

Editorial

**A Call for Morality
In Legislative Process**

Probably no one will pay attention but Rep. Robert F. Drinan of Massachusetts, a Jesuit priest, made a good point recently when he said churches of this country should make the influence of religion much more audible in government.

Father Drinan, a walking, talking denial of the theory of separation of Church and State, said:

"Although clearly the churches desire to be heard in America, the inescapable reality in the post-Vietnam world is that the churches will be listened to less and less."

According to Religious News Service, Father Drinan, speaking at a Lutheran conference, said that "for the first time in American history, virtually all the religious voices in America protested the continuation of the war in Vietnam, but two administrations and both bodies of Congress carried on the war for years after the churches had protested that it was indefensible."

He said that the churches "must make a much more affirmative and positive attitude towards the political order and seek to make the influence of religion much more audible and visible in the halls of government where the basic moral decisions about American public policy are being formulated."

The attitude that government does indeed formulate "basic moral decisions" may come as a surprise to many elected officials who claim one personal moral position but then vote another way so as not to impose their views on society.

Many took this stance on liberalized abortion.

Many probably will take this stance on liberalized euthanasia.

Many felt that way while the Vietnam war dragged on.

Many felt that way while the Watergate scandal was being perpetrated.

Father Drinan didn't address himself to those instances but his implication seems clear when he said that the churches should encourage "more qualified members of the clergy to hold elected or appointed office" and develop a "specific program of training to develop Christian leaders in the political order."

He summed up: "The enormous confusion about the application of moral norms to public issues which exists today among public officials quite literally cries out for the development of a theology for those who seek to reinstate those basic spiritual norms on which America was established."

Father Drinan offers a solution — a development of a "theology of public office" which would "recognize that most Christians in public life, regardless of their piety or dedication, have not faced up to the basic moral problems presented by the greed of capitalism, the hunger of the Third World, and the impotence of political structures which have no impact upon the countless institutionalized injustices which disfigure the life of man in America and across the world."

He declares it is up to the churches to develop this theology. We agree but feel even more strongly that it is up to the voter to demand men with the fortitude to stand up and be counted when moral and humane values are at stake.

A Hopeful Sign

Things may not be all that bad.

A black man has been elected mayor of the nation's third largest city though only 15 per cent of its citizens are black. His opponent resorted to last minute racism charges and to the old political tactic of using smears near the end of the campaign, when it is practically impossible for them to be refuted.

The election of Thomas Bradley in Los Angeles may mean that many Americans are no longer swayed either by racist methods or by political chicanery. If the Watergate scandal has played a part in the education of the American voter then it represents at least a glimmer of hope for our future.

Opinion

**On Church
And Drinking**

Editor:

This is in regard to the article in Courier-Journal (5/16/73) "Our Parish Council" by Bernard Lyons. The first paragraph reads: "What happens to the alcoholic in your parish?" The article suggests ways the church could help the alcoholic and those involved in AA.

I would suggest the best way the Church could help is not to serve alcoholic beverages at their social functions. I have noticed at festivals, there is beer for sale; at dances and dinners, there is a cocktail hour and I have seen in some Catholic Church bulletins announcing: Holy Name meetings, beer is available.

I can understand, when recovered alcoholics in AA were asked if the Church did anything for them the AA did not do, why the majority replied negatively.

I would hesitate to schedule an AA meeting in the parish hall, with the reputation the church has for serving alcoholic beverages at every social gathering.

Lorene A. Fratta
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**Courier
Praised**

Editor:

Our sincerest congratulations to you and all the staff for the awards presented to you by the Catholic Press Association: first place for the best campaign in the public interest, and third prize for the best photo originating with a newspaper.

At times it seems to be an impossible task — but you are continuing to make the "Good News" even BETTER news!

We are grateful for your efforts on behalf of the Missions, especially evidenced by the special edition and center fold for our recent "Diocesan Missions Sunday."

With every good wish to yourself and your staff, we remain

In the daily love of Christ's Missions,

Father Joseph F. Reinhart
Mary Mitrano
Josephine Bartolomeo
Carmel Barone
Vera Trabold

