

Editorial

Post-Election Views

The policy of this newspaper prohibits any endorsement of political candidates or parties. Being a religious publication, the Courier-Journal steers clear of political issues, except as they affect the faith and morals of our readership. Some of the recent issues that fall into this category are the Vietnam War, abortion, aid to nonpublic schools, racism, social legislation.

At one time it seemed relatively easy to draw the line between what was and what was not within the purview of religious newspapers. In recent years the distinctions have blurred.

One of the factors is what Gov. Reubin Askew of Florida calls "a crisis of the spirit" facing America. In a speech to the Florida Council of Churches, Askew urged churches and synagogues to lead the nation in "a revival of political courage."

Gov. Askew, who is an elder in the Presbyterian church, declared that "to claim to be a Christian or a Jew who loves God and neighbor and not to take an active part in the formation of social policies affecting those neighbors would seem to deny complete fulfillment of one's faith."

The governor had another cogent piece of advice. He said that the man who holds public office must be true to his conscience. Upon contemplation, the weighty import of this simple advice can be seen.

How many of our present scandals would have been avoided if maybe just a few men had looked to their consciences instead of pragmatic concerns? Would abortion be rampant if just a few more men at key positions had voted their consciences instead of striking compromising positions?

Another Askew remark seems in juxtaposition to the recent Supreme Court opinion which advised religious groups against speaking out on issues because, in the court's opinion, they would create divisiveness.

The Florida governor, however, urged clergymen to speak out on those issues "which you feel have great religious, moral or ethical dimensions," although he warned them against thinking they must speak out on every issue as though they were the sole repository of truth.

It is time for all of us to re-examine our roles in this world. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has called for renewal of the spirit. Perhaps as we make our spiritual inventory, we should also take a new look at how we are presenting ourselves as people of God.

We all should take on fresh introspection, but there is one element in our society which must especially re-examine its role. That is the press, secular as well as religious.

We have just been through an election and have seen newspapers endorse this candidate or that. There is nothing unethical about such practice; indeed it is traditional.

Yet some newspapers have discontinued endorsements, feeling they should concentrate on questions of the day and mention personalities only as they relate to individual issues. By making endorsements they reason that they become too involved in the political arena to claim objectivity.

Newspapers who continue to make endorsements argue that as community leaders they must make their stands clear, that it keeps aspiring politicians on their toes, and it offers a proper forum for helping a man of integrity, for instance, to defeat a self-seeker.

We are only suggesting that since arguments exist on both sides, each newspaper should take a hard look at all of its policies and see if a realignment is in order. If not, fine. If so, they must act quickly because freedom of the press is under attack. The nation's newspapers, television and radio must survive as a vital free press. To assure this they must have their own houses in order.

Opinion

Daily Mass Perfect Union

Editor:

Upon reading on the front page of the Courier-Journal "Communion Rite Issued by the Vatican," I was overwhelmed with frustration. The Daily Mass is already shortened to a brief 25 to 30 minutes. Inside the same issue (10-24-73) on Page 22 in "Our Parish Council," I was further disturbed by the suggestion that daily Mass need not be celebrated for a "handful" of people in various parishes. Let us hope and pray that attendance at this daily miracle will ever increase but in the meanwhile consider the Last Supper when there were only twelve present.

The meaning of the Mass will never change. The union of Christ with us and ourselves with Him. The transformation of our offering of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ unites us as one Body throughout the world. We who have the fortune to attend daily Mass represent all of the people in our parish in praying for every member of the human race, especially the suffering, the lonely, the despondent, the aged, the poor and also the rich! We are not present because we are good or deserving of this great Gift but because God has been good to us.

It is my sincere prayer that a Rite will never replace this perfect daily union. Although the Eucharist is our constant need and fulfills an emptiness within us, the Mass in completion is necessary to bind the whole world as One body in Christ.

If I misinterpret the words of more scholarly writers than may my own prayer shed light: Excite me, delight me, use me, abuse me, my King. But unveil my eyes that I may see Your love in everything.

(Mrs.) Barbara A. Fischer
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Fr. O'Malley Ideas Contested

Editor:

I have been waiting to see what the reaction would be to Father O'Malley's "streamlined" Mass, whether for teenagers or anyone else.

I don't suppose that I as a senior citizen have any right to dissent on the letter written by Mr. and Mrs. Roselli (Oct. 17 issue) in which they thank Father O'Malley for coming up with the New Mass for ALL the people.

