

## Editorial

## Postal Rate Hikes

Reader's Digest, itself endangered by rate hikes scheduled by the U.S. Postal Service, editorially criticizes the situation in its January issue. In an article "Will Congress Kill the Magazine Industry?" the digest says that Postal Service increases for second class mail (magazines and newspapers) almost certainly will spell the end of a large segment of the magazine industry.

The increases are being effected because the Postal Service is obeying the law passed by Congress that requires every class of mail to pay its own way. The magazine calls on Congress to act to save the periodical industry.

Concentrating on the problem as it applies to magazines, the article does not tell the whole story. The Catholic Press Association (CPA) has declared that as serious as the problem is for secular publications, it is far more serious for the religious press and the publications of nonprofit organizations. The percentage of increase for nonprofit publications is considerably higher than that for secular publications, CPA points out.

For example, one Catholic diocesan newspaper with a circulation of 38,000 now has an annual postage bill of \$17,800. With the yearly increases now scheduled, that bill will be \$65,000 by 1981. Two years ago the bill was \$10,000. Thus in ten years, the postage will have increased from \$10,000 to \$65,000 a year.

The Readers Digest article makes it clear that "there is no doubt whatever that the rate rise will force a large number of magazines to stop publishing." If the problem is that serious for secular periodicals it is far more serious for religious publications that have fewer possibilities for adding to their revenue to cover the increased cost.

We have pointed out in previous editorials that the postal rate increase poses a threat to freedom of the press — if portions of the media are forced out of business by high cost of governmental service then the press will be diminished. And in these particular times of moral instability on many issues throughout the land, the religious press must be heard more strongly than ever.

We also have pointed out previously that although the new rates will in no way bring about the demise of this newspaper, obviously they threaten other religious and secular publications.

We urge all to read the Reader's Digest article and follow through with letters to your elected officials in Washington — keeping in mind the particular plight of religious publications.

## Mission Accomplished

A job well done. Everyone in the diocese can join in that tribute to the Padres of Rochester and the laymen who staffed San Jose Obrero parish in LaPaz, Bolivia, and the diocesan Missions Office as the transfer of the church to Bolivian Church control begins.

As Bishop Joseph L. Hogan told the Priests Council last week the essence of mission work is to help the local Church establish itself and then let it run its own affairs. That is exactly what the Padres of Rochester have accomplished.

After our diocesans help San Jose Obrero complete its transition there is the possibility that the diocese may take up a similar venture in Bolivia or elsewhere in Latin America. One of the keys to the undertaking of such a venture will be how many priests and laymen volunteer for such duty.

We hope that the shining example set by diocesans in Bolivia, Chile and Brazil will inspire young priests and lay people to consider this apostolate, so important to the spiritual and humane work of the Church in this ever tightening little world.

Police Warn:  
Be Alert!

Editor:

This is to express my thanks and the thanks of the entire police force for your most apropos and timely editorial (1/9/74) A Killer Is Loose.

Of course, we all agree with what you say and feel, that you expressed our thought, as well as your own, that a letdown now could be most unfortunate. The days go by and a sense of sameness sets in and the initial feelings of fear and apprehension become feelings of futility and apathy. Thank you for helping to keep this fresh in the minds of your readers. It is one of the most difficult, and yet most important, functions we are called upon to perform. A Killer Is Loose should be reprinted and posted wherever parents are to be found, shopping plazas, church, scout functions, schools, etc.

A Happy New Year to your staff and let us all pray that your words of caution relative to a fourth slaying will have been unnecessary. Perhaps a prayer should be incorporated into each church service every week to keep this potential danger fresh in the minds of all parents.

Thank you for helping.

John Pellegrino  
Chief of Police (Acting)Andrew Sparacino  
Chief of Detectives  
Rochester Police DepartmentChesterton  
Needed Today

Editor:

I would like to comment on Father Greeley's intriguing article about Chesterton (12/12/73). As a Chesterton devotee, I've been re-reading his major works once again and getting acquainted with some that I had not known before. I've written to all Catholic publishers in the country suggesting that they observe the centenary of GKC's birth, next May 29, in some way, and I think that it would be appropriate for all the bells in Christendom to be rung at that time. So it was gratifying to read of Father Greeley's praise of Chesterton.

On the other hand, I think that he seriously misinterprets Chesterton. He seems to distort Chesterton to fit his own categories, an endeavor that he would not get away with if GKC were alive! In speaking of Chesterton's "relevance" today, Father Greeley says "We have come to understand once again

that God's revelation does not come to us in propositions out of catechism but in symbols." But Chesterton was tremendously devoted to propositions that are true: "It might amuse a friend or enemy to read how I gradually learned from the truth of some stray legend or from the falsehood of some dominant philosophy, things that I might have learnt from my catechism."

Chesterton is important today not because he would play along with the theologians, as Father Greeley suggests, but because he would quite justifiably battle many of them tooth and nail. With his great dynamism, he would no doubt fight the vague, ambiguous, subjective, introspective, relativistic ramblings of many present-day theological writers. He would make mincemeat of those theologians who doubt the infallibility of the Pope, who dispose of Catholic education, who approve of contraception, who say that adultery is a matter of private conscience, and who, in so many other ways, water down the strength and decisiveness of the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings.

Chesterton, indeed, used symbols, but he used them in referring to unchangeable truths; today's theologians use symbolism because they seem to be afraid of the truth. Today's theologians disguise fantasy as psychological; Chesterton loved fantasy because of the profound reality that it contains. In thus speaking of the realism of fantasy, he noted: "A box is opened, and all evils fly out. A word is forgotten, and cities perish. A lamp is lit, and love flies away. A flower is plucked, and human lives are forfeited. An apple is eaten, and the hope of God is gone."

It was Chesterton who said that: "Right is right, even if nobody does it. Wrong is wrong, even if everybody is wrong about it." We need such definitive firmness today, but how many of our jargon-entranced theologians would be this forthright?

Robert Krille  
102 Lynnwood Drive  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618Booklet  
Offered

Editor:

Recently a correspondent mailed me a booklet, "The Pentecostal Controversy" with imprimatur by Bishop Charles R. Koester, Vicar General of St. Louis.

The booklet quotes the Holy Father on this phenomenon and seems consistent with the repeated warnings and cautions offered by our chief shepherd and father in regard to Pentecostalism.

I would like to advise Courier-Journal readers that this booklet is available at 40 cents a copy from Central Bureau Press, 3835 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. 63108.

Please ask for it by its title, "The Pentecostalism Controversy."

Brother Marius, TOSF  
133 Exchange St.  
Geneva, N.Y.Sexism Seen  
In Liturgy

Editor:

On Family Sunday, Dec. 30, the second reading of the Mass contained a command that wives should be "submissive" to their husbands.

When is the Church going to delete these archaic and degrading references to women? The purist would respond that the Lord said it must be this way, hence submission.

Alas, I find it impossible to believe that the Almighty, who created everyone to the image and likeness of God, would condemn over half the population of the world to submissiveness. If the Church is to be a defender of human liberation, let's start by having our male-dominated power structure eliminate sexism from our services.

JoAnn Grass-Opperman  
210 Worthington Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14622New Uses  
For Old Stamps

Editor:

May I ask your readers to save cancelled postage stamps, of any denomination, for St. Francis Retirement Village? These stamps are sold and the funds received from them are a great help to the village.

Our residents sort the stamps preparatory to selling them to dealers. They enjoy doing something useful for their Village.

The stamps may be sent to St. Francis Village, P.O. Box 16310, Ft. Worth, Texas 76133.

Rev. Philip Marquard, OFM  
Director, St. Francis Village

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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