

More Opinions

Bishop Praised For TV Talk

Editor:

Bishop Hogan's appearance on television last Sunday discussing the amnesty question is a good example of how the Church is beginning to respond to moral questions that are public in nature. For too long now this aspect of man's moral life, has been either neglected or ignored by the church on the basis that it meant the church was becoming "political." But what is "politics" other than the practical science of civil life or the group efforts of men to build community. To ignore this aspect of morality is to ignore some of the very fundamentals of the gospel message. A good deal of Jesus' preaching centered on the question of what attitudes ought to govern man's life in community.

The bishop and a good number of other diocesan priests (including the Courier's weekly columnist, Father Atwell) show a good deal of courage and moral insight by speaking out on public (political) issues when much of what they say is so severely criticized and misunderstood. I am heartened by their efforts and hope they will continue to speak and write about these important moral concerns.

John J. Erb
491 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Living Within The 'System'

Editor:

Since my interpretation of Clarence Amann's letter was quite different from other readers' may I share my letter of gratitude to him:

"May I extend my sincere thanks to you for putting into words the feelings my husband and I have had ever since we realized that our handicapped child would have to function within the public school system. It has taken us six years of work and understanding to realize that much can be given of a very personal nature to make living 'within this system' a real Christian encounter. The letter to the editor which appeared in the Catholic Courier (2/14/73) is really a marvelous understanding of what can — indeed for us it is — a Christian Renewal. Our reward has been great also, and we are truly grateful to God the Father for a learning disabled child who is able to function in the mainstream of education quite happily."

The challenge to parents to live a Christian life and to be the basic educators of their children within the current CCD program requires that one accept "second class citizenship" within his parish community, because the parish school is of prime importance. But Christ carried an even heavier cross! One can become CCD teacher and be renewed in the Spirit in association with truly dedicated Christian parents working to bring Christ to all children — a truly rewarding encounter. One can give of oneself to the public school system and have one's opinions respected and implemented. One can pray and ask God the Father to accept one's commitment to a public educational system as a way of spreading the Good News when he told us to "go teach all people." For our family — "and a little child shall lead them" has great meaning. God grant us the courage to continue our renewal.

Mrs. Marie Andrews
400 Dellwood Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Father Cuddy Rebutted

Editor:

The following is a clarification and response to Father Paul Cuddy, "On the Right Side" (3/7/73) Re: Professionalism and Salaries of Religious Coordinators.

Yes, Father Cuddy, more than 60 men and women in the Rochester Diocese are "wonderfully dedicated" and believe me — I consider "professionalism" not a weakness in a total Religious Education program for a given parish, but an asset to the teaching Mission of the Church in Rochester.

I would suggest reading Joseph C. Neiman's book, "Coordinators," before making any further statements concerning persons that we now designate coordinators or directors of Religious Education Programs.

The job of the professional religious educator is fairly new, but the educational mission of the Church is one that the Christian Community has always shared.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines "professionalism" in three ways: (1) as an act of declaring or avowing belief in something, usually a religion; (2) it is a vocation (calling) or occupation requiring special preparation and generally involving mental rather than manual work; (3) "profession" as persons involved in a particular vocation or occupation. Quoting Neiman's book:

The parish coordinator definitely can be called professional if:

- (1) he (she) believes firmly in the faith and religious education;
- (2) he (she) has special background and talents for leadership positions in reference to religious education;
- (3) he (she) compares well with others like him who are fulfilling these same general responsibilities.
- (4) he (she) has been called (hired) to the task of leadership for the educational mission of a given faith community."

Salaries say more than \$\$\$\$\$. They are a good indication of a person's worth. I agree with Mrs. C — the Religious Coordinator is a professional and should be paid accordingly.

Ms. Anne L. Messare
Coordinator, Religious Education
St. Margaret Mary Church
Irondequoit

His Letter 'Misread'

Editor:

Since I wrote on the subject of Catholic education two issues ago, two letters have purported to answer my "radical" suggestion. The radical suggestion was not that Catholic education must die, but that to survive it must develop a new concept focused to a new purpose.

I cannot believe either correspondent read my essay with anything like mature penetration. I'm tempted to suggested facetiously that perhaps the most serious need of adult Catholic education is courses in Remedial Reading and LOGIC. The letters did not begin to deal with the substance of my letter, much less provide workable options.

The misreading of my letter made it easier for the correspondents to rally to their cause the same old time-worn placebos, still trying to salve surface lesions with the balm of narrow parochialism while the cancer eats at the viscera, untouched.

