

Editorial

Our MIAs

A tragic byproduct of the Watergate scandal is that so many worthwhile and necessary endeavors have been neglected.

One of these is the campaign to get an accounting from North Vietnam of the Americans still listed as missing in action.

While the national fabric is being worn to the tearing point by the Washington mess, it is necessary for the nation to attend to its needs — and maybe by so doing find some unifying threads.

One area for such work lies in the heartbreaking situation regarding brother Americans left in limbo by the non-action of this government.

A former prisoner of war in North Vietnam, Air Force Brig. Gen. David W. Winn has called on all to renew efforts to learn the fate of our missing men. He sees the issue as a way of unifying the people of America.

Unfortunately, his voice is weak in countering governmental red tape and Watergate-induced paralysis.

If you agree with Gen. Winn and you should, then you must let your elected leaders in Washington know so.

Lest We Forget

One fitting way to shake our consciences about our men missing in action in Indochina as well as paying just tribute to those who were killed in the struggles there has been proposed by State Assemblyman Frank A. Carroll.

Carroll has introduced a bill that would provide for groves of trees to be planted throughout New York State "to memorialize residents of the state who died or are listed as missing in action in the Indochina war."

True, as far as those who give their lives for their country, no memorial is enough. But we must never forget.

Perhaps such groves would mean more to those missing in action who might still be alive and to their families. It would be a visual reminder to the rest of us of their plight.

Carroll's plan not only would have the state establish such groves but would have each county plant groves of similar trees with one for each resident of the community who was killed or listed as missing.

Carroll figures the cost at the modest sum of \$50,000. The fact that the Conservation Department could provide the trees as an environmental measure should help keep the cost down.

Regardless, it is a plan well worth the price.

One Man's View

On national television last week, Father John McLaughlin, SJ, the priest who works for President Nixon, revealed a facet of his capabilities probably unrecognizable among his administration associates. He has the gift of prophecy.

Father McLaughlin noted calmly in conversation and also declared hotly in public speech that President Nixon would go down in history as the greatest moral leader in the world during the last third of the 20th Century. He thus discounts Pope Paul and whoever will succeed him, as well as any future U.S. presidents and other world leaders. At least until the year 2000.

Now since Father McLaughlin couldn't possibly be shilling for a troubled politician, we must assume that he does know the future. And what a disheartening view he presents to the less gifted among us who have been hoping and working that things might get better.

Panama's Bishop Challenged Us

Editor:

In regard to your article **Humanistic Christian Socialism** (Courier-Journal 4/17/74) and the response you received in a letter of May 1, 1974 — The writer of that letter asked, if we distribute our goods among people who do not have the essentials of life, who will willingly labor just to see their labors carted away?

My response: a true Christian, which I have no pretensions of being, but I hope with the help of God, to keep striving toward this goal.

The Archbishop of Panama, Marcos G. McGrath, was attacked, and I quote: "he has either not read his history, or his political leanings are overshadowing his ecclesiastical responsibilities."

My response: perhaps the bishop has read his Bible.

Matthew: Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

Luke: Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it.

John: I give you a new commandment — love one another as I have loved you. By this love you have for one another everyone will know that you are, my disciples.

These words from the Bible, the words of Christ, are what is inspiring the good bishop. Hard they are to live up to, yes. Communistic, socialist — this one cannot accept, since these are the words of Christ. An ideal to strive to live up to.

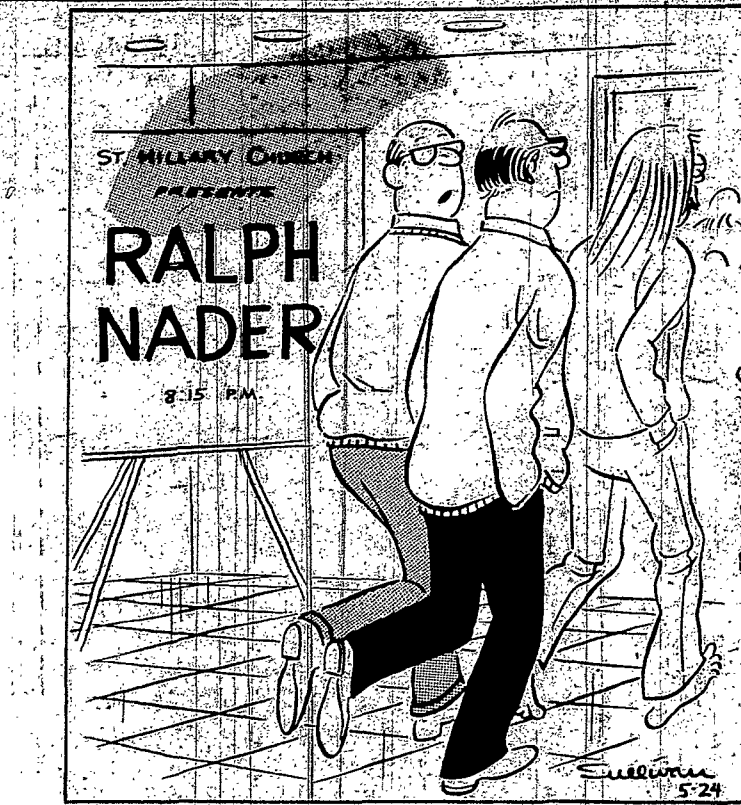
My heart and prayers go out to Bishop McGrath, who has challenged us to live up to the words of Christ.

