

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.

League Explains Questionnaire

I am glad to reply to your editorial of Oct. 4. The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area considered many issues in determining topics for a state legislative candidates' questionnaire to be printed in the Nov. 5 Democrat and Chronicle. Since our

questionnaire was limited to five topics, we decided not to include abortion and no-fault insurance because we felt that these issues were well known to the public, having been highly publicized during the past legislative session.

We realize that we cannot cover every question of concern to voters, but would hope that voters would take the opportunity of learning the views of their candidates by attending candidate forums, neighborhood coffees, and listening to the can-

didates on radio and TV. In addition, if any of your readers desires to get in touch with his candidates to ask their views on abortion or other issues, the League of Women Voters will be glad to supply the names of the candidates in his State Assembly and Senate Districts. Our phone is 473-1697.

Anna R. Bundschuh, president
League of Women Voters

Family Rosary Advocated

Editor:

Father Albert Shamon's stimulating discourse on the Rosary was truly a masterpiece and contained real genuine food for serious thought. He is to be highly commended for reminding and inciting us to say the Rosary during this month of October.

He noted that it was the Mother of God who has said repeatedly — "Say the Rosary, Say it every day, Say it properly, with attention to the mysteries." As Father Shamon said, "one good Hail Mary saved the world — when Gabriel said it! In this Year of Renewal, why not start the family Rosary again?"

Genevieve O'Connor
52 Maple St.
Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Column Pleased

Editor:

I enjoy learning more about the gospels through Father Albert Shamon's weekly articles. I was particularly pleased with this week's explanation of the rosary.

If everyone would only pray the daily rosary, I am positive the evils of our day would disappear. Our Blessed Mother has promised to do this for us.

Mrs. Isobel McCarthy
1116 Hoffman St.
Elmira, N.Y.
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Column On Rosary Lauded

Editor:

I was very much pleased with Father Albert Shamon's column of Oct. 1 on the Holy Rosary, and would like to assure him that I and many of my acquaintances have for many years been in the habit of reciting fifteen decades of the rosary daily whenever possible, but never failing to recite at least the one full rosary each day.

I might also add that I appreciate Father Shamon's weekly column, which gives such clear explanations of the coming Sunday's readings.

Mary E. Reifer
52 Crosby St.
Hornell, N.Y.
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Too Often Bands Ignored

Editor:

On Oct. 7 we attended the Aquinas - Jefferson football game. It was a bone-chilling day; rain and wind blowing in our faces. Why did we go?

First of all, Aquinas and esprit de corps is a corporation.

Second, "the Irish" play a pretty good game of football.

But to many of us the Aquinas Marching Band and Color Guard

Wednesday, October 18, 1972



What's a missionary gonna buy with my Dad's quarter?

Old Age Fun ... She Knows

Editor:

You are right to say that we old people have lots of ambition and love fun. (Courier-Journal 10-4-72). We have all kinds of people. Some of them can put up a show on the stage. And they can write books, like me. I'm 76 years old and I go dancing twice a week. And dance every dance with different men. And I don't get tired.

So far I have written two books of my life. They are lovely books. And I do my dresses up to date. And I could do some painting, too.

I am the mother of seven children — six girls and a boy. They are all married with lovely families.

The places I go are: Danforth Center, 200 West Ave., Rochester and the Golden Age Club on Ridge Road in Greece.

Mrs. Anna Nicoletti
Rochester

Criticism

Unwarranted

Editor:

As a dedicated member of the League of Women Voters I was most disturbed to read your criticism in the Courier-Journal (10-4-72).

The league questionnaire was concerned with those areas of government which it had been studying. You and the unnamed candidate probably did not realize that the league takes no action on issues which it has not studied. The issues being studied on the state level at present are:

1. State Finance — Evaluation of fiscal policies in New York State with an emphasis on financing education.

2. Elections — Evaluation of measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise.

3. Judicial — Support of a unified statewide court system with adequate provisions for judicial selection and tenure.

4. Apportionment — Support of standards to insure equitable representation in the State Legislature.

National items are, briefly, 1. Environmental Quality; 2. Land Use; 3. Human Resources; 4. International Relations; 5. Representative Government.

Each local league studies in addition items that are of particular concern to the immediate governmental area.

With that load you may understand why abortion has not been added to our agenda.

We are women, granted. However, our concern is to be informed voters and we must study before we can vote. We must begin to study months before any election and can only concentrate on a program approved by our membership.

Mary B. Grabman
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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday Readings: (R1) Is. 45:1, 4-6. (R2) Thess. 1:1-5. (R3) Mt. 22:15-21.

Today's gospel reading about the paying of taxes to Caesar raises, and helps to answer, a number of important questions much discussed at this time. Two of these are Jesus and Revolution, and Jesus and Politics.

There are two types of extremists in society today, offering solutions (generally political) to its many problems.

One is the Utopian; the other is the Revolutionary.

The Utopian promises everyone a world, here and now, that will exist only in kingdom come. He would create a new order in which all evil is eliminated. Westbrook Pegler wrote an essay on purifying the whole world. In his usual sardonic style, he said the world was purified after the sole survivors of the fighting human race, a husband and wife, had died. She slugged him with an axe while he slept, and she died from the poison he had put into her soup that evening. After that, the donkeys and rabbits romped freely in the fields. "And the world was purified of cruelty, dishonesty, treachery, and greed."

Utopia is possible on earth only if we eliminate the human race. As long as people are people, Utopia is a paradise to be won beyond the grave. It is a goal striven for, a hope that colors all actions here and now. Here, Utopia may be glimpsed — "once there was a fleeting wisp of glory called Camelot." But to promise Utopia now is, as Pope Paul warned, "the convenient crutch of those who wish to escape from concrete

tasks in order to flee to an imaginary world."

The Revolutionary, on the contrary, promises a better world by destroying the one that exists. Revolution is the violent overthrow of an existing system without a clearly defined replacement. The Revolutionary says, "Tear it down first. Then we'll worry about the replacement."

Revolutionaries feel they will step into the vacuum created by the violent overthrow of a society and reap the harvest, like looters in time of a riot. Thus history testifies that the last state of a revolutionary society often becomes worse than the first; that seven devils succeed the one driven out.

Violent revolution differs from evolution: the methodical, gradual change of a system which perceives the best in itself and improves upon it to arrive at something better.

In Our Lord's day, there were Utopians and Revolutionaries. The Utopians wanted heaven here and now — an instant Messiah. The Revolutionaries wanted the violent overthrow of Roman rule — a political Messiah. Both were concerned only with this world, and worldly solutions.

One day they asked Jesus whether it is lawful for a Jew to pay taxes to a Roman ruler. Jesus asked for a coin and showed that the problem is deeper than just this world.

Our Lord said in effect, "Caesar's image is on the coin, isn't it? It is used because this is Caesar's country. And you use it because you are Caesar's subjects — whether you own up to the fact or not. Therefore, give Caesar his due. Pay your taxes, obey the law, honor civil authority."

But man has a double allegiance: to this world, yes; but only because he first has allegiance to God.

So Jesus continued, "Pay your taxes to God. The coin bears an image and so do you. The coin is from the mint of Caesar. You are minted by God. Render unceasing tribute to Him and all the other minor questions will settle themselves. So give to Caesar what is his — but only because you are obliged to a higher duty: to give to God what is God's, and Caesar too is God's."

The Utopian forgets about the things of Caesar in pursuing the ideal.

The Revolutionary forgets about the things of God in his concern for the things of Caesar.

The Christian seeks a Utopia beyond this world, but through it!

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