

**Editorial**

**The American Way**

Would you believe that we (Americans, that is) spent \$2 billion on candy in 1971? Or that we spent more than \$1.3 billion for movie tickets in 1972, up almost \$1 million over the previous year.

And did you know that per capita figures show that the average American eats 30 pints of ice cream and drinks 19 gallons of beer a year? And then we spend about \$150 million diet food.

We still live in the land of milk and honey. And this fact becomes even more graphic in comparison with living standards of the some 2 billion people living in the Third World.

By citing such statistics we do not intend to play upon guilt complexes to raise more money in the Mission Sunday collection next week. We are merely citing some cold, substantiated facts about our way of life.

We must ponder, however, the inconsistency in the fact that in 1972 American teenagers spent \$2 billion on rock records while thousands of youngsters were dying for want of the simplest sustenance.

The Church has some 135,000 missionaries serving the social, physical and spiritual needs of the impoverished. It is an uphill battle in a misshapen world. People still die of hunger, still suffer from lack of spiritual food. Worse, they are the victims of indifference.

So when we sit down to figure just how much we can afford for the mission collection, we should keep in mind that as a nation we spend \$250 million a year on hair coloring. That is the American way.

But we also have been known as the most generous nation in the world in helping the down-trodden. That also is the American way.

More important, it is the Christian way.

**Cardinal Mindszenty**

An old man, but an unswerving one, visited these shores last week and upon his leaving, one cannot help but think, "They don't make them like that any more."

We are talking about Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty and we mean no irreverence. Perhaps the world has grown out of touch with men such as Mindszenty and that is a pity.

For his love of the faith and of the truth has remained consistent through persecution, war, and a world more suited to compromise than confrontation.

Religious News Service reported an anecdote to show the Cardinal Mindszenty dedication to honesty.

At the airport while he was waiting for his departure plane, a woman from St. Stephen of Hungary parish in New York City came up to the cardinal and gave him a large doll in Hungarian costume.

"Thank you," he said in accepting the gift, "but I prefer to see live babies." (In Hungarian the word for doll and baby is the same.)

Already people are hoping that the great cardinal will return to the United States. But he is 81 and chances are that this country has seen the last of him.

But his lessons in steadfastness and devotion will be with us and the world long after he is gone.

**Spiro Agnew**

Many who believe that former Vice President Spiro Agnew showed little compassion in some of the great human events of our day now may be inclined to treat him in like manner.

Of course, this is not the Christian way. When a fellow human being, for whatever reason, has his career, dreams and life itself shattered only the course of commiseration is left to the rest of us. We must pray for him and his family.

**Opinion**

**RACL Letter To Bishop**

Editor:

At its recent meeting, the Board of the Rochester Association of Catholic Laity asked that the following letter be made public through the Courier-Journal.

Dear Bishop Hogan,

The Rochester Association of Catholic Laity feels that you deserve commendation and support for your position on 1st Penance for children. The diocese of Rochester is grateful to have one of the three bishops in the U.S. who publicly stated that their dioceses would retain the Confession experiment for at least another year.

Even more at issue than the sequence of Penance and Communion is the question of the response of bishops to the needs of the local Christian community. This community needs the enriched sacramental program which stresses the children's right to spiritual guidance by their first and foremost educators: their parents. Let the parents with the clergy decide when each child in his own unique development pattern, is ready for the sacrament of Penance. Your actions show that you have listened to our needs and support us in what we as parents feel to be important.

Keeping in mind the role of a bishop as member of the hierarchy acting in collegiality, we encourage you in your other role as shepherd and leader of the individual Christian community to advance continual renewal and growth within that community. In this second case bishops have the duty to take autonomous actions to fill the community's specific needs.

We encourage you and will continue to support you in similar actions which will deepen Christ's presence in the Rochester diocese.

Peter E. Kress,  
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**I wanna help the missionaries! I'm gonna send 'em all my veg'tables for a whole year!**

an eternal figure is good. However, as a recent Mindszenty Report comments, "What is wrong is that both "Superstar" and "Godspell" distort, mock, and lie . . ."

The magnificent music and brilliant choreography dazzle the uncritical with the ultimate in mind conditioning. The more critical eye discerns a subtle application of the Arian heresy, cutting through the beautiful bait which hides the fishhook.

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation has issued a splendid analysis of such affronts to moral sensibilities as "Godspell" and "Superstar." In their fascinating and scholarly review they include documentation on motivation and background. A short critique of the Bernstein Mass rounds out the report.

Local supporters of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation will mail a "free" copy of this report to all who provide an addressed, stamped envelope. Requests can be sent to me.

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**O'Malley Ideas Apply to All**

Editor:

Re: Father O'Malley's, The Mass and Teenagers:

"Thank you" Father O'Malley for having the courage and good sense to speak out on behalf of those of us who feel the Mass could and should become more relevant, not just to our teenagers, as Father Gramkee seems to feel, but to all of us. Father O'Malley's suggestions for change seem to make more sense than the presently structured Mass.

John and Nancy Roselli  
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**Public Statement On Abortion**

Editor:

In keeping with the spirit of the dedication of the month of October to Respect for Life and as a Christian, I firmly hold that human life is sacred and comes from God. He is the Lord of life from its very beginning. Life is a continuum from conception to death.

I believe, too, that the directly intended termination of life by the hand of man is an immoral act whether it occurs in the earliest month of pregnancy or at any other time.

The January Blackmun decision of the U.S. Supreme Court invalidating the abortion statutes of Texas and Georgia and thus setting a precedent for the invalidation of abortion laws around the country does nothing to alter the essential fact which is at the heart of this controversial issue; that is, abortion at whatever time it occurs takes a human life.

As a Christian living in the United States, I cannot abdicate my personal responsibility of proclaiming what God requires of all men and women; that they love and respect and safeguard human life.

Also, as a citizen of this country, I have a commensurate obligation to speak against injustice done to fellow citizens whether born or unborn.

Therefore, I wish to publicly state that I am strongly against abortion, war, euthanasia, and the death penalty as a form of capital punishment.

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[Editor's note: Although October has been designated by the National Catholic Conference as Respect Life Month, the Rochester program will get underway Nov. 11-18 and continue through the year.]

**Pope John's Offer of Hope**

Editor:

The following is a great acclamation of hope given to us by Pope John XXIII.

"I don't agree with the Prophets of Doom. They always talk as if the present compared with the past is getting worse and worse. I see mankind entering a new era and I see in this a divine plan . . . this plan in the course of time and in and through what man does, pursues its own purposes, its own goals; and . . . they are far beyond man's expectations."

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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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