

# 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.

## Comment On Statement

Editor:

A remark made by Joseph J. Murray in his letter published in your issue of Aug. 23 calls for comment.

Mr. Murray is disturbed by the idea of receiving Holy Communion in the hand. It is true that the American bishops have lately voted not to request permission for this. But to charge those who ask to receive Communion thus with "a mortal sin when not done in ignorance, and done deliber-

ately", is to go too far. We should recall that a mortal sin, by definition, requires "grievous matter." If reception of Communion in the hand were of itself grievously sinful, the bishops would not even have brought the matter up for a vote. Obviously, Communion under this guise is a matter of discipline, i.e. a regulation.

Reception in the hand rather than on the tongue was the ancient practice in the Church; and this is clearly implied in the treatise On the Lapsed written by St. Cyprian of Carthage in the middle of the third century. There are arguments both for and against reviving it at this

time. I myself prefer the current practice. Should it eventually be permitted, however (and it would doubtless be on an optional basis, as in Canada, where permission has caused no particular stir) we should bear in mind that it is not something strange and new, but something old and not at all, of itself, irreverent.

Mr. Murray speaks improperly when he says the issue involves not only the reception of Communion in the hand, but its reception while kneeling. This is asking more than the Church asks. The instruction Eucharistic Mysterium issued by the Holy See on May 25, 1967, says "In accordance with the custom of the Church, Communion may be received by the faithful either kneeling or standing." (par. 34). What is enjoined is a sign of reverence on the part of the communicant. If he is kneeling, this is already taken care of. If he is standing, it is "strongly recommended" that he make a sign of reverence. Folded hands would surely be one; the bowing of the head, another.

A number of changes have been introduced into the liturgy of late, as we are all aware. The important thing is to see to it that no matter what the change, the new practice be, or be made, as reverent as the old. I am sure that this is Mr. Murray's basic concern, as it is mine.

Father Robert F. McNamara  
St. Bernard's Seminary  
Rochester, New York

Editor's Note: Father McNamara is a member of The Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

## Dieters Help Church

Editor:

In these times of financial stress to our Catholic Church I would like to say a word on behalf of the financial assistance provided by our local Diet Workshop to St. Francis De Sales Church in Geneva. This Rochester based organization is operated locally by Mrs. John Milligan who has acted as instructor for the St. Francis De Sales Diet Workshop since March of 1971. The Church is compensated on a per capita basis in return for weekly mention in our bulletin and occasional newspaper publicity.

In addition to monetary return, I find that we are offering a service to their membership as well as to the community at large.

I look forward to a long continued relationship with Diet Workshop and wish them every success for continued growth and service, with our full support and assistance.

Rev. Genaro J. Ventura  
St. Francis De Sales  
Geneva 14456

## Candidates 'Political'

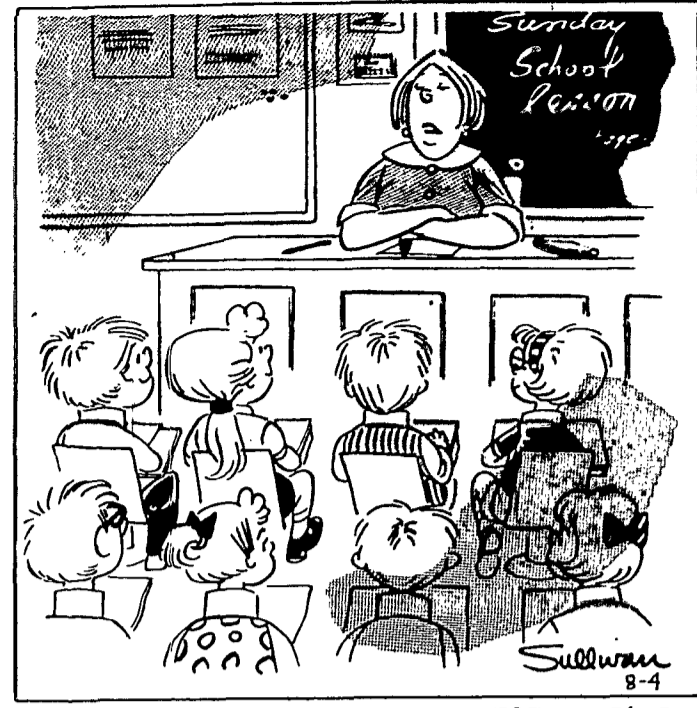
Editor:  
Dear Sir:

Reading Father Atwell's column (Courier-Journal 8-23-72) disturbed me. I thought it an endorsement of President Nixon. I am sure Father Atwell did not intend it as such. Political endorsements have no place in religious papers unless a moral issue is clearly involved.

Father Atwell alludes to the \$18,000 slush fund for Mr. Nixon. This fund was raised in 1946. I personally know one of the committee and how it was spent. The episode was unsavory but not politically unethical. It does illustrate Mr. Nixon's thinking.

Both Mr. McGovern and Mr. Nixon are total political animals. Both will issue statements which

Wednesday, September 6, 1972



"NO, LESTER, A MASTERCHEARGE FOR KIDS' IS NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER! WHO ELSE CAN DEFINE HEAVEN?"

they think will win votes and be forgotten by the voters after election.

