Editorial

The Church Must Speak Out

Criticism is often heard that the Church should mind its own store, stick to faith and morals and keep its collective mouth shut in other spheres.

Church leaders probably wish they could adhere to this idea. It's no easy chore to worry about souls and bodies at the same time.

But in this ever-shrinking world there is no way for the Church to escape the pressing problems of mankind. This is a good thing because the Church, perhaps more than any other body in the world, can bring the pressure of moral right into areas where it would be otherwise lacking.

For instance, there are those who say the Church has no business interceding in governmental affairs — leave it to Caesar, so to speak. Unfortunately modern Caesars are just not doing their jobs in the face of the inequalities that exist in the spheres of charity and justice.

So it is gratifying to note that the Senate subcommittee on children and youth should invite Church spokesmen to give their views on what influence governmental policies have on families with children in such areas as work, mobility, institutionalization, welfare, taxes and housing.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran, executive director of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, and Msgr. James C. McHugh, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Family Life Division, told a Senate subcommittee that preserving the family unit is so important that the government must establish "a national policy toward assisting the family to play its proper role" in modern society.

They said the government needs "some capacity to represent and indeed advocate the concerns of the family in the formulation of social policy that directly or indirectly affects family life."

When the family unit is under attack either directly or indirectly from so many sources, it is gratifying to hear it defended in the halls of our Congress.

Any Catholic who believes in the value of the family as a bulwark against the excesses of the world, and we assume that covers a large majority, cannot also say that the Church should keep out of governmental affairs.

Justice and charity are the legitimate concerns of the people of God. We cannot leave them to Caesar.

Opinion

Fr. Greeley Taken to Task

Editor:

I would like to share a few thoughts in reference to Father Andrew Greeley's article (Courier-Journal 9/19/73) about homilies and the priesthood.

"More professional training for priests to insure better homilies?"

Heaven forbid! Are not eight years of seminary training more than adequate for priestly administration and such a constant study and assimilation of God's Word that one preaches from the overflow? "It's not by might nor by power but by My Spirit, saith The Lord." St. Paul said, "I do not fill my sermons with profound words and high sounding ideas for fear of diluting the mighty power there is in the simple message of the Cross of Christ."

"Better homiletic training?" If we are convinced that we possess the "Good News" then shouldn't our delivery and witness vibrate with victory and conviction without extensive training?

"The clientele is so diversified?" Don't we all profess to be members of the one Body of Christ and hopefully living the Gospel message?

"Sermons offend many or all?" What can be "offensive" about preaching JESUS and Him Crucified? Don't we have the same Pentecost Holy Spirit that spoke through Peter and converted 3,000 and 5,000 in one day? And if some are offended, one can smile and say, "I didn't teach it, Jesus did . . . go take it up with Him!"

"Priests leave more often out of confusion and it's hard to give a good Sunday sermon when you're not sure what you believe or even what Christianity is supposed to stand for." Why confusion? Are we not founded on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ? Is 'confusion' a fruit of the Spirit? And did He not say, "I am the Way, the Truth, the Life — preach Me — because no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." "Heaven and earth will pass away but My Word will not pass away" and "In the beginning was the Word, . . . and the Word was God." Did not the apostles' hearts burn within them as they listened to "The Word" on the way to Emmaus?

"WHAT OTHER EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU HAD IN THE RELIGIOUS FIELD BESIDES BUYING MONKS' BREAD REGULARLY?"

"An adolescent sexual crisis?" Did Jesus not say, "My grace is sufficient" and "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow in My footsteps." If His grace is sufficient for us who are living our marriage union in compliance with Vatican authority, is it not sufficient for those truly dedicated and married to Christ?

"A good sermon needs pastoral theory?" In what Bible version is that found?

"No hope for better sermons?" Our hearts are burning within us for "the sword of the Spirit" so we can fight life's daily battles wearing the "Whole Armor" of God! CHARGE!

[Mrs.] Barbara Almeter
310 Parma Center Rd.
Hilton, N.Y. 14468

Chavez Story One-Sided

Editor:

I have to agree with Mr. Thrasher in his opinion that the Chavez story as stated in the Courier Journal is certainly one-sided, to say the least.

We have begun to think of the Courier as a propaganda medium for Cesar Chavez.

His tactics are far from Christian. His policy to force waste and destruction of food in order to obtain power is against everything I've ever believed to be the Christian way.

The farmer is fighting for his life in this area and others. We have weather, government regulations, etc. to cope with and now our own Church paper has to come out against us almost every week.

We have always given financially and spiritually to support the Church. We try to lead a Christian life and treat our help as we would be treated ourselves. It is very discouraging to see only one side of a question, which I don't feel you really understand, published weekly.

I hope you will reconsider your stand on this "union deal" which I feel should be out of the realm of Catholic reporting. This attitude in our Church is doing nothing for unity. The picture of growers as "devils" is as far off as Chavez as a "saint."

Mrs. David Hubbard
Steuben Co. potato grower's wife
R.D. #1
Avoca, N.Y.

Sisters Offer Gratitude

Editor:

May we once again use the Courier-Journal to communicate our gratitude to the people of the Rochester Diocese for their generous assistance in our mission apostolate.

More Opinions On Page 6

At the moment the needs of the Church in Selma, Ala., and in the vast dioceses of Jatai and Uberlandia in Brazil are being ministered to by a minimal number of our Sisters. Frustration induced by lack of personnel, political pressures and seemingly overwhelming needs could be almost too much; however, the continued manifestation of support and encouragement so apparent in your generous response to the Diocesan Mission Appeals collection last spring, the results of which we have recently received from Father Joseph Reinhart, Mission Director for the Diocese of Rochester, not only enables us to support the pastoral, education and human development projects undertaken in those places, but helps our Sisters to exemplify to those for whom they work a sense of caring and sharing, which those people have not known.

May each of you experience in some small way the joy of having participated in this ministry which not only makes a reality Christ's concern for the poor but also concretizes so well the concept of Church in its world dimensions. Please accept not only my personal gratefulness but that of all the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. Our prayer for you will be daily: God's gifts of peace and hope and love be in your hearts and homes.

Mother Agnes Cecilia Troy
Sisters of St. Joseph
of Rochester

Rosary Novena Information

Editor:

Just a note to Courier-Journal readers and Father Cuddy. The Legion of Mary also would be pleased to provide anyone interested with the rosary novena.

Mrs. Betty Zielinski
13 Clara Barton St.
Dansville, N.Y. 14437

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 that 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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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.

ANTHONY J. COSTELLO,
General Manager