

**Editorial**

**Pray for Ireland**

Ireland. What can be said?

Beleaguered Ulster seems to be a microcosm of all that's wrong with the world — class systems, religious bigotry, ultra-nationalism, economic injustices, hot-headedness in place of cool thinking, and an all-around disregard for the rights of others.

Through the years many solutions have been proposed and have failed. The latest joint ruling system, giving minority Catholics a voice in the government, seemed most plausible, but it too was scrapped emotionally before it had been given half a chance.

Perhaps world pressure is needed. Other nations should offer services to conciliate differences. For obvious reasons, Pope Paul VI, who has been a consistent champion of peace in the world, would not be effective in this sphere. By its own involvement, England also has been ineffective.

Perhaps, our own Henry Kissinger, who seems to have the knack of reconciliation, should be made available. True, many in Ulster may see such an offer as meddling and, true, it would be a long shot at best, but it is time that the world start searching for alternatives to the bitter and bloody feud.

As we move into a Holy Year with reconciliation as a main theme we all should do what we can, especially pray, to see peace in Ireland.

**Traveling Tips**

Travelbits, a newsletter put out by the Holy Cross Fathers promoting spiritual travel, includes the following 10 commandments of travel by Franciscan Father Godfrey.

1. Thou shalt not expect to find things as thou hast them at home, for thou hast left thy home to find them different.
2. Thou shalt not take anything too seriously — for a carefree mind is the beginning of a vacation.
3. Thou shalt not let other tourists get on thy nerves — for thou art paying good money to have a good time.
4. Remember thy passport so that thou knowest where it is at all times — for a man without a passport is a man without a country.
5. Blessed is the man who can make change in any language — for he shall not be cheated.
6. Blessed is the man who can say thank you in any language and it shall be worth more to him than many tips.
7. Thou shalt not worry. He that worrieth hath no pleasure.
8. That shalt when in Rome do some-what as the Romans do; if in difficulty thou shalt use thy American common sense and friendliness.
9. Thou shalt not judge the people of a country by one person with whom thou hast had trouble.
10. Remember thou art a guest in every land — he that treateth his host with respect shall be treated as an honored guest.

**Fresh Air**

It seems especially unusual in these days of carping and criticism to see public gratitude expressed to a so-called "establishment" body. That is why the letter to the editor on this page from the Class of '74 to the administration and faculty at St. Ambrose School is so curiously refreshing.

**Opinion**

**Faculty Is Thanked**

Editor:

We, the graduating class of 1974, wish to express thanks to our faculty at St. Ambrose School. Sister Rosemary St. Peter, our principal, Sister Ann Collins and Mrs. Coston, our homeroom teachers, are three important persons that we'd like to thank.

In addition, we wish to show our gratitude not only to the other junior high teachers but also to all the faculty members who have taught us over the years.

June 18, our graduation day, was a day that our hearts will never forget. What is St. Ambrose? Eight years of happiness, joy and love.

Class of 74  
St. Ambrose

**Some Ignore Basic Wrongs**

Editor:

The homily of Father Vincent Collins concerning the congressional resolution for a day of humiliation, penance, and prayer (May 8, 1974) was disconcerting. It has continued to rest uncomfortably in mind. The opinion of one man can be dismissed but the disconcerting reality is that this letter represents a sizable minority of priests who seem to envision social evils in a shortsighted manner. These priests talk only about the social evils of abortion, being soft on communism and the failure of U.S. government to support Catholic schools and preventing prayer in public schools. Usually, pornography is included which was not in this letter.

This minority never seems to be concerned about the vast number of other social evils from which millions of people suffer. The Day of Prayer was called at this time principally because the country has been so disillusioned by the Watergate scandal, the obstruction of justice, burglaries and using government agencies for personal revenge. These were not mentioned in detail in the letter, nor the suffering of migrant workers nor the more close-to-home evils of lack of decent housing and the suburban responsibility to provide homes for all income levels nor hiring of minority groups by corporations nor the humane treatment of prisoners in our state prisons.

