

Editorial

One Reason To Give Thanks

Thanksgiving, long a traditional American holiday, has been emerging more and more in recent years as a religious holy day of great significance. As, of course, it should be.

And though cynics and others may find much in our present life-style that may engender less than gratitude, we all should make note on this Thanksgiving Day that the faults of our world cannot be visited upon our Creator.

Once, after striking out, the former baseball great Mickey Mantle strode back to the dugout and kicked the water cooler in disgust. The venerable Casey Stengel remarked to the superstar, "It wasn't that water cooler that struck you out, son."

So, too, it wasn't God that brought us racism, poverty, wars and hate to mar our earthly existence. We have managed to produce such afflictions all by ourselves.

If we, however, strive to change and if we pray to God, He will give us the resources to reshape this lopsided world. That fact alone is worth all the celebrating that one Thanksgiving can hold.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral on Thanksgiving morning and has invited all in the diocese to attend. In his Pastoral Perspective on Page 3 he also provides a litany of things to be thankful for. Special liturgies are planned at the Cathedral and at all parishes celebrating Thanksgiving with Masses. Unusual offertories are scheduled that will make note of our special bounty as well as providing the opportunity to share.

So while it is indeed difficult not to notice that many are excluded from the feast, it is soul-satisfying to realize that we can do something about that, if we but try.

End of the Line

We join the Church of the Nativity in Brockport in lamenting the recent passing from the scene of Sieglinde, an old girl who had given her all for the parish. Never shifting from her duty Sieglinde's devotion to duty over the years helped change a lot of things at the Brockport church, even the landscape.

But all earthly things, even Sieglinde, must grind to a halt with time and now she has been replaced by Brunnhilde, a new girl with a driving personality who is ready to roll right into action.

There may be a lesson in all of this but it is probably better simply to face the fact that such is the lot of parish tractors.

The Best to Beame

The new mayor of New York City is a member of two minorities. Astoundingly, he is the first Jewish mayor of that city. At 67, he also ranks as a senior citizen.

One may wonder why anyone would want the job but then again someone has to do it. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Abraham D. Beame. We pray he does well for the sake of New York City, his religion and his age group (both of which will be in something of a spotlight) and for himself.

Opinion

Writer Thanked

Editor:
My thanks to Barbara Fischer for her letter in the Courier-Journal [11/7/73] — words which I have in my heart but which she has written so beautifully!

My daily Mass is truly my Golden Hour of the day, even though it may only be a brief 20 minutes.

Only 20 minutes to praise Him, to receive Him in my heart and to thank Him for my faith, my family, my friends — a list so long I no longer even remember each one with a Christmas card. I must return their love by begging His love on each one of them, each day.

I must also pray for all those I would like to serve — the poor, the lonely, the sick — those who have no one to pray for them.

In exchange for a little sacrifice of sleep, He not only fills my heart with joy and peace but overwhelms me with His love through so many beautiful people!

All my life I was sure the Irish people loved God more than anyone. I always wanted to match that love, even outdo it. Surely with your Irish ancestry, Father O'Malley, you should find it easy to inspire a love and need for the Mass in everyone, young and old, without any further shortening of our Mass. Please!

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President Defended

Editor:
This letter is directed to people who dislike President Nixon's ideas and who did not care for him personally to start with.

Since Watergate, our President has been subjected to violent opposition. These groups, (and if the shoe fits) have done everything outside of assassination to destroy this individual. To add more fuel to the fire, millions of people are being misled by the exaggerations of the ugliest of weapons, "the play on words." This sort of evil strains the faculties, leaving nothing but confusion.

President Nixon, like his predecessors, solemnly and in all legal seriousness swore under oath to uphold the Constitution. It is to say, from all the demands that is put on his shoulders and the actions he shall take, at the end they will be within the scope of the Constitution. President Nixon did not break this trust given him, when Watergate came about. He had defended his rights according to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Understanding and justly thinking people cannot help but admire this sort of intestinal fortitude and wisdom. These actions taken by him are constitutional.

Congress, the second department of government which makes the laws, has two additional departments, the Senate and the House of Representatives which came about from the need to compromise. Without this sort of give and take, our constitution would not have been ratified.

It is said, "All compromise is born of the devil." To some degree this is true, but this sort of arbitration started the machinery of a new government and a constitution which is the most wonderful work given by hand and purpose of man.



"I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT AWAY THAT NOVEL, SIR! IT OFFENDS COMMUNITY STANDARDS ON THIS FLIGHT!"

Mother Shares Thoughts On Loss of Infant

Editor:

He would have been eight years old Aug. 26, 1973. He was only 10 weeks old, a tiny, beautiful, just beginning to smile little boy, named John Cerard. On Nov. 13, 1965, we fed, kissed and put our little John to bed, not forgetting to entrust him to our Heavenly Father.

He was indeed in His care for when we awakened the following morning our little boy had been taken to his Father's home. We knew immediately that this was a case of "sudden death in infancy." We had read about this tragic syndrome, never ever believing that it could happen to us.

My husband and I were very pleased to read the recent article "Parents . . . the Other Victims of Infant Killer," written so compassionately by Sharon Darnieder. All people need to be informed and educated so as to have understanding and compassion concerning the sad situation.

I would like to share with your readers a few thoughts of my own as a mother who has "survived" the sudden, unexplainable death of her child.

God, in His infinite wisdom and love blessed our family with little John. He used the same wisdom and love when He took our son to His heavenly home. As a result of God's plan for our lives, we have had every area of our life together enriched. We have grown closer

to God and through His help have realized that He truly blessed our family when He gave us our very own advocate at His throne.

We have learned to be compassionate concerning other people's troubles. We have learned the difference between sympathy and compassion.

Recently our family of two daughters and one son was blessed with a new little girl. She is three months old now and as I look upon her sweet, little face, I praise God for her gift to us, her precious smile.

Following is a poem written by Dale Evans who has experienced the grief of losing several children. These words have been a comfort to us through the years.

"I'll loan you for a little while
A child of mine," God said
For you to love the while he lives
And mourn for when he is dead.
It may be six or seven years
Or only two or three;
But will you, till I call him back,
Take care of him for Me?

I hope that by sharing these thoughts I will have been a help to those parents who have had to give their child back to God sooner than they thought.

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The conduct of government reflects the morals and attitudes of its people. Our President is

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involved in these great perplexities. Objectors to the President who insist that rights to free speech and the right to free print be obeyed to the letter, are anxious to challenge and destroy our guarantees. Winning respect for the government cannot be handled with violent rhetoric. In the early days, farmers or loggers had a saying, "you help me roll my logs and I'll help you roll yours." Helping each other means supporting our President during these critical times. Your support will receive my support. America must live united, divided she will fall and die.

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