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Supports Seminarians

Editor:

In response to the letter of Mr. Paul Macaluso in the April 24 issue of the Courier-Journal, I would like to make reference to the 13th chapter of John's Gospel. It strikes me that on that same night when Jesus took bread and wine into his hands and charged his friends to "do this remembrance of me" he also took up a basin and towel, and washed his disciples' feet. And he charged them also, on that night to wash



"WHERE DID YOU HEAR HE'S GOING TO TALK ABOUT POORLY-MADE BINGO MARKERS?"

each other's feet. This humble, necessary service of washing feet has no exact counterpart in our culture; but it seems to validate the priestly ministering to peoples' earthly needs with which Mr. Macaluso finds offense.

When our Lord exhorted us to have no concern for what we shall eat or wear, he did not excuse us from concern that others have clothing and enough to eat. Mr. Macaluso implies the opposite by his objection that "seminarians are anxious for lives

In Matthew 25:31-46, the "goats on his left" are so condemned for their neglect of the temporal needs of "these least important ones" — Christ himself in his Mystical Body. Jesus makes no distinction between priests and laity in this dissertation, but is very specific concerning the conditions on which we will be judged.

The government cannot be depended upon to tend to the material and social needs of the people because it does not minister to the whole person. It doles out meager funds without concern for human dignity or a man's pride to be able to provide for his family.

By supporting the United Farm Workers' lettuce boycott, the St. Bernard's Student Council places the student body of the seminary squarely behind the farmworkers' struggle for dignity and self-determination. Their support is a due response to our Lord's charge to wash each others' feet, and an example to us all.

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Labor Issues Not for Bishop

Editor:

After reading many articles in the Catholic Courier I am quite concerned. I must say that I am just as much concerned about the plight of the farm workers as anyone and perhaps more so, being a union member for many years. Most of these people are represented by a very strong labor organization of their own choosing — the Teamsters agricultural workers giving them better wages, benefits and working conditions. This proves they did not want to be part of the Chavez workers movement.

Perhaps it would be wise for our bishops to do some studying when it comes to such matters as labor and politics. They don't seem to be doing such a good job as leaders of the Church let alone trying to run the unions and government. This is a matter for the labor movement to take care of. It really is time for our religious to do what they are supposed to do and stay out of these types of disputes. Their job is Faith and Morals, not labor and

government. Perhaps then we wouldn't have such a tough time getting young men and women into the religious vocations if this were the case.

When it comes to Faith and Morals, then I will agree with the bishops and priests, providing they are in line with the Holy Father. Otherwise, they are just so many other men in my book. Perhaps it would be a good idea for all of these seminarians and nuns to research these matters before taking the word of the bishops as Gospel.

When we really needed the bishops to speak out along with the priests, they kept silent. Yes, I refer to the passing of the abortion laws in New York State. These are matters of concern for the clergy and Christians of whatever faith.

No one tells me what kind of pants I can wear or what produce I can buy. When it comes to that point, then these people had better be prepared to put up or shut up. When and if these people put clothes on my family and food on my table then perhaps I might be persuaded to buy their ideas and perhaps not even then.

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Misquoted, Sister Says

Editor:

"Kids" is not my style. I am grateful to the Courier-Journal for the coverage of our Church Careers program in the May 1 issue but I must correct the reporter, Sharon Darnieder, for misquoting me. Some will consider it straining the gnat but it is more than a gnat in my view. I do not use the word "kids" when referring to children. In quoting me, the word was used twice and I personally feel that it is not a proper term for an educator to use.

Our "Scenarama of Church Careers" was most successful as far as we can determine. Perhaps the real success will be a few years in coming but I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to all the priests, Brothers and Sisters who contributed so much to our project.

The parents, friends and CHILDREN responded very well to the program.

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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.

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 89 No. 2 May 15, 1974

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.

Courier-Journal