

# 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.

## Prepare For Peace

Editor:

"Peace is possible," the Vatican has announced this as the theme for 1973 World Day of Peace.

We can be preparing for this individually and collectively well in advance.

Actively we should practice the commandment of equity, concern for other men; less thought of self.

Spiritually, a joining with others in worship, prayer, thanksgiving and reparation would be in order. A "speaking"

with God, as well as a "listening" could prove most beneficial.

The year at-hand, 1972, has been proclaimed "Rosary Year" a fitting preparation for 1973.

Our Lady has directed at Fatima "Pray the rosary for world peace!"

Why not begin right now by joining in the holy hour service at Holy Rosary Church every Thursday? Benediction, rosary, Holy Communion, homily, and prayers comprise the hour which begins at 7:30 p.m. The larger the participation, the greater the blessing for all!

If, however, one is unable to attend services spiritual participation may be attained by joining Blue Army/Lady of Fatima

under whose auspices these services are held.

There are no dues; one joins for life. Daily rosary and short office of prayer are the only requirements. Names of members are sent on microfilm and buried in the ground surrounding the scene of the apparition at Fatima.

Blanks and pertinent information may be secured from Blue Army members.

Kay Sullivan  
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## Attitudes On UDC

Editor:

Grab your kids mothers! Lock the doors! The Urban Development Corporation is coming to town.

Perhaps I'm exaggerating, but the near hysteria which grips towns like Chili, Irondequoit and Greece when you mention UDC and low-income housing, well, it's rather frightening.

The solid, and by now tired fact, is that we need low and middle income housing in our suburbs. The towns have refused to encourage it so the only answer is a higher governmental agency. UDC is trying to fill this role. So what if they're not perfect, for that matter, who is? The fundamental point is that they are the only people presently willing and able to build our most needed kind of housing. It's as simple as that.

The surprising irony comes in the actions of our suburban Christians. Here we are with a chance for a toehold on living in racially and economically integrated communities and raise kids who won't have to go through "busing", racial violence and an ignorance of other cultures and life styles. But what do we do? We scream about being asked to sacrifice a few bucks. We throw away our Christian principles and holler like hell for our town leaders to keep this nasty ogre, UDC, out. We become victims of the same fear and prejudice, which for example, elected a "know nothing" school board in Rochester.

What's most ironic, however, is that most of the people in the developments won't be of a different culture or color. They'll be young marrieds and oldsters who already live in the towns and who desperately need this type of housing.

But our biggest cop-out is when we reject Jesus' admonition that we are our brothers' keepers. If we reject this Christian principle and deity our own creature comforts, we might as well stop all this hypocrisy, close our churches and swap the Bible for a copy of Playboy.

William C. Schneider  
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## CUF View Disputed

Editor:

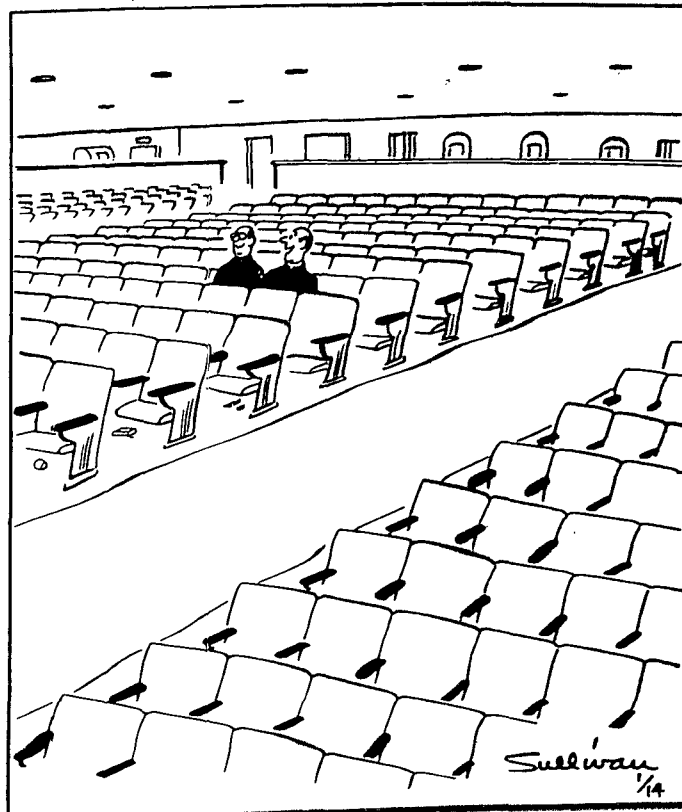
The CUF article (Courier-Journal 8/2/72) decrying the use of hand Communion does not make sense. CUF, like many good sincere Catholics is hung up on man made rules.

Many centuries ago some well intended sincere men decided on the priest-to-mouth distribution of Communion.

Many centuries ago some decided to make Catholics go to church on a number of days other than Sundays.

Many centuries ago it was de-

## Beyond the Stained Glass



"IT CERTAINLY IS REFRESHING TO WALK INTO A THEATER AND SEE A GOOD, CLEAN FAMILY MOVIE!"

decided to make it a sin to eat meat on Fridays.