Because we are all sinners it is never hypocritical for any human being to call for penance and prayer.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

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I thank my God that Bishop Hogan is not one of this myopic minority. He has a complete vision of good and of the wide range of evil. He gives us all that vision of hope so necessary to work against all evil sicknesses of society.

Margaret Joynt  
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**Let's Be Less Critical**

Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter written by Vincent L. Ross (Courier-Journal, May 1).

Mr. Ross is appalled by the disrespect shown in churches today. He said, "Give me that old-time religion — it was good enough for my father and it's good enough for me."

I don't know how old his father is, but I find old-time religion in the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul. This, to me, is a true picture of Christianity. The first Christians assembled to give praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. They did sing — they did "kiss and carry on" and I'm sure their feet weren't always clean.

Their primary concern was to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. They loved Jesus and they loved one another.

Shouldn't we all make the effort to be less critical of others?

**OUR PARISH COUNCIL**  
Board Opinions

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Five excellent points that should be included in any organizing plans for a parish council were made by a council member after the failure of his steering committee to get a successful council going.

James Baisley, of Larchmont, N.Y., wrote in response to an article I did on organizing a council, and explained what he would do differently in his parish the next time.

Communicate your new-found knowledge to the parish at large.

In the process of our own education, we, on the steering committee, learned what was happening in the Church, and in other parishes around the country, and in light of this, felt that what we were proposing was not something novel or radical to the parishioners.

Thus, says Baisley, in our naivete, we didn't appreciate the gigantic step we were asking the parish to take.

We had looked at a structure which had existed in our community for at least four generations and we suggested that, in one fell swoop, it be replaced with something which appeared to many to be completely new, different, untried and uncalled for.

Communicate continuously.

We started off on the right foot by having several parish meetings.

When we started drafting the constitution, however, we topped communicating. As a result, the proposed constitution, sent in the mail, came as a complete shock to the vast majority of our parishioners.

Prepare guidelines under which the council is to operate.

The word "constitution" has a ring of finality to it which aroused

and to follow in the footsteps of the first disciples of Christ?

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**ARE Thanks Diocese**

Editor:

The Association of Religious Educators (ARE) would like to express a public note of thanks to the Diocesan Office of Religious Education for its tremendous support during the past year. A special thanks goes to Ms. Rosalie Reinhardt, "The Coordinator of Coordinators" who will be leaving the Rochester area. Her influence has been felt on a very personal and deep level by all of us who work in the religious education ministry. Friends are friends, no matter what the distance may be. This is certainly true of our friend Rosalie.

The ARE is a growing organization. The fact that much of its growth comes from within is attested to by the fine efforts of our past executive committee members. People like Sister Mary Ann Carroll, SSJ, Miss Ruth Page, Sister Ellen Ward, RSM, Michael Stanley, Sister Sheila Walsh, SSJ, and Sister Catherine Heverin, SSJ, have led us with the dedication and expertise we needed. We hope that we can continue to develop this same pattern of fine leadership in the years to come.

Len Paganelli  
Communication Facilitator  
Association of Religious Educators

a defensiveness in people, Baisley finds.

Spell out the terms used.

Most of the people at our parish meeting who voiced opposition to the proposed council said that they had no objection to the formation of an "advisory" council.

We insisted that an "advisory" council fell far short of the goal sought by Vatican II, of the priests, religious and laity actively working together for the good of the community.

Later, we discovered that much of our controversy was purely semantic. In the sense that we, too, supported the pastor in discharging his ultimate responsibility, we, too, wanted an "advisory" council.

Include the clergy on the steering committee.

Baisley says the steering committee made a "major mistake" by not inviting a priest to join them from the outset.

He attributes the error to the committee's zeal to have the council be truly representative of the laity. They overlooked the fact that the council must be representative of all the parish — clergy, religious and laity.

Painful as the experience may have been at times, Baisley admits that these and other errors are correctible.

He and the steering committee have learned that the Second Vatican Council has a clear message — the clergy, religious and laity must join together, each with his special talents, for the purpose of working together to bring Christ to the world.

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.