

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.

Why Christ Chose Men

Editor:

Jacquelyn Kelly in her letter (Courier-Journal 6-28-72) states: "In choosing men as leaders of His Church, Christ was very wise indeed. Women were considered as weak and subservient. Christ needed community leaders and had no choice but to pick men."

If Christ needed community leaders, He hardly showed great

wisdom in picking poor illiterate fishermen to be his Apostles. He chose his first bishops from the poor and lowly precisely to show that He did not need community leaders; that His Church was not built upon human sagacity. "God chooses the weak things of the world to confound the wise." He could have chosen women to be among His Apostles. He chose men for reasons known only to Himself. We may surmise that He did so because He came into this world as a man; the priesthood of His Church is His priesthood, perpetuated through men who, be-

cause they are taking the place of the Lord, are regarded as "other Christs". It seems, therefore, that in addition to endeavoring to live as other Christs, they should also have at least a general resemblance to Him in their external appearance.

Although the Apostles all were Jews, this fact, as the writer says, did not keep the Church from ordaining men of every race and culture. The early Church understood it was to be a universal church: that salvation was to be for all men. Therefore, converts were ordained from among the gentiles, or pagans, as well as from among the Jews. This was because the Church understood its mission. In the same way, she seemingly understood that her priests, the "other Christs", like the Master, were to be men. She probably will always keep that understanding.

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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



The Liturgy Sunday talks of rain and snow and seed-sowing.

Snow and rain are characterized by gentleness which merges into force. A raindrop hits the pavement and splashes into nothingness. But when raindrop follows raindrop in a river, bit by bit the river grows, till all at once it overflows, and none can resist its onward rush. The noiseless snowflake, soft as swan's-down, touches the hand and melts away. But flake falling upon flake can snowbound cities, even entire states.

Rain and snow seem so helpless, yet they become such blessings. What can a drop of rain do for man? Or even a flake of snow? Almost nothing by themselves alone. But steady raindrops can make the earth laugh with grain and can provide "food for the service of men" (Ps. 147). Like the circulation of the blood in the human body, rain keeps the earth alive. How good is the rain that loves all leaves and discriminates against none. And snow? The Psalmist also sang: "He spreads snow like wool." It wraps the earth in warmest ermine, preventing the permafrost that could snuff out the seeds of life nestled in the earth. The pity of the snow that heals and hides the scars of earth and takes old familiar sights and transforms them into a fairy land of delights.

Man has nothing to do with the coming of rain and snow. It is God "who covers the heavens with clouds and provides rain for the earth." As for the snowflake, Francis Thompson once asked, "What heart could ever have thought up a snowflake?" He answered, "It is past man's devising - fashioned, as it is, so purely, so palely, so surely, so mightily, so frailly, so inculpated and embossed, with His hammer of wind and His graver of frost."

The prophet, Second-Isaiah, likened the word of God to rain and snow. Like these elements, God's word comes from above. It is freely given, but it must be freely received. Man has nothing to do but receive it. God's word, seemingly as weak and insignificant as words can be, is power. In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light," and light was made. God's Son said to a leper, "Be clean," and the leper was cleansed. Other Christs say everyday, "This is my body," and dead bread becomes the body and blood of the risen Christ. Only a word, but almighty, when it is God's word. His all-powerful word rains blessings - "Peace be to you."

Only one thing can bind God's word, the resistance of man. This was what the parable of the sower was meant to teach. Early Christians recalled this

parable of our Lord to explain why so few people had listened to the teachings of Jesus and why so many of those who had heard them had fallen away. Rain will not make sea-sand fertile. Rain will not cause seed to sprout even in rich soil, if no seed has been sown. Nor will seed sown grow to harvest if it is choked by weeds.

If God's word returns void and does not achieve the end for which He sent it, the fault is man's. Man is free. He can turn God off - for God's word is gentle as the rain and soft as snow and dependent on man as the seed on soil and rain.

Some will not listen to God's word. Blithely, they skip Mass. Others are too busy for Sunday Mass. The cares of the world have choked out their time. They have none for Mass, that is. Others go to Sunday Mass - but they are always late. Their attitude is the Liturgy of the Word does not much matter. It is only the word of God! How sad! So God sends rain. He sends snow. Every year man has to sow seed in the earth. It is His way of constantly reminding us of a greater sowing going on at every Mass and everytime we read the Bible - and of a greater harvest that will one day be reaped - if, if only, we would pay more attention to His word each Sunday.

Behind Abortions

Mr. Walter O'Hagan opened his Letter to the Editor (Courier-Journal (6-14-72) with penetrating insight into the wives of Nixon and Rockefeller. Unfortunately, the remainder of his letter asserts that to seek abortion repeal is a waste and he therefore fosters despair and division which can only lend encouragement to anti-life forces.

"We cannot stop abortions by making it illegal." Mr. O'Hagan observes unmindful that hundreds of thousands have been killed since the abortion on demand law. It is also true that we cannot stop abortions by his suggestion that like ostriches with our heads in the sand we ignore the present state abortion law for an anticipated elimination of poverty and education.

The wealthy Rockefellers, the well-financed birth control power clique and other population control advocates need abortion laws to insure that the education that the poor of Mr. O'Hagan's concern as well as the middle income and wealthy will receive will be artificial birth control, sterilization, Euthanasia and abortion-oriented.

Louis J. Pasqua
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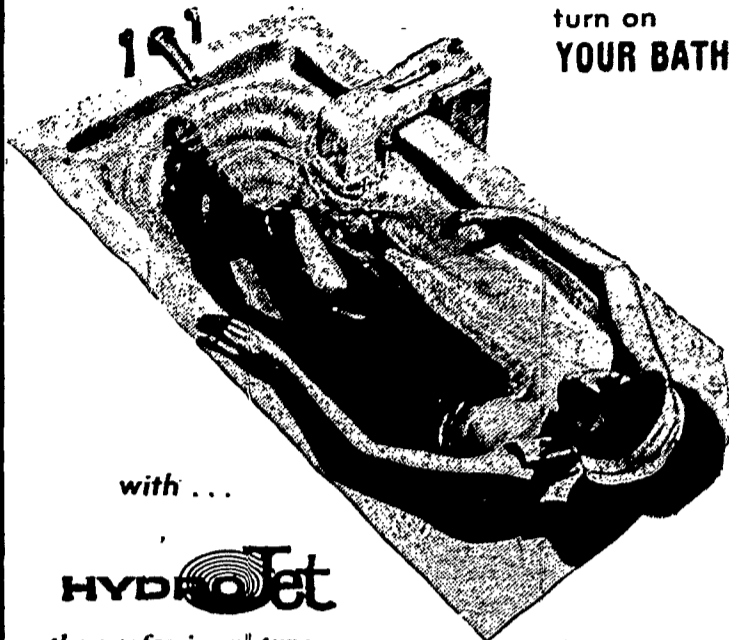
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