

Editorial

A Moral Concern

An interdenominational group in New York City has called for a campaign of letter-writing in their area that merits the consideration of the American public in general.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York City and of the Diocese of Brooklyn have joined with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies to call on voters to urge the government not to cut back on health and welfare expenditures for the fiscal year 1973-74.

In a special brochure, "The American Ideal in Jeopardy," the groups point out that voluntary philanthropy has traditionally served government by undertaking responsibility for local service programs. Such private pursuits, the groups declare, are reliant on government for additional funding to provide comprehensive services — funding which has been assured since depression days.

With the present planned cutback of funds, the interdenominational coalition declares that "the social and economic well-being of millions of Americans is at stake here; this is a grave moral concern for all of us."

Important programs to help the needy — such as housing, manpower training, emergency employment, legal services, youth services, health care — will be jeopardized with no alternatives in sight if the administration plan is passed.

We join with the four organizations to ask all concerned with the human needs of our brethren to write their federal officials to protest the planned cutbacks and restore the compassion of government to the plight of needy citizens.

Slip of the Tongue

One of the most comforting realizations about God is that although people may disclaim Him, He never disclaims people.

Therefore lefthanded homage to the Devil is often found amidst the declarations of those who deny Him most.

For instance, Albania, the most intransigent of Communist nations in the world, which in 1967 declared itself the "first atheist state in the world" and outlawed all religion, has made a recent Freudian slip of significant proportion.

The state executed a Catholic priest, Father Stefan Kurti, for "anti-government activities," such as "espionage and sabotage." The Vatican says Father Kurti was executed for secretly baptizing a child.

Albania then countered with bombastic overkill labeling the executed priest "a rogue, a collaborator with Italian and German Fascists who sold himself for two pieces of silver, a despicable agent of Anglo-American espionage, an informer and subversive element of the Vatican."

The "pieces of silver" phrase has biblical allusion but the self-proclaimed atheistic government offered an even more revealing insight when it declared, "Kurti did not engage in christening and the affairs of God, but indulged in the affairs of the devil."

While Albania goes to exorbitant lengths to proclaim its Godlessness, He can still be seen at work there, not only through the works of Father Kurti but also in the language of the "non-believers" themselves.

One for the Babe

Do Babe Ruth a favor.

Henry Aaron is headed toward breaking the Babe's major league record of 714 home runs and along the way has been the subject of racist jeers even from some of his home fans. He also has been receiving sick mail.

Mrs. Babe Ruth recently said that she wished Aaron all the luck in the world. She added that if the inimitable Babe were still with us he would be cheering Henry on.

So drop a note to Aaron to reassure him of the good wishes of most of us. He works for the Atlanta Braves, Atlanta, Ga.

Do it for the Babe.

Opinion

Calls Cursillo Perfect 'Trip'

Editor:

The recent series of articles on the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" in Bishop Hogan's proposed magazine which I would like to share five years ago I made a Cursillo which helped me to find and experience the Holy Spirit, and only now am I able to look back and put into words what happened to me then.

The Holy Spirit can be with anyone who wants to have "It." All that has to be done is to think about being open to the Spirit. As soon as you force your own will or intentions or desires or prejudices into your thoughts the Spirit leaves you. You lose your ability to communicate with "It." Therefore resign yourself to be at peace with the Spirit in union with "It" and you will receive His peace and insight.

This is the true, most perfect "trip" you can take the ultimate that drug users hope to attain.

The Spirit is always offered to us but only received by those who will listen to "It" by being open to the Spirit of God. Accept Him and don't try to rationalize or modify His truths according to your personal wants. This is why I feel so tremendously great after my Cursillo. It put me into a frame of mind to accept the Spirit.

During that long weekend I struggled, and then finally temporarily discarded my own will and relaxed, accepted, and enjoyed the Spirit within me. I became happy with everyone and everything and I had a total enjoyment of life as if I had been drinking wine. It lasted for a period of time to four weeks until the world started to creep back into my thoughts and actions.

Even today I can attain immediate peace if I only allow myself to belong to the Spirit. For when I give myself to Him I become part of eternity. But this is more difficult than it sounds, for it is very hard for most of us to really "give ourselves" to someone else. We defensively rebel against and such action (or inaction) we want ourselves for ourselves, and we want others for ourselves too.

