

Editorial

Make Mothers Day Meaningful

We would like to go on the record as being in favor of motherhood.

It used to be such a safe thing for politicians and others to take that stand that it became descriptive of those with suspect backbones. How times have changed! Now those figures are left with only apple pie and the Fourth of July.

So we reiterate. We not only support the institution of motherhood but all those women who pursue it through the maze of pots, pans, diapers, stained floors, televised football, wild and woolly kids, grouchy husbands, and now the disapproval of segments of society.

The Jesuit magazine, America, also has spoken out and has seriously suggested that the Church provide the leadership in recognizing the special and valuable role mothers play.

It called for homilies by women and liturgies for, about and by women. It said that women's role in the Church has been "far too peripheral."

It correctly noted that the dignity of the role of mother "has been put in jeopardy by the impact of the Supreme Court decision on abortion."

There are countless reasons to support motherhood and as many ways to express it. Give her a day off, clean the house, cook the meals, take her out, etc., etc.

May we suggest the simplest: Grab her around the neck and plant a special kiss on her and tell her you love her. And respect her!

Watergate Worries

Two undercurrents of the Watergate affair are especially worrisome.

First is the ho hum reaction of so many who say so what, things like this have always happened. Whether anything like Watergate with all its ramifications and subsequent coverup has ever happened before is a matter for the courts and history to determine.

What is germane is that it happened here and now and no look at the past can excuse the sins of the present. Criminal activities approaching the highest level of government can not be wished away, not only because of their essential criminality but because of the greater evil they imply.

Nazi Germany has provided an example of what can happen to an ordinary country when power becomes the raison d'etre of its leaders while its people stand apathetically by. Far from yawning, Americans should be thanking God that the mess was uncovered at this historical juncture.

The second worry gnawing just beneath the surface is that the very government of the United States is on shaky ground at a time when the world abounds with problems. What is being thought in Moscow, Peking, the developing nations of the world? What do follower nations think when their faith is shaken in the leader? What could be the international economic developments?

Watergate has paralyzed the government at a time when it must be coming to grips with inflation, programs for the poor, the question of amnesty for draft evaders, indeed the very continuation of the war in Indochina.

So quite apart from the quest for complete justice in the Watergate affair, we must also be concerned for the survival of the Republic. Though moral indignation may be acceptable, it must not be accompanied by bombast that serves no good.

It is the government's responsibility to clear up Watergate quickly for the public good, so that we the people will know just what happened.

The people must in the meantime help the government to get up from its pratfall and get back to work not only for our own good but also for all those who look to America for leadership.

Opinion

Used Cards No Longer Needed

Editor:

Last January, I put in a request for used greeting cards. Now I am writing to ask people to please send me no more, as I have more than I can ever use.

I do appreciate everyone's kindness, but I cannot handle any more. Thank you all and God bless you.

Mrs. Frank Smith
31 Quincey St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Group Helps Viet Orphans

Editor:

There are approximately 750,000 orphans in Vietnam. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 of these children were fathered by American servicemen. These innocent victims of war live in overcrowded, understaffed orphanages where conditions are deplorable. Eighty per cent of the infants die before reaching the age of one year from dysentery, diarrhea, measles, polio, and other diseases. One orphanage lost one-third of its population in a week. Starving children are brought to the orphanages by their parents in the hope that

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there is more food available there than the parents are able to provide. The is seldom true and malnutrition and starvation claim many more lives.

A group of concerned citizens in Colorado established the original Friends of Children of Viet Nam organization, (FCVN), in order to halt this appalling death rate by providing food, medication, clothing and educational assistance as well as trained personnel. There are now several FCVN chapters across the country. Our Upstate New York group became a legal chapter in September of 1972. Through contributions and fund-raising activities, we have been able to send \$1,200 directly to three orphanages in Viet Nam. Since FCVN is an all-volunteer organization, every dollar contributed goes to help a child in need.

Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day, may present a gift-giving problem. In remembering your mother, please give some thought to these thousands of children who may never know a mother. Why not send a contribution in her name? Five dollars will feed one baby for 15 days, \$10 or \$20 will buy medicines that may save the lives of several babies. A special thank-you will be sent to each mother so honored.

Contributions may be sent to Friends of Children of Viet Nam, 1014 Bay Road, Webster, N.Y., 14580. Anyone desiring further information on this organization may write to the same address.

Nancy Wheeler, president
1010 Bay Road, Webster

Flood Relief Asked

Editor:

On May 13 Teen League is going to stage Sandbag Sunday.

Any person 12 years or older can aid lakeshore residents in saving their homes, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sandbagging will take place in the towns of Greece, Hamlin, Hilton, Irondequoit, and Webster.

Teen League will have buses leaving Brighton High at 9 and returning at 5. Round-trip fare is 50c.

Students cannot work unless they have a permission slip, available in school offices or the Teen League office.

Volunteers are also reminded to bring a lunch and a shovel (labeled!!). Anyone interested in volunteering can call 546-3693 or 546-3690 during 3-11 p.m.

Bill Gefell
Teen League
293 Alexander St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter 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.

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