Mr. Nixon has declared against abortion, and for aid to parochial schools. His statements made headlines and gained Catholic votes. Politically that was the reason for these statements.

Actually he has no more power in these matters than the poorest voter. Each of us can vote for one assemblyman, one state senator, one congressman, and two U.S. senators. These are the only people who can pass or defeat laws and appropriate necessary money.

Political platforms are adopted to influence votes and after election are forgotten. Voters should concentrate on the character and motives of the legislative candidates. Then regardless of party affiliation, vote for the men most likely to advance the voters' needs.

Our presidential elections seem designed to elect clever politicians and poor executives. They do not merit the attention and money they receive.

Leo T. McCarthy,  
RD 5 Penn Yan, N.Y., 14527

## Looking Back 90 Years

Editor:

I want to send belated congratulations to Mr. Slot Man on your passing the 40 mark a couple of weeks ago. I read your interesting column (Courier-Journal 8-23-72) which prompted me to tell you that I, too, celebrated my birthday a couple of weeks ago, passing the 90 mark (Aug. 14). I might say, as you stated, in "a more peaceful era with Grandma Moses.

I have many pleasant memories when there was no discrimination, neighbors were neighborly and helped each other when in need. Parents "ruled the roost" and didn't believe in "sparing the rod" when necessary. "No" to us kids meant "no" and "yes" meant "yes." We were happy and considered it a privilege to be up and out to Mass at 8 a.m. every morning before school, regardless of distance or weather.

Mr. Slot Man, you have missed a lot and could write many more interesting facts had the stork brought you to town in 1882, as he did me, to wonderful parents.

You missed going to market and carrying home a half bushel of groceries for \$1, when bread was 5 cents a loaf (most mothers baked their own), round steak 10 cents a pound, sirloin (best cut) 12 1/2 cents, milk 5 cents a quart, etc.

In later years, to be exact Sept. 6, 1901, I witnessed the blood shed by President McKinley in the Temple of Music at the Pan Am Exposition... that is, one of the unpleasant memories foremost in my mind.

And I agree as our beloved Archbishop Sheen said - These certainly are exciting times in which to live.

God bless you and many happy returns and God keep you in

good health to pass the 90 mark.

Mrs. Anna M. Lander  
Arkport RD Route 2  
Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Editor's Note: Our Slot Man columnist returns the sentiment to Mrs. Lander. We feel our readers join with us,

## On Ambition And Pride

Editor:

Every man has within him a sense of ambition. To a certain extent, a healthy ambition is a good quality within a man. The question well may be asked, "When is ambition wrong?"

Ambition is wrong when it is allowed to develop into a cancer called selfish pride.

This cancer called selfish pride, if not caught in its early stages, will spread within a man and finally destroy him. Some of the characteristics of this cancer are bitterness, hate, envy, distrust, falsehood, and jealousy.

There is a cure for the disease, however. The cure is called "death to self." A difficult undertaking, indeed, but one that must be understood and undertaken by every Christian so that he may be frequently inoculated with the vaccine-virtue called humility. Humility is the only sure way to prevent the cancer we are speaking about. The question might be asked, "How long are we susceptible to this disease?" The answer is from the time we are able to reason to the time we lose the ability to reason.

Our Lord spoke about this question of ambition in St. Mark's Gospel (Mk. 10: 35-45). He seems to be telling us that a man may be ambitious for the things of God and ambitious to serve others. "Whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all."

The man of service finds it difficult to be a man in authority. Why? Because he feels the burden of all those he is in authority over. His position causes him long hours of the pangs of true love for others. For the Christian who has been given authority has been given a commission of service, not personal eminence. "The Son of Man has come to serve, not to be served," and this was Christ, God Himself speaking.

It is very easy for modern man to fall into the traps of selfishness and arrogant pride which are the result of an unhealthy ambition. If, however, a man stays close to his Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and frequent reception of Jesus in the Eucharist, he will receive an adequate dose of the vaccine-virtue, humility. Let the humble conduct of our Savior, Jesus Christ, be our inspiration and example. Let the words of our Example be our motto: "Pray always and never lose heart."

Matthew R. Paratore  
Seminarian from the  
Syracuse Diocese  
Becket Hall

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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings: (R1) Ez. 33: 7-9 (R2) Rom. 13: 8-10. (R3) Mt. 18: 15-20.

The refrain between the Sunday's Readings is, "Hear his voice. Harden not your hearts." Bishop Hogan has called us to the work of renewal. One person who heard his voice has already asked, "Why do we need renewal?"

When our Lord talked of the Kingdom of God, He used parables. Theodore Wedel long ago used a parable which, I think, answers the questions about renewal.

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be

provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it beautifully and furnished it exquisitely, because they used it as a sort of club.

Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The lifesaving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet, and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and some of them had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon lifesaving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life saving station down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another lifesaving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit that seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown.

Why renewal? Why mow the lawn? Why wind a watch? Why bring a shop into drydock? Why clean house? Why bathe? Why buy new clothes? As long as the Church is people, she will stand in need of renewal. So, "harden not your hearts. Hear his voice."

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