

Editorial

1975 . . . the Holy Year

1975. Mark it down. It is the Holy Year of Jubilee to be celebrated in Rome and it is intended for each and every one of us.

Proclaimed by Pope Paul this Holy Year comes at a most propitious time — when the world is a loose gathering of national bits and pieces banging against one another abrasively. It comes at a time when individuals are tortuously straining in all directions in search for meaning to life.

The year, the themes of which are Renewal and Reconciliation, should provide, if we lend it our full participation, the tender fire of solace and balm for the spiritual aches and pains that beset us.

As Bishop Joseph L. Hogan points out on Page 1, it is a happy coincidence that the Holy Father proclaimed this year of renewal and reconciliation just when the diocese of Rochester is experiencing its own Time of Renewal. This Time of Renewal is intended as a period when we figuratively stop and take stock of what we are up to and where we are headed, when we pause to escape from the tumultuous and hectic events pitting our daily existence and let Christ enter our lives to make them more livable and to pass on this grace to our fellow beings.

Many will want to make the pilgrimage to Rome, a kind of journey to the heart of our faith. Many others will be unable to do so but that does not mean they cannot take part.

In the centerfold this week, is a list of diocesan churches and the times when a special Holy Year plenary indulgence can be obtained.

It is something that should be clipped out and saved by all, there is a designated church near every Catholic in the diocese. It may seem early but time has a way of slipping through our intentions so plans, especially for groups such as school children, church groups, and other associations, should be formulated now.

The services will be simply soulful. A special Holy Year prayer also is published in the centerfold. Advice from Rome for the visitation is that it should include "some time in devout recollection, concluding with the recitation or singing of the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, together with a prayer to Our Blessed Lady."

The visit is, of course, significant but it is even more important that such collective and extended activity on the part of all diocesans should build into a vibrant force for renewal and ultimately for the healthy peace of mind and soul the Saviour intended for all of us.

Solzhenitsyn

There are several lessons to be gleaned from the Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn affair.

The most obvious one is that the Soviet Union, mellowed though it may seem in recent years, still cannot bear dissent, not even by a man who has been described as "a very Russian Russian."

Another lesson evident is the effectiveness of a more open world. Not too long ago, a dissident Russian would not have been afforded the relatively light sentence of deportation. It would have been Siberia or extermination and he would never have been heard from again. At least now we can be assured that Solzhenitsyn will continue to speak out, at least after his family joins him.

But the greatest lesson is provided by the author himself. A man speaking the truth in spite of where it may lead him provides an inspirational and soul-lifting example, especially in this jaded world. It also reinforces the moral lesson of what one man can do by adhering to high principle. A government shallow in faith to its citizens has been exposed as reactionary to the whole world.

So bravo for Solzhenitsyn! The title of his last essay written on Soviet soil tells it all: "Live Not by Lies."

Mission Work Must Continue

Editor:

Our most sincere gratitude for the Courier-Journal coverage of our story of change in LaPaz, Bolivia (1/16/74). Those persons on the scene in the Church's foreign missions today live in the growing concern that new methods and structures of mission must be found to relate to the new situation of Church and society.

A personal word might now be added to your news story. First, we have undertaken this change at the parish of San Jose Obrero with the prior conviction that mission belongs to God and is the work of the Spirit of Christ. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." This is not the work of a few, nor a project for a few years.

Second, Karl Barth has pointed out that while human sin is pride, the special sin of Christians is laziness. In the missionary task this sin takes on the form of inertia, a tendency to repeat, a clinging to the past and a fear of taking up the challenge of a new situation in which we find ourselves. We are a servant people, a pilgrim people. The mandate of Christ to His church makes this very clear.

Third, at this juncture in Rochester's mission effort, it is not a time to retire from the field. Rather, it is a God-given opportunity to re-examine our priorities, rediscover our identity as a missionary church, with the indissoluble relationship between home and foreign missions, and finally re-evaluate our funds and personnel for use in the missions.

