

Editorial

Clergy and Transcripts

Lest anyone should get the impression that Father John McLaughlin, SJ, the President's priest, speaks for most clergymen on the matter of the Watergate transcripts it may be necessary to point out other reactions:

Father Joseph Dolan, professor of moral theology at Fordham University, says the transcripts "give every evidence of the abuse of power of office and a cynical disregard for truth, justice or the common good."

Dr. William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, commented:

"The content has shocked the moral sense of many citizens. These persons are sorely distressed to discover the highest officials of government discussing so casually the commission of crimes, perjury, subornation of perjury, bribery, conspiracy."

Rochester's own Father Charles Curran, professor of moral theology at Catholic University, was quoted by Religious News Service as declaring that "the big problem is not the expletives but the moral viewpoint shown by saying one thing publicly and doing another privately... the lack of integrity is so evident."

Head of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the Rev. Foy Valentine, had similar feelings. The tone, he feels, "was utterly reprehensible, made worse by the fact that there had been such a pretense of piety."

Father McLaughlin obviously is speaking for his champion when he declares President Nixon is the greatest moral leader in the world but he is not speaking for many of his clergy colleagues.

President's Judge

And when speaking of Father McLaughlin in relation to the Watergate mess it is difficult to ignore Father Robert Drinan, his fellow Jesuit, who is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Father Drinan is not the first clergyman to serve in the Congress and we feel that as an elected representative from his district he has every right to be there.

Yet it is difficult to understand how strict interpreters of the theory of separation of Church and State, who find aid to Catholic school children unconstitutional, can stand by quietly as a Catholic priest sits in direct judgment of the President of the United States.

Roman Holiday

Even L'Osservatore Romano can get itself into a good down-home pickle now and then.

Can you imagine this staid beacon of all that is traditional and eternal about life finding its back page with a blowup of the front of St. Peter's basilica captioned "truly splendid — the Basilica of St. Peter's, recently cleaned with Johnson's Wax products?"

Well, friends, it happened and no one knows how. True, Johnson's Wax products were used to clean the ancient face of the basilica but Vatican spokesmen were quick to point out, the Vatican has indeed paid for every ounce of wax used and they had not dealt for the use of the ad.

Still, no one seems about to admit how the ad was approved — unless, as Religious News Service wonders aloud, someone at Osservatore has a sense of humor.

Should Stick To Spiritual

Editor:

Are we listening to our youth? In his "letter to the editor" (C-J 4/24/74) Paul Macaluso, a college student, expressed his view on the priest's role—one of preaching and spiritualizing—not boycotting. Could Paul be expressing the views of many other young people? The great decline in vocations over the past years might be attributed to the fact that our young people have lost (because they do not witness to) the real meaning of the religious life.

We hear so much about the type of slacks we should wear and/or our lettuce and grape "intake" instead of God's commandments. If we heard more about our daily sins of injustice (be it fair labor, the unborn, pornography, the underprivileged) we would not have a need for boycotts and marches.

In Christ's time they had social problems just as we face today. However, the lay people were utilized to take care of these problems in order that the apostles might use their time for preaching. So the twelve apostles called the group of disciples together and said: "It is not right for us to neglect the preaching of God's word in order to handle finances (funds for widows, etc.). So then, brothers, choose seven men among you (laity) who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and we will put them in charge of this matter (boycotts). We ourselves then, will give our full time to prayers and the work of preaching." The whole group was pleased with the apostles' proposal. Acts 6, 2-6

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On the Homily By Fr. Collins

Editor:

It is hard not to reply in kind to a tirade such as Father Collins's homily (C-J, 5/8/74) concerned with the Congressional Resolution Proclaiming a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

Perhaps, however, it is enough to say that we are sure a good many Americans responded to the proclamation in a more Christian, charitable, understanding and penitent spirit than Father Collins has shown.

