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.

Practice Questioned

Editor:

St. Paul taught that, not by natural law but by custom of the Church, men's heads should be uncovered and women's heads should be covered as a visible expression of reverence for God. (cf I Cor. 11:4 ff). The Church endowed these customs with sanctity and, by Canon 1262-2, certified them, not as mere customs but as required, holy forms

ous news release stated that of those "who criticize canon women are no longer required law, scorn and neglect it, indeed to cover their heads in church. consider it harmful," and the

FR. ALBERT SHAMON

Word For

Sunday

Rome's correction of this error, unlike the error itself, was not published by papers. Consequently, many have the mistaken impression that Canon 1262-2 has been abolished.

The practice of this error continues because many who earlier gave spiritual food now feed upon and distribute hogwash that swells the hellish circle of spiritual poverty. These denigrate, if not totally destroy, the sacred substance of canon law.

In his address to canon lawyers at the Gregorian University on December 13, 1972, Pope Paul VI discussed both the false no-About 3 years ago, an errone-tions which underlie the errors

sacred nature of canony law: . . . "Therefore it is clear both from Revelation and from the exercise of law which is found among the Apostles, that Canon Law is a sacred one, entirely distinct from civil law. It is, a law ... proceeding from the very will of Christ."

Courier-Journal readers can be leaders who show that "the very will of Christ" is more than to say. "Our Father ... hallowed be Thy name . . . Thy will be done

Joseph J. Murray 38 Wyndover Rd.

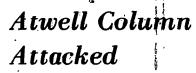
EDITOR'S NOTE: Expert opinion among canon lawyers says that, "A solid, standing custom among the faithful contrary to a law abrogates the law." This means that, while the letter of the law about covering the head still stands, common practice in the Church has made that sec-tion of the law without effect.

Heartfelt » Thanks

Editor:

I hope I can use this means in your paper to convey to so many my heartfelt thanks for the responses I received from my request for used greeting cards (Courier-Journal 1/10/73). It was terrific. May God bless each and every one.

> Mrs. Frank Smith 31 Quincy St. Rochester



Editor:

Within the past few months, Pope Paul VI has publicly taught on such subjects as:

- the Church's unchanged and unchangeable doctrine demning abortion. 12-9-72.
- those who want a Church without a doctrine, authority or sacrifice. 11-22-72.
- the devil and his influence on people and societies. 11-15-72.
- the true nature and manifestations of the Holy Spirit and His works.

The Courier-Journal, | as Catholic paper, might be well advised in the Year of Renewal, to carry the complete texts of the papal teachings (rather than excerpts or someone else's or press opinion of what the Pope said).

Perhaps then Father Atwell wouldn't consider the Pope's statements a "bland blend" or the Church "slumped into lukewarm mush."

I must argue Father's statement that the "church has neither clear goals or directions" (I assume he means the Cathlie Church).

Too many want to throw the baby (the Spiritual Church) out with the bath water (the physical manifestation of the Church).

If we have the True Faith in the Catholic Church as prom-ised by Christ, it is our human faults that refuse to accept or see the directions or goals established by Christ and implemented by the authority He gave His vicar-in-time, to instruct us in faith and morals. So we despair or refuse to accept the goals or directions.

Father Atwell considers us "dead center" and would like to see us move. Which way? Liberal? Conservative?

Perhaps Father's "dead-center" is actually and hopefully a period of stabilization to/help undo the years of polarization in which extremists have wreaked physical and spiritual volence. It could be a time for reflection on how to amalgamate the best of the old and the new it might Wednesday, January 24, 1973

INVOLVEMENT IS WHERE IT'S AT!" be a time to realize little is acciosing be St. Thomas More or complished midst strife. How can we as individuals or groups reach

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR ATTITUDE! COMMUNITY

Progress is built on a solid foundation and not change for change's sake. Perhaps this is a winnowing time, or a hiatus, in which terms such as liberal and conservative Catholic could be discarded — and the reasons for them.

peace when we are torn as to liturgy, doctrine, social action,

Mrs. Herbert Schuhart 1404 Whalen Road Penfield, N.Y, 14526

New Closings Lamented

Editor:

Congratulations to CICP and the school task force chairman, Sister Barbara Fox, for working out a feasible plan for their schools and for working so hard to keep the educational mission the poor in our own inner

Why must they struggle so hard? Because we, in other parts of the city, will not recognize this mission. Father Shamon, in his many talks on regionalism, says, "Each region can work together and make joint decisions on problems of Catholic schools.

Bishop Hogan said, "When we close Catholic schools we cannot discriminate against inner city schools, but they could not do it all of us who live outside of the poverty areas.

