

# 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 1½ pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

## Monk Backs Abbots' Stand

Editor:

The statement on the war in Indochina by nine American abbots of our Order (Courier-Journal 9-20-72) really made me feel, at long last, that we Trappists although cloistered are in reality essentially involved in the current social issues of our day and under the influence of the Holy Spirit are at long last making our contemplative existence felt at a more profound level throughout society than in the years gone by.

True, our vocation by its very nature is one of seclusion, sepa-

ration from the world, but in that same world are people who have been redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ hence our vocation is to enlighten them, protect them, draw them ever closer to Our Lord Jesus who is thirsting for serenity, universal tranquility. The example of the world on our part is exercised through the medium of prayer and penance but since, as the abbots point out in their statement, "the present situation, however, is no ordinary one" in regards to the Indochina conflict, we went to the press in an extraordinary effort to restore peace to a suffering humanity that is thirsting for serenity, universal tranquility.

In Ecclesiastes we read, "there is a time for silence, a time for

speaking" — So, my sincere congratulations to the nine abbots along with the rest of the monks who are supporting them for abandoning silence for a brief spell in order to speak out! Now let us pray that the proper persons will heed their message.

Brother M. Christian Walsh,  
OCSSO  
(Monk of the Genesee Abbey)

## Can We Forget Our Own?

Editor:

Our young men fighting in Viet Nam — in an undeclared war — are coming home, to what? They are supposedly fighting for the love of their country, but isn't it more involved?

Are not the wheels of industry turning fast and furiously spilling out the "toys" of war, with the dollars as the prizes?

A lot of these boys are returning home infested with drugs. Many, many without legs, arms and minds. Those in one piece are walking the streets looking for jobs. Doesn't our country and industry owe them at least this much?

So what, if many citizens do not care that women and children are being slaughtered by napalm and bombs? But, can we, with good conscience, forget our own?

Helen L. Stotz  
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## Directory Offered

Editor:

Two years ago, in the spring of 1970, the Holy See's Sacred Congregation for the Clergy issued the "General Catechetical Directory". It was in compliance with Vatican II's directive for a complete study of present day catechetics. Cardinal Wright, Prefect of the Congregation, said the directory, which has the enthusiastic approval of the Holy Father, "is intended for the guidance of all those involved in religious education". "It establishes the norms in choosing methodology and in arriving at the appropriate emphasis on which religious truths are basic and which are marginal in the teaching of the Catholic Faith".

We of the St. Pius X Chapter of the Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) feel that most Catholics are unaware of the directory's existence. In an effort to help implement its directives and to acquaint CCD teachers, parish council members, parents or anyone interested in the vital area of religious education, with the directory, we are offering a free copy of the authorized English translation for the cost of mailing (two eight cent stamps). Please address all requests to the undersigned.

Anthony Acciari, chairman  
CATHOLICS UNITED  
FOR THE FAITH  
408 Lincoln Road North  
East Rochester, 14445

## Services Hurt By Tax Cut

Editor:

There has been considerable publicity about the possible 16-cent reduction in the county tax rate but no mention has been made of the price the taxpayers will have to pay for this reduc-



"HEY! I'VE GOT A GROOVY IDEA! LET'S YOU AND ME MERGE OUR CHURCHES!"

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday

Sunday's Readings: (R1) Is. 5: 1-7. (R2) Phil. 4: 6-9. (R3) Mt. 21: 33-43.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

Saturday is the feast of the Holy Rosary.

This past week I asked about ten people if they were saying the Rosary daily. Only one said he was. One out of ten!

And yet in the greatest apparitions of Our Lady in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries — that at Lourdes and at Fatima — Our Lady appeared with the Rosary. She carried the Rosary. She begged Bernadette and she pleaded with Lucy, Jacinta, Francesco to tell people to pray the Rosary. The Mother of God — not just a pope or a priest — the Mother of God has said repeatedly, "Say the Rosary. Say it everyday. Say it properly, with attention to the mysteries."

In the Constitution on the Church, in the chapter on Our Lady we read: "This most holy Synod charges that practices and exercises of devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin be treasured as recommended by the teaching authority of the Church in the course of centuries" (Par. 67). Commenting on this passage, Pope Paul VI said, "Among the devotions we judge well to recall is the Marian Rosary especially . . . a form of piety which is adapted by its simplicity to the spirit of everyone."

Padre Pio, one of the three authentic stigmatists of Christianity, and John XXIII recited near the end of their lives the Rosary three times daily.

The great theologian, E. Schillebeeckx, O.P., wrote that the greatest sacrament in the Church is the Holy Eucharist and the greatest sacramental is the Rosary. What the Eucharist is to the sacraments, the Rosary is to the sacramentals — it is the most important of all Catholic devotions, as the rose is the most regal of all flowers.

Why, then, are no more than one out of ten praying the Rosary daily?

The first reason is laziness. Chesterton well said that "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. Christianity has been found hard and not tried." The Rosary requires effort. Our attention span is about five minutes. The Rosary takes about twelve minutes. We are so turned on by the sensate world, it is hard to stay still a moment and think. Yet man must reflect on God's mysteries, for not on bread alone does he live. Youth turning to drugs only confirms man's need for an inner life. But chemicals cannot cure the cravings of the heart.

The Rosary is in a way a "drug" — for it soothes the mind. It is an elementary fact of psychology that rhythmic repetition tranquilizes the heart of man. Counting sheep — rhythmic repetition of numbers — can lull one to sleep. Rhythmic puffing on a pipe, the rhythmic action of knitting, discharge nervous tensions and leave man free to contemplate and concentrate.

That is why the Rosary is the prayer most suited to our times. Man's jangled nerves need quieting. It might take forty Hail Marys to induce the state of mind capable of praying just one Hail Mary well. And one good Hail Mary saved the world — when Gabriel said it!

In this age when everyone is so concerned about orthodoxy of doctrine, the surest way to preserve the faith and teach its chief mysteries to children is to have the family Rosary.

St. Bernadette was twelve, Lucy, Jacinta, and Francesco were nine, eight, and seven respectively — and they knew the Rosary and said it!

In this Year of Renewal, why not start the family Rosary again? Why not teach children to say it once again? There is no sounder insurance for true renewal than the daily practice of the Rosary. Try it and see!

## COURIER-JOURNAL

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FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

## The Open Window

What is the view at the present time of the Catholic Church regarding the gift of the human body to the living bank, giving the eyes and having the body cremated, in whole or in part?

It has always been legitimate to donate all or part of one's body to science either for post mortem scientific use (e.g. a school of medicine), or, in more recent times to donate specific organs for use by a living person. Personally I think this is a truly noble charity and one to which more of us might subscribe.

In Rochester we have the Rochester Eye and Human Parts Bank Inc. located at 311 Alexander St., 14604. Write to them for an application to be a donor. One must be 18 or older.

Cremation was forbidden by the Catholic Church because for many years the enemies of the Church were using cremation as a symbol of denial of the doctrine of the resurrection of the body and as a means of expressing contempt for the Church. This is no longer true at least in any important or noticeable way.

About ten years ago the chanceries of the world were informed that cremation could be considered legitimate as long as there was no motive of hatred or contempt for the teaching of the Church and that it was done for hygienic, economic or social reasons.

Certainly your case would be justified under one or more of these.

Presumably the reason why Rome made the change so quietly was that it didn't want to take the chance that a new attack would be launched. I would assume that you are cleared to make the arrangements you have in mind.