

More Letters to the Editor

Pilgrimage Questioned

Editor:

The lead article caption (*Courier-Journal* 5-17-72) was indeed an understatement. Our religious "leaders" visit to Washington was more than frustrating for those seeking peace.

History has shown us innumerable times that when nations or groups of nations default in their responsibilities, the result has never been peace. It is difficult to understand whether our Bishop truly believes that a unilateral withdrawal would create the climate for a settlement in Vietnam, or whether he is simply misinformed on the nature and character of the conflict.

The statement that Congress feels "impotent to determine whether our country shall have war or peace" is extremely misleading. Some members of Congress are opposed to the President's position, but they do not command the majority and only for that reason are they unable to convert their views into national policy. It is entirely possible that the reason their opinions are not valued is that these are the same men who assured Lyndon Johnson four years ago that if he would stop bombing the North, Hanoi would accept a political settlement in Paris. What apparently escaped their attention is that Hanoi's position has never changed one iota in that they will accept nothing less than control of all of Vietnam.

Period. What is perhaps of more serious concern is the total absence of any statement regarding the Christian community in South Vietnam. The status of the Christian community in North Vietnam is recorded by history as simple obliteration. Was the aforementioned absence an oversight or is the future of the South Vietnam Christian community simply unimportant?

Paul R. Stack
Lake Lea Road
Rochester

Spirit Filled Liturgy

Editor:

Pentecost Sunday, May 21, a small group of us walked down East Avenue by the Cenacle Convent and heard from the open windows vibrant voices singing contemporary hymns. Upon entering, we met all of our Catholic pentecostal friends. This is a tightly-knit group because for the last five years or more, an in-depth relationship has been formed through weekly home prayer meetings. We sat down in the crowded pews (so crowded that chairs were placed in the sanctuary and down the aisles) and joined in the singing. From time to time as people entered freely, they would be warmly greeted with smiles, embraces and laughter. The fruit of the Spirit, joy, was prevalent and one could only think of what they used to say about the early Christian Church: "See how these Christians love one another."

When the singing stopped, Father George Maloney, SJ, professor of Theology at Fordham University, was introduced. He spoke of joy and how little there is in the church today.

The mass began with Father Simon from Geneva as celebrant. Father Simon faced the congregation with a contagious smile on his lips which reflected the congregation's joyful spirit. I have never heard responses given with such gusto and hymns sung with such feeling. At the Hand of Fellowship, the Mass stopped for more than a moment — the congregation just walked all over freely grasping hands in genuine tokens of peace. It was common to see tears of joy streaming down many a person's face.

The Mass then resumed with the same exuberant but reverent spirit and there was a true

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sharing in the Communion rite as Jesus was always with them in the beginning of the Mass and more now (if possible) sacramentally. When the mass ended on a note of joy the man sitting next to me turned to comment, "I have never seen anything like this!" I answered "Neither have I!"

In retrospect I wondered why this Mass was so meaningful and so many others so joyless. The answer came to me that what is needed in every parish is that the parish be divided into smaller groups so that in-depth fellowship can be formed and then only can a truly spiritual growth result with expression of the liturgy in the manner and spirit that prevailed on Pentecost Sunday at the Cenacle. I thank Sister Sadie Nesser for opening the doors of the Cenacle for such an experience.

Ann Christoff
Rochester

Clergy Letter Lacks Facts

Editor:

The open letter to President Nixon from a clergy group is intriguing not for what it says but rather for what it omits.

In essence, the letter is "old hat", denouncing the bombing of North Vietnam and urging a negotiated peace — a position Mr. Nixon has advocated time and time again.

Now as to the omissions:

Not a word about the North Vietnam Communists' invasion of South Vietnam which triggered the mining and bombing. The clergy group condemns the American reaction but maintains a mystic silence about the Communist action which prompted the escalation.

Not a word about the fact that all American ground troops have been removed from combat and President Nixon has reduced troop strength in Vietnam to some 60,000 from the more than half million sent there by President Kennedy and Johnson except for a rather anemic commendation of Mr. Nixon's efforts in that direction.

Not a word about President Nixon's repeated efforts to negotiate an end to the war — efforts marked by flexibility and numerous concessions, the latest of which calls for an immediate cease fire, release of prisoners and withdrawal of all American troops within four months.

Not a word about the truculence of Communist negotiators in maintaining a frozen position for years and using the negotiating table for a soapbox to voice their propaganda some of which obviously has reached American ears.

Not a word about the fact that come voices and violence in this country are proving grist for the propaganda mills of North Vietnam, boosting Communist morale and exacting a heavier toll of American and South Vietnamese lives.

Not a word about the consequences of the surrender these clergymen advocate in terms of a South Vietnam bloodbath akin to what happened after the French capitulation.

Obviously the open letter to Mr. Nixon from the clergy was misdirected. It should have been sent to Hanoi.