Finally, to your editorial challenge of Jan. 16 to young priests and lay people to consider the mission apostolate — we in Bolivia say "Amen," and thank you. And may we add one further thought: that such young people will gain far more from that experience and learn far more from the people here, than they will ever be able to give.

Peter Declaman
Daniel Tormey
Saint Joseph
The Worker Parish
LaPaz, Bolivia

Parish Council Backs Strikers

Editor:

We, of the Parish Council of the Newman Community at the University of Rochester, wish to express our support of the Farah strikers in El Paso, Texas.

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Courier-Journal



It hardly seems possible that in this day and age, in a modern plant there is:

- 1.) no job security
- 2.) no negotiating production standards
- 3.) no negotiated wage increases according to a definite schedule
- 4.) the average worker has a take-home pay of \$69.00 a week with a yearly income of \$3,500.

Unfortunately, owing to their powerlessness, the workers are not in a position to alter the situation. It seems to us the demands of social justice are to uphold the dignity of man, the dignity of labor and the right of workers to a living wage.

Therefore, we urge members of the community to join in the struggle of the Farah workers and to express that support by not buying Farah products.

Parish Council of the
Newman Community
at the University
of Rochester

Joe Abate, Kevin Chamberlain, John Croghan, Mary Ann Demetsenare, Stephen Dexter, Johanna DiDio, Marie Faust, Jack Figel, John Finn, Joanne Shaughnessy, [Rev.] James Lawlor, Mark Wisniewski, Barbara Zygmunt, Valerie Fodrowski, Louise Kaczmarek, Bill Laird, Richard Marisa, Karen Materna, Kathy Mennel, [Dr.] Robert Mennel, [Sr.] Joan Sobala, William Riina, Cindy Stocky, William Stocky, Fred Ognibene, Bob Oleski, Barb Parey, Jim Rinefield, Len Rudzinski, Eugene Schneider, Beth Sloan, Marg Snider, Cathy Shea, Mary Sweeney, Dennis Harmon.

Dark Day Seen for Church

Editor:

Nauka i Religia (Science and Religion), an official communist magazine writes, "Religion is incompatible with communism. It is hostile to it. The content of the program of the Communist Party is a death blow to religion. It is a program for the creation of an atheistic society in which people will be rid forever of the religious bandage."

Richard Nixon believes in a policy of détente with the authors of the above, but then we realize that he is both power-mad and hypocritical.

The Pope of Rome, by firing Cardinal Mindszenty must make both Nixon and the Communists happy.

This a dark day for Catholicism.

Michael A. Hoffman
503 White Springs Rd.
Geneva, N.Y.

Wayne CAP Head Start

Editor:

In regards to an interview with Sister Rosario Hughes, director of the Wayne County Action Program (1/23/74) we noticed — due to an oversight we're sure — Sister neglected to mention the two Head Start Centers — one in Red Creek, the other in Sodus Point, which also are part of Wayne CAP although delegated to the local school district.

The two programs enroll a total of 75 children and have a decided impact on the community as Head Start also involves the total family.

Barbara M. Osterhaudt
Head Start Center
Box 15
Red Creek, N.Y. 13143

Editor's Note: Sister Rosario did mention the centers to our reporter, but they were inadvertently left out of the story.

Poetic View of Abortion

Editor:

I would like to present my views on abortion in the following poem I wrote:

A Cry in the Dark

Poor helpless little baby,
Who will hear its cry?
Innocent little child of God
It doesn't want to die.

It never saw a winter
Or felt the joy of spring
Ran beneath a clear blue sky
Or heard a robin sing.

To you who will not listen,
I ask this now of you,
"If your life
were just beginning,
What would you have us do?"

Miracle of love and living,
Who will hear its cry?
God gave it the gift of life,
Who says that it shall die?

Anne Marie Bullock
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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.