kind of thing that Americans wish to be party to when they cry, "Peace! Peace!"

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan
East avenue
Rochester

Bishop Praised

Editor:

God bless Bishop Hogan and those who accompanied him to Washington on his mission for peace. We admire him and want him to know his efforts are appreciated.

Would that such huge throngs descend on Washington and peacefully demand an immediate end to the war that our president would be forced to comply with the wishes of the majority of our nation.

Would, too, that our parish priests would condemn the immorality of this war from the pulpit as vigorously as they have condemned the abortion law.

Elsie C. Stabel
E. William St.
Bath

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday Reading: (R1) Hos. 6: 3-6. (R2) Rom. 4: 18-25. (R3) Mt. 9: 9-13.

St. Augustine is alleged to have wished to see three things before he died: Rome in its glory, Christ in the flesh, and Paul in his preaching. Yet many who saw the glory that was Rome were no better for it. To many saw Christ. He was a sign of contradiction set for their fall. At Athens, Paul preaching at his eloquent best was laughed out of the agora.

Knowledge is a funny thing. Everybody wants it. The biggest chunk of our domestic budget goes for education. Yet knowledge is not the answer to everything.

St. Catherine of Siena once said, "Oh cursed is the intellectualism that does not lead to love." Knowledge, like a sewing needle, is a means to an end — the pathway to love. St. Thomas asked, "What is the cause of love?" His answer was — knowledge and goodness. No one can love what he does not know. Likewise no one loves evil. "Evil is a monster of such hideous mien that to be hated it needs only to be seen." Thus Hosea preached: "Let us strive to know the Lord." The reason he gave was that it is love that the Lord desires, not sacrifice (R1).

What is knowledge? Someone

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