But, the Holy Spirit is a common Spirit to all. He belongs to us as well as to Him. We are, and will be one in the Spirit, even though we do a good job of ignoring this during our human lives.

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COURIER-JOURNAL

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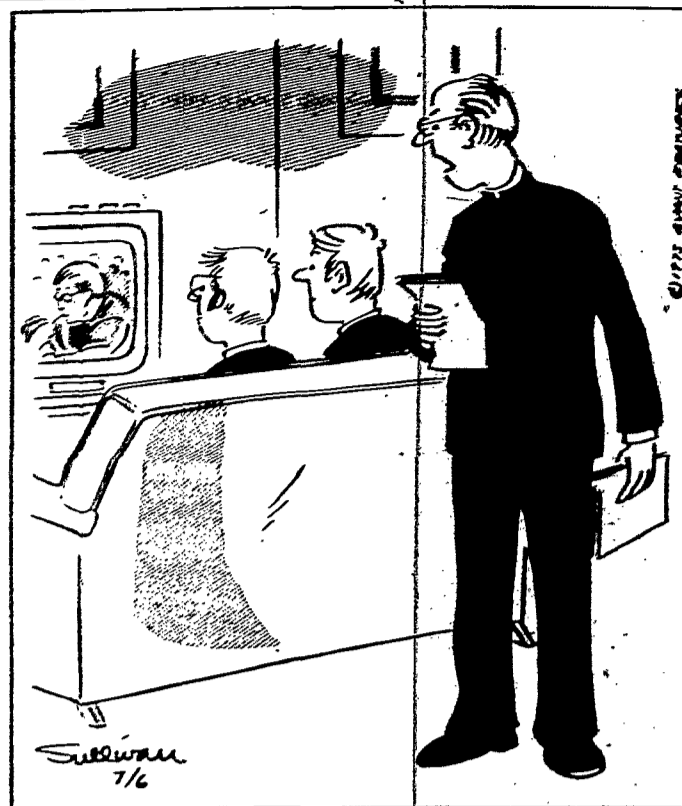
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"ANOTHER LESSON WE CAN LEARN FROM WATERGATE IS HOW A TV PROGRAM CAN LOUSE UP THE WORK SCHEDULE AT ST. HILARY'S."

Fr. Greeley's
Absence Noted

Editor:

May I inquire as to the elimination of Father Greeley's weekly article "The Church in '73" from the June 27 Courier-Journal?

I anticipate this item weekly, albeit my varying in views advocated by him. Some are admirable, as in the June 13 edition. He is an individualist and a leader. These characteristics, so rare these days of totalitarianism, are not only to be admired but also to be encouraged when they benefit mankind in his spiritual life.

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'Renewal'
Is Needed

Editor:

For one reason or another, many priests in the Rochester diocese seem indifferent or "turned off" to the Charismatic Renewal. This indifference has no excuse. Those who are "turned off" are so perhaps because of some bad experience with it (maybe because of an over-zealous Pentecostal?) which has caused them to have doubts about it.

The Charismatic Renewal is not trying to substitute itself for the Church, which is the source of the full sacramental life, but is the tool for Church renewal. At the same time, it is not an "extra" in Catholic life that the Church needs to tolerate. The Lord wants more than a toleration of His Spirit. This fullness of the Spirit is meant for all.

In an interview with Cardinal Suenens of Belgium on the Charismatic Renewal in the June, 1973 issue of New Covenant, the Cardinal is quoted as saying: "It has implications for every area of the renewal of the Church. It can help bring Christians of all kinds to a fully committed Christian life. I see it offering a rich renewal for priests, a renewal in their commitment to Christ, a renewal in their spirit of prayer. It can help bring the renewal of the priesthood out of the theological discussions to a real encounter with Christ." He also says in his interview: "I have taken very seriously what in the Charismatic Renewal is called the Baptism of the Spirit. I have asked for it for myself. And I feel that it is precisely here, at the heart of the Charismatic Renewal with baptism in the Spirit, that the renewal has such an important contribution to make to the Church."

There is a very big need in the Rochester diocese for good

leadership in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. I am asking the clergy, in particular, to become involved in the Charismatic Renewal, to lose your indifference toward it and overlook its human weakness and enter into this "fullness of the Spirit." It is, at least, your obligation to judge, condone, and give your blessing to the authentic movement of God among His people.

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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.

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