Therefore, St. Theresa's 'has closed; Ss. Peter and Paul has closed; and now St. Lucy's and St. Francis Xavier. Will the next

St. Louis in Pittsford? In 10 years will the only Catholic schools be those which serve the upper and upper-middle economic class?

Sullivan

The challenge to regional co-ordinators is: Blessed are those who hunger, thirst after justice, for they shall be filled.

Margaret Joynt

32 Sandpiper Lane Pittsford, N.Y.

We might once again all be just Letter Writers Clarify Point

Editor:

We don't seem to remember asking anyone to believe "that if sexual love need decrease, giving need decrease." In fact, we don't believe this ourselves. We do believe in other expressions of love as well as the sexual and we try hard to share thoughts and feelings with each other every day as a conscious act of

The quality of sex has more to do with happiness than the quantity. More is not better, and less is not better, but best is what is "enough" for the indivudual couple. The quality of sexual expression cannot be good unless other ways of expressing love also are present. We never meant to divorce one from the other. Both are indispensible.

Only the individual couple can decide whether abstinence at this or that time decreases happiness for them. We, however, meant only to affirm the beauty and the value of the sexual relationship itself and we are sorry that lack of space prevented us from explaining more fully in our previous letter.

> Jerry and Terry Patti 47 Daley Blvd. Rochester, 14617

ways spoke with borrowed au-

thority. They always quoted

others, were slaves to "author-ities," were bogged down with

interminable details and pueril-

! Jesus, on the contrary, did not

quote authorities. He was the au-

thority. His thoughts breathed,

his words burned. He drew his

illustrations from the sights and

sounds in which the people, lived, not from the desiccated decisions of the Doctors of the Law.

On this occasion, he evidenced

the might of this authority by

driving an evil demon out of a man with a word.

Whence this authority? Surely, because He is more than a

mere man. Yet even this claiming to be God's own/Son would

not have held people spellbound,

been able to drive evil out of

man. Whence; then, this au-

therity? The Greek word for

authority (exousia) literally means "out from himself." Jes-

us' authority "came out from

himself." It was the kind of auth-

ority that comes when one lives

what one teaches, the kind of

authority that emanates from a

person who is selfless, compas-

sionate, meek, radiating love

for others, who is willing to die

One word that turns off young

people today is authority. This is.

so, because so often the author-

ity they have experienced is

something, totally divorced from

the person exercising it. The image of authority they see is

the boss — one who merely gives orders, who lords it over others,

without any personal involve-ment on his own part.

Yet it was precisely the au-

thority of Jesus which impressed

people. This was so, because all

his commands issued from his

own deep personal conviction

and care. His authority came out

from himself, because He was a

Perhaps religious education is

not having the impact it ought to

have on youth today, precisely because there may be too much

teaching going on like that of the Scribes. So-called authori-ties do not impress; nor do mere

Oh, there is so much learning

today! So much jargon! But so

little conversion! So much talk of

love. So much talk of peace and

so little peace. So much talk of

Can this be so because it is all so much talk and so little real

authority? Real authority resides in the person, not in his

words. Words will have no authority unless their authors,

like Christ, are living in commu-

community and so little unity.

— even though they be

words

existential!

nion with God.

Man who really cared for others.

for his convictions.

Sunday's Readings: (R) Dt. 18: 15-24. (R2) 1 Cor. 7: 32-35.

The first event of Jesus' ministry, as Mark presents it, is one that expresses his authority in word and then in action.

(R 3) Mk. 1:21-28.

The event took place in Capernaum, a small but busy and

Jesus chose Capernaum as his headquarters during his public ministry because it afforded easy communication, by land or lake, with many flourishing towns and an easy avenue of escape into more secure regions should this be necessary.

The synagogue in Capernaum was an architectural gem. Present-day ruins reveal how large and white were the blocks of limestone that made up its walls and how finely carved were its architraves and friezes A Godfearing Roman centurion had it built and presented it to the Jews. They were so grateful that later in our Lord's life when this centurion's servant was ill, the Jewish elders besought Jesus to heal him because; they said, he loves our people and even built our synagogue for us"

To this synagogue on a Sabbath Jesus came to teach. But it was not his teaching that struck the people. It was His authority taught with and not like the Scribes.

The Scribes in their teaching most certainly did not lack assurance and self-confidence. They were unquestionably dogmatic and intolerant. But they al-

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan President

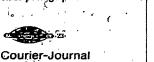
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Vol. 87. No. 39 January 24, 1973

Published weekly by the Rochester Cath-Single copy 15c: 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00. Canada and South America. \$8.50: other foreign countries. \$9.50. Offices, Richlord Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



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