

# 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.

## Humane Vitae Reminder

Editor:  
May I point out that in your timely editorial re: the respect necessary towards all life, you neglected to mention one very important area; i.e., that respect and openness for life not yet given us.

Until we Catholics, who have the "fullness of truth" are ready to accept and promote all of God's teachings regarding the value and true nature of life, it seems to me that we can never hope to achieve success in this vital struggle.

Pope Paul (Humanae Vitae)

has given us clear and necessary guidance to follow in our attitudes towards life. How can we tell the world of our respect for that life already created when we ourselves refuse to accept life not yet given us, and at the same time proclaiming that we are following God's teachings? Is it possible for us to be selective to life through methods of birth control and yet proclaim to the world that it may not be selective of life through abortion?

Admittedly, it seems less barbaric to say "no" to God before, rather than after, the creative act, but is it any less a denial of His domain? Can we possibly continue to say in abortion debates that birth control is not an issue?

Therefore, we who wish to promote a true respect for life must first put our own house in order, and then forcefully and prayerfully go about the business of presenting to the world all of God's truths.

Jacqueline P. Rondinaro  
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Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891

## Father Shamon Column Lauded

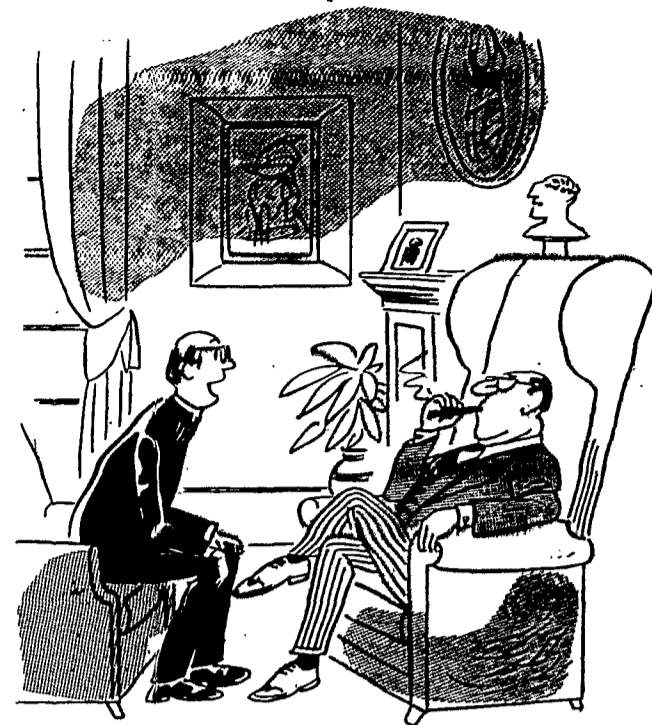
Editor:

I wish to inform you of my interest and enjoyment in reading Father Shamon's weekly Gospel explanations in the Courier-Journal.

I especially enjoyed and reaped much benefit from the article on the rosary in the Courier (10-4-72).

I look forward to receiving the paper for inspirational material.

Sara M. Mark  
371 W. Church St.  
Elmira, N.Y.



"SINCE YOUR CUP RUNNETH OVER, WE HOPED IT COULD RUNNETH OVER INTO OUR PARISH BUILDING FUND!"

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

## Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) Ex. 22:20-26. (R2) 1 Thes. 1:5-10. (R3) Mt. 22:34-40.

One of the great dangers with this Sunday's Gospel is that we might react like this, "Oh, that again!" And with that, we might turn off our hearing aid.

One day a priest met Chief Justice Taney as he was leaving Sunday Mass. The priest apologized and said, "Had I known that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court were here this morning, I would have prepared a far better sermon."

The Chief Justice replied, "Father, I've never heard a poor sermon."

What Taney meant was that if one had the desire to obtain something from God's Word, he would get something, no matter how poor the instrument. "The hungry, (those who really want spiritual food), He has given every good thing."

Undoubtedly, hearing this Gospel on what is the greatest commandment can be to some as tasteless as gum that has lost its flavor.

And yet do we love God? Do we honor, respect, and obey Him?

One of the basic tests of love of God, according to Our Lord, is to love one's neighbor. Who is my neighbor? Everybody in the global village of the world. Everybody — especially those in need!

The first Reading singles out three classes of the needy. First, there is the alien, the stranger, the one who does not belong.

who is friendless, uprooted, who perhaps cannot even speak our language. Then the widow or orphan, the helpless ones, people who have no one to defend them, the easy marks so to speak. And lastly, the poor, the empty ones, the easy victims of loan sharks and exploitation.

How should we love them? "As ourselves." That means to love them whether they are deserving or undeserving.

To love them means to reverence their dignity. Every person is a child of God — created by Him, redeemed by Him, and destined for Him.

To love them means to be as sensitive to their aspirations as we are to our own. How harsh our attitudes often are toward fellow citizens who are on welfare!

To love them means to serve their needs: sometimes personally; sometimes through a group, like giving to United Fund or the Bishop's Flood Relief Collection; sometimes through political action, like working for better housing policies or for the repeal of the Rockefeller Abortion Law.

What happens when we love our neighbor? Two things according to Saint Paul (R2).

First, example will have a tremendous impact. When the Thessalonians observed the apostles, how their preaching and living were all of one piece, they imitated them. And they did this regardless of the sufferings entailed — so powerful is good example! Their example in turn enkindled faith in all of Macedonia and Achaia.

Christians first are imitators of Christ and then the imitated. This is the law of communication. Lit from Christ, the Light of the World, Christians become lights for others. It was the early Christian love of one another that converted the pagan Roman world.

