

**Editorial**

**U.S. Bishops . . .  
A Time for Leaders**

Judging from news reports, the United States Bishops at their annual meeting last week in Washington acquitted themselves well against the charges of some that they avoid social confrontation.

They called for penal reform, supported Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers boycott of lettuce and grapes, called on all parties involved in the Middle East crisis to make limited concessions and place themselves under the direction of U.N. forces, called on the Church to focus on justice in its response to the 1976 bicentennial celebration, and enthusiastically applauded a report on the Farah strike situation.

So the bishops did indeed take steps to provide the moral leadership needed so badly in our nation. As Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, who was chairman for the meeting, put it, "We teach, we preach, we try to provide moral leadership . . ."

Still the bishops did more than tackle moral problems, they also took on some of the ticklish theological posers of the day. They strongly supported pro-life amendments, announced their compliance with the Vatican directive on First Penance before First Communion, and rejected Communion in the hand.

And in action that will be immensely pleasing to large numbers of Catholics, the bishops reaffirmed the Church's "heritage of faith in Mary, the Mother of God" and strongly encouraged "authentic devotion to her."

The bishops put the issue clearly in perspective when they stated that the Church was suffering from "a malaise with respect to the commemoration of Mary." They cited as examples the lagging concern in devotion to the rosary, the miraculous medal and the scapular.

"We believe in the power of Mary's intercession to bring us, as individuals and as a community, under the influence of Christ's redeeming mercy," the bishops stated.

Of course, there are some who will say that the bishops didn't go far enough on this issue or that. There are some who will say that they went too far in certain areas. That is to be expected and the mere act of subjecting such problems to more scrutiny is healthy in itself.

So, all in all, it was a productive meeting and should serve to show Catholics that they do indeed have leadership both moral and spiritual. It is a needed reassurance.

**Christmas Alert**

Christmas is nigh and while it is the season for all kinds of goodies, may we warn our readers to beware of the few baddies who find it fitting climate for selfish enterprises.

Please be aware of those seeking your charity. Don't contribute to any group until you are sure of its veracity. And by all means don't be duped by those seeking your shopping money with con artist schemes.

**The Energy Crisis**

One of the possible solutions proposed for easing the energy crisis is a ban on Sunday driving. We have heard no concern about millions of American church-goers in connection with this proposal.

We hope it is clear to the nation's domestic policy-makers that many of us depend on that modern colossus, the automobile, in pursuit of the age-old tradition of paying homage to the Creator on the traditional day of rest.

We also trust that if any such idea becomes law that there will be provision to ensure that all can continue to drive to their places of worship to pray to God. Such a course may do more in solving this latest crisis of man than all our earthly ministrations.

**Opinion**

**Church Not  
Falling Apart**

Editor:

In response to Mr. Arthur Cowan's statement (Courier Journal, 11-7-73) of concern over reading "how the Holy Roman Catholic Church, the One and Holy True Church is falling apart," I have one comment. When Christ walked this earth and laid the cornerstone for His Church, He told us that not even DEATH will ever be able to overcome the Church. Christ's Word always did and still does hold. The Church will survive.

David Faraone  
2 Chabene Drive  
Rochester, NY 14606

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President**

**Anthony J. Costello  
General Manager**

**Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor**

**Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor**

Vol. 88 No. 31 November 28, 1973

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America \$8.50; other foreign countries \$9.50. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



"IT'S YER IMAGINATION, LOL! IT JUST LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HOLDIN' A RELIGIOUS SERVICE!"

**Used Cards  
Needed**

Editor:

If your readers have used Christmas and Easter Cards in good condition and they wish to send them to a missionary in India to make our Indian children happy, the cards should be mailed by ordinary package to: Rev. Fr. Eugenio Petrin, St. Paul's Catholic Mission, P.O. Binnaguri, 735203, Dist. Jalpaiguri, W. Bengal, India.

To avoid customs duty in India, these words must be written on the package:

"No commercial value — Used Christmas-Easter Cards — Printed matter."

If the senders wish to get a

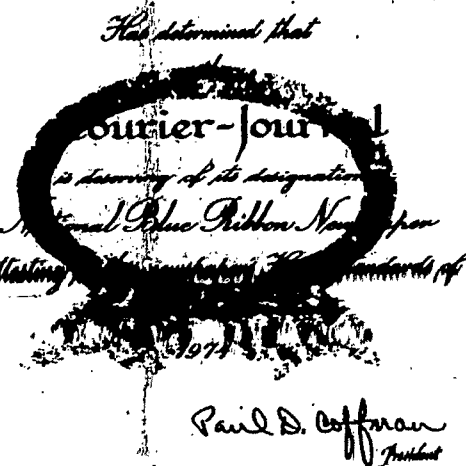
'thank you' answer, they should write clearly their address inside the package.

We badly need also financial help to feed at higher cost this year — the catechumens and children trusted to our care. Could somebody help us? Thanks.

Fr. Eugenio Petrin  
St. Paul's Mission  
P.O. Binnaguri 735203  
Dist. Jalpaiguri,  
W. Bengal, India

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.

**The National Editorial Foundation**



The Catholic Press Association  
**1973 JOURNALISM  
AWARD**

Catholic Courier Journal  
for Best Campaign in the Public Interest

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
1972 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION

TO: THE ROCHESTER COURIER-JOURNAL  
FOR: COMMUNITY SERVICE  
CLASS 2 (OVER 3,000)

Approved Association with the Annual 1973 Weekly Newspaper Contest of the New York Press Association at New York City on January 15, 1973

**The  
Perfect  
Christmas  
Gift**

**Send the  
Award Winning  
Courier Journal  
To a Friend**

**52 Weeks  
for only  
\$6.00**

**To Order  
Call  
Circulation Dept.  
454-7050**