

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.

Pro-Lifers Gained in Vote

Editor:
The effect of the abortion issue in the recent election can only be measured in terms of results. Abortion legislation was thoroughly discussed on radio and TV debates, detailed in newspapers and broadly discussed among the voters.

Pro-life, anti-abortion candidates were victorious by a margin of 2 to 1 over anti-life, pro-abortion candidates in Monroe County. Six winners pledged to help repeal the current liberal abortion law and three winners stated approval of the current law. It's very important to realize what happened to legislators here in Monroe County and across the state. Prior to the election, six state legislators were

pro-abortion and three were pro-life. A complete reversal has taken place.

It's obvious a major pro-life victory has taken place in Monroe County. Rejoice? Not yet, as long as current law exists and a life is snuffed out every four minutes for social or economic reasons.

The State Legislature convenes in January 1973. This is ample time for all pro-life people to make their voices heard again even louder. Call or write pro-life legislators urging them to do whatever is necessary to repeal the liberal abortion law. Let the governor know how you feel and ask him to reverse his stand.

Become more informed by joining pro-life organizations locally, statewide and nationally.

Christmas time, perhaps the best time of all, is a time to reflect and ask why are we rejoicing. Are we not celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and his promise of life everlasting? The joy of life is known to all of us regardless of its sorrows. The right to life can no longer be taken for granted. Remember Christ's words, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto Me."

Steven Witkowski
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Rochester

Clarification Asked by CUF

Editor:

In regard to Father Hohman's column, The Open Window, it seems that many times he answers the posed question with a great deal of equivocation. He regularly uses such phrases as, "Pope Paul says this but there are many who disagree", or "the Church teaches this but many reputable theologians feel otherwise" etc., etc. He then proceeds to answer the question in such a way that it appears to justify everyone's position. This is particularly evident when he writes about Humanae Vitae or a related subject. The Rochester Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith (CUF) feel he would do the readers of the Courier-Journal a great service if he would in his future columns fully explain his personal position on Humanae Vitae and the Church's teaching authority simply, clearly and without equivocation. It would then serve to put any future answers in his column into proper perspective and avoid any possibility of his being misunderstood.

Anthony Acciari
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A Ring Of Joy

Editor:

I was thinking of one time in depression time. It was going to be Christmas and we had no money — not even to buy something to eat. Before the depression we had a lovely home. It was ten rooms and my husband had a business restaurant and barbershop and we had plenty to eat, and plenty of money, we were well off. But on that depression Christmas Eve all my children had no toys. We had nothing. So I was very sad.

I looked at my hands and I saw my wedding ring. So I thought I could sell the ring and buy some toys for my children. So I went to the pawn shop and asked the man how much he would give me for my ring. He said \$8. Instead of \$35. So I took the \$8 and bought toys for my seven children. And we had a wonderful Christmas. Now I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. And God Bless You.

Anna Nicoletti
2 Country Gables Drive
Rochester

Church Music We Don't Hear

Editor:

On Monday, Nov. 20, there appeared two music reviews in the Democrat and Chronicle: one by Etta Ruth Weigl of the Mozart Credo Mass, sung by the U. of R. Chapel Choir; the other by Laurie Modell of Mozart's C-Minor Mass, sung by the Rochester Oratorio Society. Both reviews were good. Etta wrote, "Pleasant", while Laurie wrote, "Exhilarating."



IF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, OR JOHN HAD RIN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND LOST, THEY'D BE OVER IT BY NOW!

The irony is that this beautiful church music cannot be heard in a Catholic Church; but, instead, one must pay admission to a secular hall or theater to enjoy this music. The ancient Gregorian Chant, too, has gone down the drain, along with too much of the Church's heritage and tradition.

I have heard modern music in church, such as that beautiful hymn, "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" (with guitars yet!). Modern it is; inspiring it isn't!

The Church, of course, is wooing the NOW GENERATION! at the expense of the old timers. Certainly we need young people and new ideas. However, I can't buy changing any organization, just to change it. My church's financial report contains one clue on the Pepsi Crowd: they won't pick up the tab, after the old folks are gone; and I don't necessarily mean dead and gone.

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FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For Sunday



Sunday's Readings: (R1) Is. 40: 1-5; 9-11. (R2) 2 Pt. 3: 8-14. (R3) Mk. 1: 1-8.

Mark's Gospel begins with an act of faith, that Jesus is the Son of God. He begins his story about Jesus Christ a long ways back. For the thoughts of God are long, long thoughts. History is not a chance concatenation of occurrences. It is an unfolding of a purposeful plan that goes back and back to Isaiah who told of a "voice crying in the wilderness" and to Malachi who foretold "a messenger" would go before the Messiah to prepare his way.

Mark introduces John the Baptist as this messenger and this voice.

His role was to prepare the way for and to One greater than himself — this Jesus, the Son of God. All of us at one time or another have had to make a long distance telephone call. And all of us, I am sure, have heard an operator say, "Please hold on, I am trying to connect you with your party." You held on. Then the connection was finally made. Remember what happened to the operator? She immediately dropped completely out of the picture.

John saw his role like that. Despite his success, he knew his work was only to connect men to Jesus. He knew he was not the one who counted, that there was another mightier than him-

self. He was happy if he could put others in touch with this "One more powerful than I." Once he had made the connection, he dropped out of sight completely.

Besides alerting men to Jesus, the Baptizer prepared the way to him by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. This was startling to the Jews. For only Gentiles were baptized. By asking the Jews to be baptized, John was telling them that being a Jew was not enough to make them God's people; they needed in addition to be cleansed. So the baptism he proclaimed was, one of repentance. Repentance means more than a change of mind. It really implies what is more basic, namely, a change of heart, a coming to one's senses, resulting in a change of life — a real conversion!

God does not need man's help in anything. Yet God chooses to ask man for his help in a great many things. And when he does, he expects man to do his part or suffer the consequences. God, for instance, is ready to give a crop to a farmer, but only on the condition that the farmer does his part, which is to prepare the field by plowing and sowing the seed. God is ready to bless our homes. But only if we prepare the way by love, fidelity and industry. It is not enough to hang up in a dining room a framed motto: "God bless our home!"

What is true of farm and home is equally true for the heart of man. He must prepare a way for God. Man must discover a sense of need for Jesus. He must strive with all his heart to love good and hate evil. He must want Jesus. He must use all the means that lead to Him — prayer, sacraments, Scripture readings. If he refuses, can he wonder if he does not find Jesus? "Make ready the way of the Lord."

John the Baptizer was so effective in preparing the hearts of men because he lived his message. The medium — his desert life, meagre fare, penitential garb — was the message.

Are we John the Baptists for our age? For those with whom we live or work or meet? Does our life give witness to One greater than ourselves? There is no such thing as a silent follower of Jesus. Our acts should be a voice even when our voice is not

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Courier-Journal

The neediest cases in the diocese will have a bleak Christmas unless you care.

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