COURIER-JOURNAL

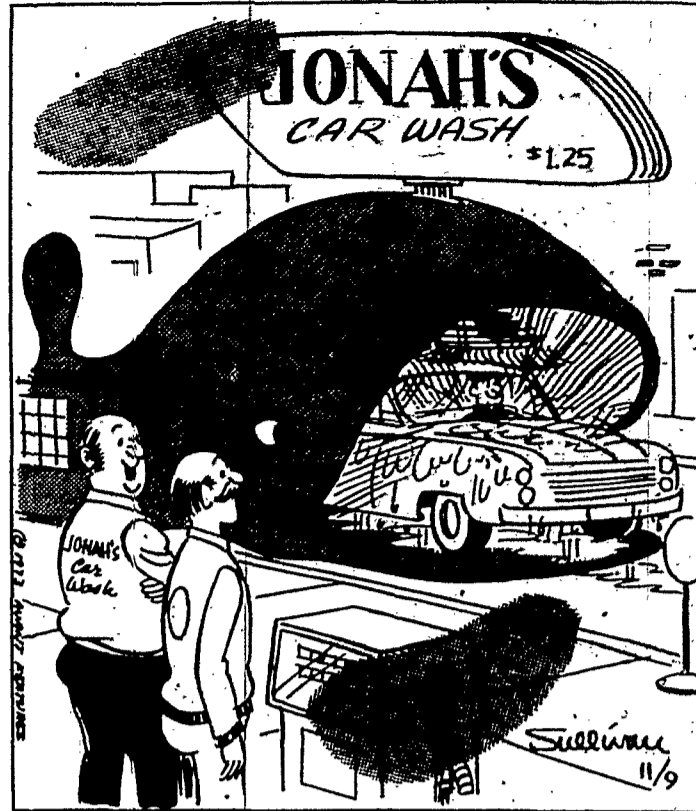
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"THE CLERGYMEN ARE NUTS ABOUT IT!"

It brings to mind a talk I had with the late Father Raymond P. Nolan of St. Stephen's in which I said that the young folk were taking over the Church. To which he replied "they will if you let them."

Let's take another look at what Father O'Malley wants to do. First we drop the Kyrie, because we've already asked for mercy; then we omit the Gloria (it takes too much time to give glory to God) and we also omit the Creed (in which we stand up and be counted). Oh yes, says Fr. O'Malley, "these are beautiful and meaningful prayers but the congregation just rattles them off." Baloney! What's the rush, we got up early, dressed in our best, and came to give thanks and glorify the Lord. Why rattle anything off.

Okay, I'll go along with the good Father and cut out the Responsorial Psalm. That makes two readings which should be read by the associate pastor, not by a layman. The associate is just waiting in the wings to help serve Communion. If help is needed why not use the Sisters.

There are four canons in the Missalette, but according to Father O that's not enough, so let's have a dozen more to confuse the congregation! What's wrong with having just five, one for each Sunday, the extra one when there is a fifth Sunday.

Two or three times Father O'Malley brings in an articulate laymen to make a brief introduction to the readings. Personally I don't like laymen taking any part in the Mass. That's what priests were ordained for. THEIR hands were blessed to handle our Lord's body and blood, in the Holy Eucharist.

Okay, so I'm an old fogey, but I recall the days when my old friend and pastor sang the Mass in Latin. There was mystery, there was grandeur, there was glory; and we left the Church thanking God for His goodness to us. Now there is a grand rush to get out.

Incidentally where is the Monday night Rosary and the glorious Benediction that followed?

As a convert I weep when I read how the Holy Roman Catholic Church, the One and Holy True Church is falling apart. God help us.

Arthur J. Cowan
194 Washington St.
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Support All Pro-life Bills

Editor:

Some confusion seems to have arisen - whether pro-life people

should support the Buckley "Human Life" Amendment or the Hogan "Human Life" Amendment.

The RARTL Committee joins the National Right to Life Committee and the New York State Right to Life Committee in supporting any human life amendment which protects human life from conception.

We have carefully studied the language of both amendments and the statements of the sponsors regarding their intent, and we are reasonably satisfied that the language of either amendment will accomplish our goal. We will be glad to forward either to interested persons.

However, the more pressing and determinative question is, "Which amendment has or will receive the broad support necessary to become enacted?" It is still too early to make such a determination, and a premature decision would be harmful. Accordingly, we would strongly urge all persons to unitedly support a "human life" amendment and to devote their full efforts to convincing our legislators of our deep commitment. Thank you.

ROCHESTER AREA RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE
William P. Polito, Chairman

Question For President

Editor:

Open letter to President Nixon:

Dear Mr. Nixon,

My children are asking me the following question, "Daddy, how come you and Mommy voted for President Nixon when he had so many bad men like the people on the Watergate TV show and Spiro Agnew working for him?"

How would you answer this question?

John Schroth
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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.