I cannot ask the C-J to afford the space to answer each specious argument presented by the writers. Reason will hardly prevail, anyhow, against an emotional chauvinism that closes minds to new things.

I would simply make two contentions, and ask objectors to search the Catholic landscape and their own honest hearts for verification:

Catholic education to date has failed to prevent the evils of drugs, birth control, abortion, defection from faith and morals, clerical aberration, vice and crime... even among hordes of well-educated Catholic products of all levels of education. And if 80 per cent of our students are in public schools, how does it make sense to concentrate our energies on 20 per cent whose effective Catholic formation is questionable. (Indeed, there are those who will insist with statistics that among Catholic alumni the infidelity and bitterness is worst! Why?)

Secondly, Catholic education cannot hope to match the resources for secular education available to public education. I insisted we ought to concentrate on a spiritual and moral focus in Catholic education that would prepare better for the inevitable commerce in a society alien to Christian priorities. In the effort to compete with secular education we are losing ground daily. And no relief is in sight. This is not Ontario. It is not even Canada. It is not even the real America!

This parent wishes he could commend the piety of those who refuse to face these facts: The piety of myopic adherence to the rights of the LAW was the boast of those pharisees whom Christ scored when he was determined to develop a new PEOPLE.

Clarence A. Amann
98 Caroline Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

'Hands of Mary' Needs Home

Editor:

The house out of which "Hands of Mary" has operated for the past 16 years is no longer safe to live in. The roof is caving in slowly. It also leaks in too many areas — despite repairs. Porch has just about rotted away underneath, cellar walls full of holes, to name but a few things wrong. It will cost too much to repair and really isn't worth doing.

Therefore I am making an appeal to anyone who has a house they would be willing to let me rent or buy on land contract, in any area, as long as it is walking distance to church, I will be eternally grateful. Since I live only on a widow's pension and have an aged mother who lives on Social Security, neither of us can afford anything expensive. I would like to be able to continue with the work Hands of Mary has been doing, but this will be impossible in an apartment — which we will have to settle on if we can find nothing soon. We must move out of here as soon as possible. Any help anyone could give us will be more than appreciated.

Eldora Scott, Director
"Hands of Mary"
R.D.1-Footer Road
Holcomb, N.Y. 14469

Prisoners Quoted

Editor:

Memo: To all Americans

From: Air Force Col. James Kasler, who spent 6 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in Hanoi; Navy Cap. James A. Mulligan, a prisoner for 7 years; Air Force Col. James Robinson Risner, another prisoner of war.

Col. Kasler:

"We went to Vietnam to do a job, a job that had to be done and we were going to stay until that job was completed. We wanted to come home but we wanted to come home with honor. President Nixon has brought us home with honor.

"God bless those Americans who supported our presidents during this long ordeal. We know better than any citizen has ever known how great it is to be an American.

"We can thank the war protestors for prolonging the war. Undeclared war or not, what they did was treason. They gave aid and comfort to the enemy. Their hands are stained with the blood of American G.I's."

Capt. Mulligan:

"I am bitter about Anti-War Protestors *Jane Fonda and Ramsey Clark who visited Hanoi. They didn't help us; they hurt us."

Col. Risner:

"Communist morale went up and down along with the amounts of protests and anti-war movement back in the states. Beyond any doubt, those people kept us in prison an extra year or two."

William A. Lang
103 Highland Pkwy.
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

TALLMAN POOLS

Rochester's Only Builder and Manufacturer of LINER POOLS!

WE GUARANTEE OUR OWN POOLS...

Not Just A Dealer Guarantee
But A Manufacturer's Guarantee!

A Variety of Sizes and Shapes or Custom Made To Your Order

WHY NOT VISIT: Our Beautiful Heated Showroom — 2 Full Size In-Ground Pools On Display



NEW FOR 1973 — Beautiful Mosaic Liners — They Must Be Seen to Be Believed!!!

SEE the New Steps That Allow You To Walk In or Out of Your Pool. Can be Used On Previous Tallman Pools.

• We have built INGROUND SWIMMING POOLS FOR 11 years. Our method of construction POOLS in STEEL WALLS with Concrete Bottom and CONCRETE DECK. Any POOL we build we GUARANTEE FULL CONSTRUCTION FOR 10 YEARS!!

SPECIAL . . HEATERS

180,000 BTU \$259
255,000 BTU \$339

7300 LAKE RD.
BERGEN, N.Y.

Take Rt. 490 to Bergen Exit
Turn Right at Ramp End — Turn Left to Rt. 19. We are at 7300,
Next to the K.O.A. Camp

OPEN Saturdays 8-5, Sundays 1-6, Weekdays 8-8

Call 494-2010