William A. Lang
103 Highland Parkway

Peace Action Questioned

Editor:

It struck me as ironic to read in the *Courier-Journal* 5-17-72 that Bishop Hogan felt "frustrated" on his return from Washington, where he had gone Monday as a "peace pilgrim." In 1967 and 1968 as a seminarian at Becket Hall, where Bishop Hogan

was then the rector, I was deeply interested in possible ways of stopping the war. At this time it had become apparent to me and to others who had bothered to do a little research, that the United States was fighting an immoral war to keep a corrupt and undemocratic government in power in South Vietnam.

Had influential churchmen like Bishop Hogan come out against the war four or five years ago,

had they stuck their necks out to back the peace movement then, instead of ignoring the whole issue, sufficient political leverage might have been applied on Washington to end the war. But, with very few exceptions, they were silent. Only in the last year, after American troops have been cut from half a million to sixty thousand, the Pentagon Papers have shown the gross deceit and immorality involved in our situation in Vietnam, and even Nixon

is trying to get the war over with has Bishop Hogan gotten on the peace bandwagon. Had he taken his present stand at a time when it could have made a difference, I would have applauded him for his intellectual and moral integrity. Coming at this time, however, his words strike me as singularly hollow.

John S. Morreall
Albermarle St.
Rochester

Keeping Tabs

The St. Lawrence Rosary Society banquet is scheduled for 7 tonight at the Lodge on the Green, 2888 Ridgeway. Mrs. Robert Anderson of the Greece Historical Society will speak.

The St. Mark's Women's Club will install officers at a banquet June 13 at the Edgewater. The officers are Miss Mary Wilkins, reelected president; Mrs. Kay Dunn, vice president; Miss Lillian Horak, secretary, and Mrs. Dorothy Smith, treasurer.

The Holy Name of Mary Society of St. Stanislaus parish will induct ne officers June 12 at a 6 p.m. ceremony in church. A picnic supper will follow.

The Catholic Mission Guild will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, at 513 Monroe. Maryknoll Sister Elizabeth Erbland will speak.

The annual festival at St. Ambrose will be held June 9 and 10, beginning at 7 p.m., on the church grounds, Empire at Culver.

Parishioners of St. Pius X will open their 19th annual country auction at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 12, on the old church site, 295 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Furniture, dishes, bric-a-brac and antiques will be featured.

Members of the 19th Seton Branch will be luncheon guests of Mrs. Thomas H. O'Connor of

School Board Sets Final Meeting

The last Holy Apostles school board meeting until September will begin at 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 14, following a two-hour period of conferences with parents regarding the "fair share" program.

New board members elected for two years are Mrs. Joyce Carnevale, Alfred Colburn and Pasquale Iacubucci.

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Wednesday, June 7, 1972



Fr. Dorsey to Speak

Daniel J. Healy of the Irondequoit Council of the Knights of Columbus (Pope Pius XII Council) is shown reviewing the annual meeting program with guest speaker, Fr. Joseph B. Dorsey. The annual meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 6, at Christ the King Church. Dr. Healy, will be master of ceremonies. Father Dorsey recently won the Democratic Party's nomination for State Senator.

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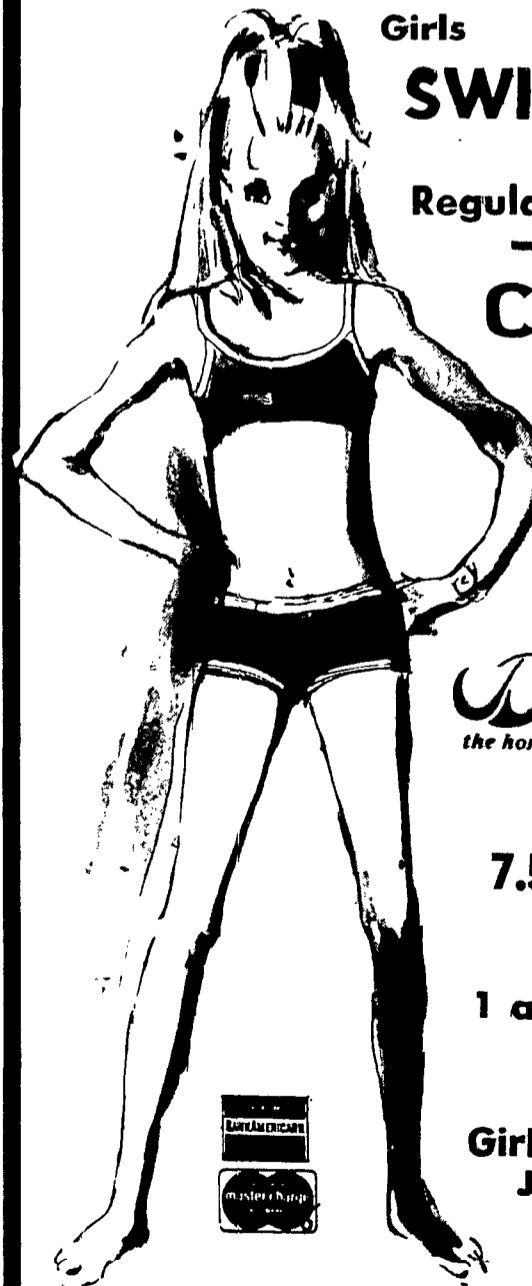
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