

**Editorial**

# Postal Rates Threatening

Freedom of the press is a much discussed topic these days mainly centering around the legal arguments over whether reporters should be forced to reveal the sources of controversial stories.

But freedom of the press can be impinged upon in other ways. For instance, soaring rate schedules put in effect by the Postal Service on second-class mail seriously affect diocesan newspapers across the country.

Rates will be increased yearly over a 10-year period. The effect on individual users will vary but this newspaper, for instance, will be paying more than triple the rates it paid before the schedule went into effect.

Many bishops, including our own, have expressed the absolute necessity of diocesan newspapers as a means of communication and education.

Most recently, Archbishop Joseph J. McGucken of San Francisco said that the need for diocesan newspapers in the homes of all Catholics "was never more apparent . . . in these days, when we see some newspapers corrupting fundamental moral issues, the importance of the Catholic press becomes more manifest."

According to Religious News Service, the archbishop called it a "patent absurdity" to call oneself a Catholic while at the same time displaying indifference to the Catholic press.

In short, it is extremely important that publications such as diocesan newspapers continue to do their work. Rate increases planned by the postal service have already played a role in the demise of such as Life and Look magazines and threaten many nonprofit users as well.

Although bills have been introduced in Congress, gaining support from such diverse thinkers as Sen. Edward Kennedy and Sen. Barry Goldwater, they have not been put into effect. No relief is in sight.

The administration's goal is for a postal service which will eventually pay for itself free of government subsidization. Of course, this really means that the people will pay for it through increased rates. If this means the destruction of many publications and the blocking of needed avenues of communications among Americans then we say it isn't worth it.

We do not mean to air our problems in public. We are not crying wolf; the Courier-Journal will survive. But we cannot say the same for other diocesan newspapers and nonprofit publications across the country, all affected in diverse manner according to locations, circulation, etc.

If an independent postal service is to survive than it had better be more responsive to the needs of the people it serves. Otherwise, the government should shoulder its constitutional responsibility to run the post office.

## A Happy Choice

We applaud the choice of Father Peter T. Bayer as director of the new diocesan planning office. His nerve and devotion to duty have served the diocese well in his past positions in the Office of Human Development.

He has been on the scene in Corning since August of 1972 and his conscientious and humane work in flood recovery has won plaudits both from those whom he served and from his superiors.

Establishing an office for planning is a step toward making the pilgrim Church in this diocese more effective in the future. The choice of Father Bayer enhances the move.

# Opinion

## Corning Homes Need Furniture

Editor:

About a month ago we had a very successful furniture collection for the people of Corning. Two tractor-trailer trucks full of household items were shipped from Rochester.

Within two weeks all the articles were distributed, through the Red Cross, without charge, to flood victims returning to their homes. Many thanks and prayers come from these grateful families to the zealous workers and generous donors around St. Ambrose Parish.

We plan to conduct another collection the weekend of Oct. 6 and 7 at St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Irondequoit. Persons may leave appliances, sofas, beds, tables, utensils, etc. (no clothing please) in the truck in the parking lot on Saturday or Sunday.

In our Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, we shall continue to remember all of our loyal friends of the past year.

Father Elmer J. Schmidt  
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## Chavez Seen Power Hungry

Editor:

After reading your Sept. 5 article covering the U.S. Catholic Conference support of Cesar Chavez, I wondered if the conference knew the other side of the story. Way back in 1969, two vocal supporters of Chavez reversed their stand after a four-day visit to the vineyards. The pair who had viewed the "plight" of the farmworkers first hand, announced they would "absolutely buy California grapes tomorrow."

Michael O'Meara, news editor of a national Catholic weekly and the Rev. James McDonald of Don Mills United Church, concluded that the boycott was being used to force grape growers to recognize an employees union few grape pickers wanted. Archbishop Joseph J. McGucken of San Francisco also voiced disapproval of the Chavez phony tool of compulsion. So much for the past so here we are today.

Msr. Higgins' social actions movement is not in the best interest of the Church, government or the people he is supposedly helping with broad statements like "sooner or later — they will win their struggle for survival and then go on to organize the rest of the agriculture industry." Nice broad



terms and, may I add, right out of the Daily Worker, the Communist newspaper, U.S.A.

First let's look at Cesar Chavez, an apostle of the Saul Alinsky school for radicals in Chicago. Chavez learned well the tactics of creating disorder — followed by a martyr — followed by distorted publicity and fanned by the likes of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

The conventional liberal suffers a perplexing blind spot and nowhere is this blindspot more evident than the liberal view of the farmworkers of California. A record of the Chavez union to the U.S. Department of Labor shows that the grape workers, by and large, wanted no part of Chavez's union. Now it is a condition of employment along with sitting in the union hall awaiting a job assignment.

Chavez is in a fight for power, power to collect union dues, power to be treated as a union personality, power to preside over his closed shop tactics and power to promote the revolutionary cause.

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## Anti-Abortion Prayer

Editor:

I believe there are many people who are anguished over the killing of millions of unborn children in our country (and all over the world) but because of their daily duties to their families, they feel unable to do much actively to defend these innocent babies. But prayer is something we all can and must do. I wish to pass on the following Prayer taken from a Eucharistic Vigil Guide. Would all who read this, clip this prayer and promise to say it daily and get others to do the same:

### Prayer of Reparation for Abortions

Eternal Father, You alone are the Master of life and death. So precious in Your sight is the soul of each person that You sent Your only-begotten Son to redeem us through the Cross and the Resurrection. His coming was attended by the slaughter of the Innocents — the victims of man's selfishness, the first martyrs of Christ's Kingdom. Death at the outset of their early life gave them the beginning of eternal joy.

Today, we are the sad witnesses of a new slaughter of the Innocents, the voluntary destruction of unborn children — again because of the selfishness of men. We seek to make reparation for these offenses which attack Your sole dominion over life and death. Let not Your just punishment fall upon us. We ask, too, that all who participate in these crimes, whether from

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ignorance, weakness or fear, or even from malice, may be given the grace of repentance.

O Lord, have mercy on us, spare us from the punishment we deserve: "deal with us not according to our sins, nor requite us according to our crimes." Grant us "the abundant life" promised to all who live according to Your law. Amen

And please don't underestimate the value of your one letter! William P. Polito, chairman of Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, has reminded us that Rep. Frank Horton indicated to him that one letter could mean more than 45,000 signatures on a petition. Horton's address is: 407 Cannon House Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 — write him and ask him to support a "human life" amendment to the United States Constitution. If you dread to write letters, ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

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## Bishop's Column Hits Point

Editor:

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's column "The Draining of America" fills my heart with compassion and sympathy for him as our "shepherd" and for all of those who are responsible as leaders of the "People of God."

These are perilous days but my faith tells me that is all part of God's plan for all of us — His children. He is shaking the churches, shaking our country, shaking the world and bringing us to a realization of our dependence on Him. There are many who are praying and sacrificing that God's kingdom will come and this number is growing and will eventually permeate all society. Each day brings us a little closer to that goal.

Praise the Lord for his wonderful plan for His children and the knowledge that He gives us the Holy Spirit to bring us to the reality of that plan.

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Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richard 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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