Secondly, there will be joy. Despite great trials, despite the cost, love of God and neighbor will give the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit — the joy of a good conscience.

Abe Lincoln once remarked to a friend that his religion was like that of an old man named Glenn in Indiana, whom he heard speak at a church meeting and who said: "When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. And that's my religion."

Religion is more than a feeling, of course. But one of its fruits is joy! Perhaps there would be less sadness in society today if there were more honest-to-goodness religion.

## Nixon Ad Disputed

Editor:

According to the paid Republican advertisement published in the Oct. 11 Courier, the President is "bothered by the fact that every day one more private or parochial school closes". May I say that I, for one, do not believe it. Mr. Nixon made his declaration in favor of the Catholic Schools shortly after the Supreme Court, his Supreme Court, had declared help to the Catholic Schools was unconstitutional. That decision was reaffirmed by the Supreme Court this week when a law defraying some expenses for sending children to church-run schools in Ohio was struck down. Mr. Nixon wants to attract the Catholic voters and that is the only reason for his untrue declaration.

Mrs. F. C. Wickes  
115 Deerfield Drive  
Rochester

## Right to Life Cards on Sale

Editor:

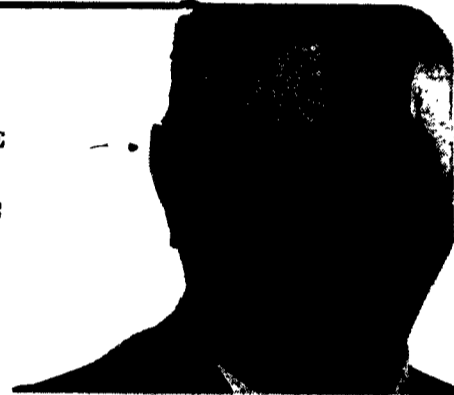
Again this year Mrs. Joanne Streb of Avon has designed a Christmas card emphasizing that unborn life is a blessing and a cause for rejoicing. The cards (ten cents apiece) will be available through Mrs. Rosemary Austin, Corning Area Right to Life, 567 West High St., Painted Post, N.Y. 14870. They will also be available through the Rochester Area Right to Life Education Fund, Inc., 1559 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14617, 271-2121.

Other pro-life groups in this state and around the country are making Christmas cards available. The Gates-Chili Right to Life, P. O. Box 8901, Rochester 14624, also has cards which express the issue of life.

Jeanne D. Sweeney  
Operations  
Right to Life

BOB CONSIDINE

## On the Line



To the other vicissitudes of a dog's life, man has added the task of detecting hidden narcotics. Police dogs, mostly German shepherds already trained to help enforce man's laws and serve as sentries, are being given postgraduate work in tracking down narcotics wherever addicts and pushers stash the stuff.

As in all fields of science, however, some of the dogs are specialists. They have made startling finds for police narcotics squads, the military, U.S. agencies such as the Bureau of Customs and other organizations. They have sniffed out and alerted their less sensitized handlers as to the location of drugs in baggage, mail, terminal locker racks, and even passers-by.

So far, their opposition has not been able to confuse their incredible sense of smell by wrapping the contraband in bags or boxes saturated with perfume, gasoline and whatnot. The well-trained canine's sniffer hardly ever fails.

Maj. Holley D. Bradley, U.S. Army, a career military police officer now doing investigative work in Vietnam, writes in the current issue of the FBI Bulletin, "To a dog, its whole world must be a vast panorama of scent. It is so much so, in fact, that some experts claim that a dog can virtually see with its nose."

This is not literally true, of course, but the fact remains that the dog uses its olfactory sense much more effectively than does man. On some odors, dogs can detect concentrations of scent that are a million times lower than that discernible by humans.

Most of the dogs now being trained for narcotics work go to school for two hours a day, being taught to "alert" on concealed narcotics and ignore all the other odors that hit their nostrils and the simulated noise and distractions of places where they'll eventually go into action.

"Experience indicates that narcotics dogs greatly expedite screening and inspection procedures, while at the same time

increase the probability of success," Maj. Bradley writes. "For example, with a narcotics detector dog, it takes an officer approximately 1 1/2 minutes to inspect a vehicle, 7 minutes to screen 125 packages, and 3 minutes to check 50 boxes and suitcases."

Screening operations of this nature conducted in the same time frame without the use of a dog would be highly perfunctory in nature and stand only a very limited chance of success."

One thing the dogs can't understand, Bradley warns:

"It must be remembered, however, that the dog has no more inherent authority to search than does the police officer who handles it. . . . Legal counsel should be consulted before operational procedures . . ."

The same FBI periodical gives the grim box score on aircraft hijackers between Jan. 1, 1968, and Aug. 25, 1972:

There were 144 incidents or attempts at sky piracy during that period. All but ten of these cases have been solved. Of the 203 individuals, all but 13 have been identified. The others have been prosecuted. FBI agents killed, five, wounded, six. Passengers killed, one, wounded, one. Crewmen wounded, one. Three skyjackers committed suicide. Average prison terms meted out: in excess of 14 years. One got life. Twenty-five of the aerial stickups involved extortionate demands totaling nearly \$112 million. All but \$503,000 has been covered.

Gloom prediction in a study undertaken by the 800-institution Association of American Colleges:

"By 1985, the average tuition charge at a typical private college or university will be \$17,324 per year. That would put a four-year degree cost at \$69,000, not counting incidentals."

Knowledge, indeed, will be golden.

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