

# 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.

## Asks Nixon For Flood Aid

Excerpts from an open letter to President Nixon

Dear President Nixon:

An excerpt from one of our local newspapers indicates that "Federal monies will be available to look after damage to all schools in the Corning-Elmira flood area — except Catholic schools."

I am infuriated with this decision and think that it should be rescinded immediately.

Our family quickly and willingly donated food, clothing, shoes, boots and other badly needed items to the first (June 25) Catholic church appeal for aid for unfortunate victims. We purchased and donated additional food, first-aid supplies and clean-

ing items for the second (July 2) Catholic area collection. We also contributed to our own St. James church cash collection which netted approximately \$950. We never specified that any of these donations be distributed to Catholics only.

I worked as a volunteer for three days in Elmira distributing food and clothing, and also in homes to help restore kitchens and bathrooms to some semblance of order. It was dirty, hard, foul work but the gratitude of the elderly home owners was the greatest compensation I could ever expect. On entering these homes I did not ask "Are you a Catholic?"

On July 9 my husband, son, and I drove a truck (loaned to us by my husband's employer) to the Corning-Painted Post area. The truck was loaded with essential items that the distribution centers either lacked or had in

short supply.

The flood victims were not asked if they were Catholic before they chose the food and household items they so badly needed. Nor did our neighbors who gave so freely specify that their donations be marked "for Catholics only".

I saw and worked with nuns, priests, monks and other groups from many Catholic organizations doing a wide range of jobs for endless hours. Many of them were physically and emotionally exhausted. Their only consideration was helping people who were in desperate need, whether the individuals be yellow, black, white, Jew, Protestant, atheist or Catholic.

Catholic schools suffered as much damage as public schools and need help in the same proportion. Catholic schools served as refugee centers and some were (and still are) used as headquarters for the Red Cross and other helpful organizations.

Can our government in all fairness and justice declare "no help for Catholic schools" when so many Catholics have given so much of themselves for all people?

I plead with you to do all in your power to correct this most unfair ruling and grant federal financial aid to the Catholic schools in the stricken area.

Mrs. Frank J. Beahan  
56 Elmcroft Road  
Rochester

## FR. ALBERT SHAMON Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings: (R 1) 1 Kgs. 3: 5, 7-12. (R2) Rom. 8: 28-30. (R 3) Mt. 13: 44-52.

A treasure hidden in a field. A pearl of great value. A man finds it. He is overjoyed; he sells everything he has for this. The thing to notice is that the stories are less concerned with the treasure and the pearl than with the people finding them.

The two men of whom Jesus spoke in these stories had characteristics that set them apart from the crowd.

First, they knew when they had made an important discovery. So often modern catechetics comes in for criticism. The reason is because modern catechetics is not content with just imparting information. It is concerned with the student's discovering the treasure hid in the truth taught and its value as greater than that of a priceless pearl. Many people must have walked over the field that contained the buried treasure. Only one man discovered it. Similarly, the great values taught by the Church, like pearls cast before swine, not a few will trample them underfoot. In the First Reading, Solomon prayed for an understanding heart. Well might we all.

The second trait that characterized these two men was their determination to get what they

had found. Each knew his discovery was the chance of a lifetime, an opportunity that had to be acted on immediately and be put before anything else. Both stories climax in each man selling all he had to purchase what he had found.

However, the point our Lord wanted to make. I am sure, was how these men parted with their possessions — they did so joyfully! Too many times Christianity is pictured like castor oil. You hate to take it, but you have to because you are sick. Christ said that Christianity is like discovering a hidden treasure or a priceless pearl. The resulting emotion is joy and cheerful sacrifice. No one forced the discoverers of the treasure and of the pearl to sell out in order to buy. They were only too glad to do this.

Similarly Christianity is not a "give-up" religion. Christianity is an exchange. What bargains! Our sins for salvation! Our time for eternity! Our talents for Christ. Always we are getting the better of the bargain. For who has everything in the world but does not have Christ is treasureless, whereas whoever has Christ but nothing else in the world has the pearl of great price. Christianity is not an imposition. It is an acquisition! Therefore a religion of joy — good news!

Last June (1972) James Michalski turned down a half million dollars to become a Jesuit. His father, Leon G. Michalski, who died in 1968, had willed Jim the money if he would leave the religious life.

"I don't see life in terms of money," Jim told reporters. "I'm really very happy. I feel I can bring more love into the world in what I am doing." Jim had discovered a hidden treasure. Gladly, he has given all for the All!

There are certain kinds of values to be found in life's bargain basement. But are they bargains when you have to go down to them? Or when you lose the things that really count in the end?

Are we not in the presence of a unique opportunity? Our faith offers us the chance of a lifetime. By living it we can seize treasure untold and the pearl of great price. Would it not be tragic to miss the chance? The wise man is one who, like Solomon, prays every day for an understanding heart.

## Bucks Fund For Inner City

Editor:

As a resident of the Southwest Region of the diocese I fully support the position recently stated by the region's Formation Committee in pledging to help the Catholic inner city schools with the sum of \$12,000.

Each parish in the region will find its own way of meeting its share of that goal.

Domenick White  
239 Youngs Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

## Abortion Disrupts Rights

Editor:

At the Democratic National Convention, the cry went out from a good many people to let a woman have the power over her reproductive process and to let a person have the power over their own destiny.

We say by all means — as long as you don't interfere with someone else's reproductive process and as long as you don't interfere with another person's destiny.

Abortion does exactly that! Abortion supplies the interference.

In pregnancy there is more than one life existing. Otherwise there would not be a need for an abortion.

Enduring nine months in a pregnant condition should never be compared with another person losing his life. Nine months versus a potential lifetime is no comparison.

Abortion is barbaric. Stop Abortion. Restore New York State to the goal as stated in the Bill of Rights . . . nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property . . . The Supreme Court has held that under Amendment 14 the Bill of Rights also applies to State Governments.

Jim and Eileen Dougherty  
Avon, New York

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Courier-Journal

## Is there a mystery about funeral costs?

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## SURPRISINGLY GOD NEEDS YOU

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

DO  
SOMETHING  
MEANINGFUL  
WHILE  
YOU'RE  
STILL  
ALIVE

This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you. This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world—it's God's world—while you're still alive.

LEPERS

Only \$8.50 gives our priests and Sisters in Shertallay, south India, enough Dapsone 'miracle' tablets for 43 lepers for a year!

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For only \$3.50 a week (\$14 a month, \$168 a year) you can make sure that an abandoned baby has food, clothing, a blanket and love. We'll send you a photo of the baby you 'adopt', tell you something about him (or her), and ask the Sister-in-charge to keep you informed.

MEET  
MISSION  
EMERGENCIES

Your stringless gifts in any amount (\$5,000, \$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$2) will help the neediest wherever they are — in India and the Holy Land, for instance.

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OF  
YOURSELF,  
TOO

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Monsignor Nolan:

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THE CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION



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