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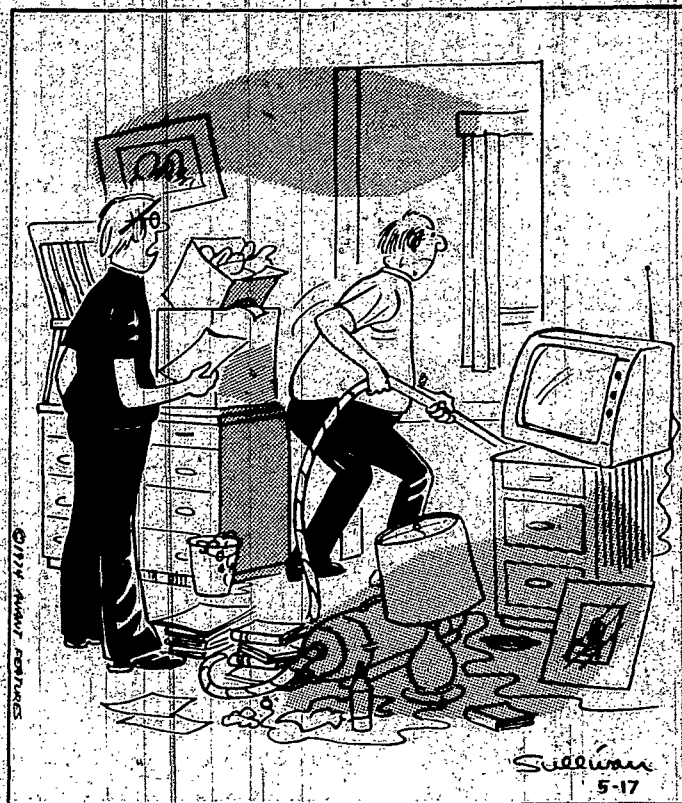
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Why Aquinas? Here's Why!

Editor:

If you know any young boy who is in the eighth grade and has not made a commitment for the coming school year or if you know any boy who would like to become a part of "The Aquinas Family" in the Fall, I would like to answer two important questions — "Why Aquinas?" and "What makes Aquinas so different?"

1. Aquinas is a challenge — Since 1927 the present Aquinas has accomplished well the job of developing men! Our graduates are active members of all the leading professions and occupations in the city and elsewhere. Here at Aquinas you will have a well-rounded mental, physical and spiritual curriculum.

2. Aquinas is people — People working at being completely themselves. Each faculty member is personally interested in each student sitting before him in the classroom. Here you are an individual, not one of the masses.

3. Aquinas is sports — To develop the whole boy is the happy job of Aquinas. In sports one gets to really know the boy. Aquinas offers all the leading sports on a varsity and intramural level. Our coaches spend endless hours teaching the rudiments of all sports.

4. Aquinas is Christian — "Teach Me Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge" is the motto of the Basilian Fathers who conduct Aquinas. Every subject and activity at Aquinas is geared to this motto which keynotes a preparation for a Christian life in the community.

5. Aquinas is you — If you want a program that will help you grow intellectually, socially, spiritually and physically dial 254-2020 any day till 4 p.m. Ask for Father Gaelens, principal, or Father Allard, vice principal. Call soon and I assure you that you will never regret your decision. I know, for I have had the happy privilege of teaching at Aquinas for the past twenty-five years. It's the Greatest!

William F. McCarthy (39)
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Chile Junta Oppressive

Editor:

It was with great surprise and joy that we read your recent editorial on the situation in Chile. The situation in that country demands a Christian response. In

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the last two weeks 11 men have been condemned to death for their involvement in the Allende government—a government duly elected by the populace of that country. These trials are just another example of the tactics used by the junta led by General Pinochet. These acts coupled with massive book burning, mass arrests and the suspension of all due process express the mentality of this military junta. The obvious lack of concern for human rights has been documented by many sources both from the left and right. Recently the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference issued a condemnation of the junta's actions as regards human rights. This same group also pressed for the suspension of all foreign except that which they give immediately to the very poor, until the junta respects these basic human rights.

The situation in Chile demands a Christian witness that goes beyond this immediate concern. The whole question of United States aid and involvement in the Chile question needs to be looked into at great depth. In fact the whole question of U.S. participation in Latin America needs review. The Church must be vocal not only in times of crisis but in normal times. Many times we respond only to the urgent needs and fail to recognize the historical factors.

Rochester should have a special concern as it supports missions in Chile, Brazil, and Bolivia, perhaps the most oppressed states in Latin America. The problems of oppression are ones that these Rochesterians face in their daily mission work. As we represent part of Rochester's concern, your commitment to the Latin people and their mission must speak not only to their spiritual liberation but the political liberation as well.

We in Bolivia commend the recent editorial of the Courier and look forward to more reporting on Latin American affairs.

Tim McCluskey
Father Daniel Torney
Father Peter Deckman

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.