These and a host of others are man-made rules and are subject to change. Only the 10 Commandments of God cannot be changed.

Recently I attended a church in Canada where the people received Communion both ways. They either extended their tongue or held out their hand. It was about equally divided and everyone was content. Receiving the Body of Christ was the main point. The manner of distribution was only a minor point.

Bernard H. Florack  
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## Sharing Inspiration

Editor:

The following is a letter I received from my confirmation sponsor which I'd like to share with others in the diocese.

"Dear Stephanie, Happy Confirmation! When I was looking for something significant to send you, I began to remember my own Confirmation and how I felt. I was scared about getting slapped — just like all kids are. And I couldn't wait to see the bishop in his big hat, robe and ring. Those were all surface things, though.

"I remember Confirmation as a distinct milestone in my life — especially in my faith. For the first time, I was taking on the responsibility of being a Christian. Before it was something handed to me. Mother and Daddy had me baptized. They put me in Catholic schools. They were responsible for me making my first Confession & Communion. But Confirmation was different. This time it was me who took the responsibility for my faith. When I accepted the Holy Spirit, I was on my own to carry out the Bishop's words — to be an "Apostle of Christ". I had to say yes to God and then take on myself the job of being a good-

Christian. It wasn't Mother and Daddy deciding anymore. Now it was all me! I was really proud of myself at the time, but I was scared too. If I messed up, I couldn't blame anyone but me!

"Maybe you had some of these feelings too, Stephanie. When I saw this poster, it seemed to sum up what Confirmation meant. Your parents gave you the seed of faith and now with your Confirmation you've begun to make it grow. It won't always be easy to be a Christian. But in the rough times, perhaps this little poster will encourage you to be true to yourself. And that is making the most of what God made."

The poster I received from her had these words: "My business is not to remake myself, but to make the absolute best of what God made."

Stephanie Wolf  
9 Alleyn's Rise  
Fairport 14450

## HOW COME YOU NEVER TALK ANYMORE?

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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday

Sunday Readings: (R1) Is. 56: 1, 6-7. (R2) Rom. 11: 13-15, 29-32. (R3) Mt. 15: 21-28.

All of the Sunday readings speak of God's love for all men — for foreigners (R1), for Gentiles and Jews (R2), and for the Canaanites (R3).

It took some time for the early Church to accept the fact that the Gospel was meant for all men. And it took an equally long time to realize that Gentiles did not have to accept all the ways and customs of the Jewish people in order to become Christians. Later generations of Christians found the same difficulty in colonial countries. They thought the imposition of a Western culture went hand in hand with Christianization. When the Catholic Church in France was outlawed by the Third French Republic, an exception was made in the case of Catholic missionaries. The reason a godless government decided to continue to support the Catholic missionaries from France was because the missionaries galvanized the countries they evangelized. Even today, Saigon is called the "paris of the East."

In a time when the world is reduced to a global village, Catholic Christians are called upon to respect the differences in culture, temperament, and the traditions of peoples. They are expected to resist irrational prejudices and to treat all with respect and with a spirit, not of patronizing paternalism, but of Christian charity. Sometimes this will mean going against the general

tide of feeling around us. But this is the way Christians can give witness to their belief in the essential equality of all men and in God's love for them.

Recently I read an article by Father Higgins on ethnic jokes. I feel he is so right I must echo him. Regarding those so called Polish "jokes," he said, "Stifle them!"

I for one, never could tell them, because a joke that hurts others offends against Christian charity. Aesop told the fable of a group of boys off from school one day. They were wading in a pond. When some frogs began leaping about, one boy said, "Let's see how many frogs we can hit." So they picked up pebbles and began throwing them at their target, the frogs. A brave bullfrog jumped up on a log and told them to stop. "Why?" asked one boy. "We're just having some fun."

"Yes," replied the bullfrog, "but what is fun for you is death for us."

A cloud of Polish jokes can obscure America's vision of Polish history and achievement. Were St. Stanislaus, Chopin, Madame

Curie, Paderewski stupid? President Nixon admitted, that without the epic works of Copernicus in astronomy the space age would not have been possible. More important, Poland has stood again and again as a bastion of Christendom against Tartar. The great Christian values of monogamous marriage, responsibility for a family and devotion to children find in the Polish one of their staunchest champions. One wonders about the origin and animus of a campaign of jokes that denigrate the Polish.

In an age of psychological warfare, these jokes are used to discredit the United States and weaken Polish resistance. Opposite the United States' Embassy in Warsaw, a large billboard displays this humor and suggests this is the authentic American opinion about the Poles.

I remember inviting Bishop Sheen to preach at St. Patrick's, Victor, on St. Patrick's Day. He introduced his remarks oddly. He announced, "Everything I am going to say about the Irish tonight applies to the Polish. Poland has suffered as much for its faith as Ireland." Perhaps the heroic stance against communism by Poland's great primate, Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, evoked this remark from Bishop Sheen.

For Catholic Christians, Polish jokes should call forth the same shriek freedom gave when Kosciuszko fell.

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Page 4

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