COURIER-JOURNAL

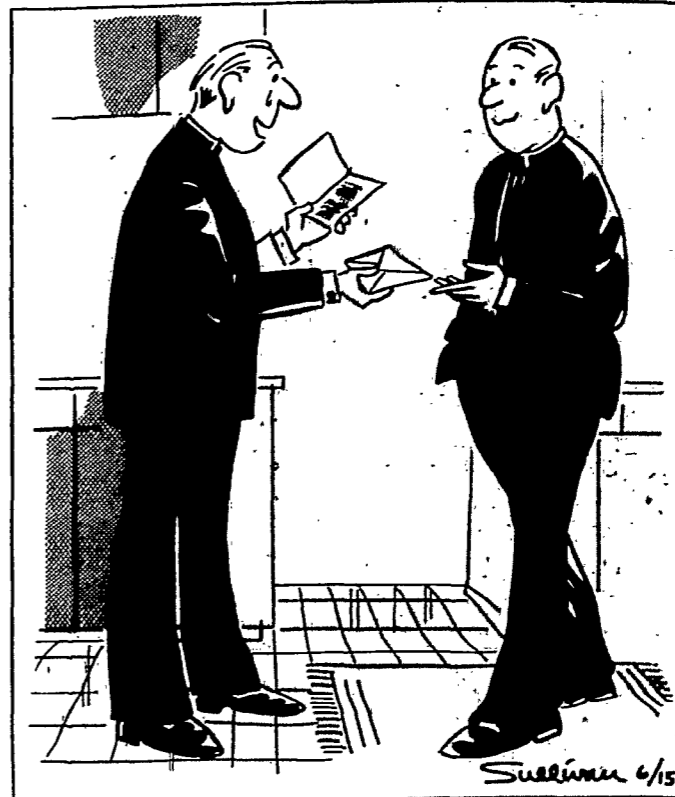
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Vol. 87 No. 58 June 6, 1973
Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



"IT'S BEAUTIFUL! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO YOU, TOO, CHARLIE!"

**'Fr. Berrigan
Speaks Truth'**

Editor:

"Americans who have not resisted the Vietnam War are worse than the Germans who did not resist Hitler."

Father Philip Berrigan's comments concerning America's involvement in the Indo-China War make me feel great that we have a dedicated teacher of Christian principles speaking against the most barbaric, and immoral war launched by this so-called God loving nation in the history of civilized man. Father Berrigan speaks the truth, and here are a few facts to prove what Mr. Nixon did to protect a corrupt military dictator, and the human suffering it took to do it.

First the Phoenix Program — this was formed by the CIA, and the Thieu Regime to eliminate suspected enemy civilians. Altogether, over 38,000 human beings were massacred by the order of our nation, and the Saigon government. Also, the massive carpet bombings during the week of Dec. 18, 1972, by the order of Mr. Nixon, deliberately bombed populated areas to show the villagers that the bombs will keep falling until they stop hiding Viet Cong suspects.

Under the Nixon Administration, over 4.5 million civilians have been killed or wounded by BLU-82 superbombs weighing 15,000 lbs. apiece. Cluster Bomb units dropping 400 bomblets, which penetrate human flesh, also cause massive human suffering. These are the barbaric acts committed by this country, and this is why Father Berrigan made that statement.

Genocide, whether in time of peace or war, is still a violation against the teachings of Christ himself. Apparently our great president could care less about the lives of the Indo-Chinese people when there is a chance to gain economic stability in that part of the world.

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**St. Michael's
Mass Lauded**

Editor:

St. Michael's Church chose to celebrate "Right to Life" Sunday on April 29, and I was so grateful that I went to Mass there that morning.

The readings and the hymns were especially chosen with the pro-life theme in mind. The homily explained the life and value of the unborn child. Father Ehman very graciously made the petitions requesting protection of

the unborn available for signing during the Offertory while he played Bishop Hogan's taped message of concern for human life.

I left St. Michael's thinking that if the Rochester Diocese is to make a contribution to the restoration of respect for unborn life in our country, it will do so through this type of meaningful cooperative effort.

Jeanne D. Sweeney (Mrs.)
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**Digest Editor
Praises Awards**

Editor:

I want to offer my congratulations and those of Catholic Digest editorial staff for the awards for excellence your publication received at the recent convention of the Catholic Press Association. In addition to the sense of joy we share through solidarity with our fellows and friends in the Catholic press, we at Catholic Digest derive a special satisfaction from the accomplishments of the publications upon which we rely for our own articles and features.

The increasing excellence and professionalism of Catholic publications was evidenced throughout the convention, and we are happy that you and your staff were recognized for your contributions to these qualities of our shared efforts.

Father Thomas Doolan, OP
Executive Editor
Catholic Digest
St. Paul, Minn.

**Why Not Amble
For Aquinas?**

Editor:

In reference to the suggestion for a hike for Catholic schools, I have suggested that Aquinas have an "Amble For Aquinas" hike.

With the students and their relatives and friends, as well as future students in seventh and eighth grades, especially, they should easily raise the \$30,000 which they need.

Franklin G. Warth
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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.