

Editorial

Lottery Fine But Bingo's Hush Hush

We wonder how many people realize that it is illegal for any newspaper distributed through the mail to "advertise" any lottery, including those as innocuous as Bingo. The word "advertise" is defined in postal regulations as applying to "any lottery notice in the newspaper, whether it is inserted at the expense of the promoter, or is merely a news item concerning the event. The fact that there is no payment for the item makes it nonetheless an advertisement, which is defined as 'a public notice, especially in some public print, as a newspaper to make known to. To give public notice of, to announce especially by a printed notice.' (Webster's International Dictionary, Second Edition).

The regulation stipulates that "a lottery advertisement is nonmailable even though it does not give the full story of the scheme's operation. Announcements of 'bingo' games sometimes say nothing more than 'Games or Party or Entertainment' or some other word or designation — for example, a dollar sign — which is understood by the reader to give notice that the games of chance will be played, at the time and place noted."

The law also says no newspaper that goes through the mail can contain "any list of the prizes drawn or awarded by means of any such lottery." The law is very clear and it is the reason the Courier-Journal often has to refuse or severely edit stories and photographs concerning certain parish events.

We feel the law is ridiculous especially in the light of the legality of such contrivances as the state lottery and off track betting parlors to help finance state programs. Obviously the state has decided that gambling for its purposes is legal. And big daily newspapers have little difficulty with the law because most of their circulation is by home delivery and thus not subject to postal regulations.

But small weekly newspapers which rely on the mails for distribution end up the victims of discrimination. Not only can't they accept advertising for such lotteries but cannot even mention them in news stories.

This newspaper is not interested in having the laws revised to pick up advertising, although it seems a matter of simple justice for secular weeklies to be treated the same as powerful dailies and chains. But we want to help parishes promote such fund-raising events as Bingo, which is largely a recreational pursuit anyway — especially for elder citizens.

We think it is an absurdity that promotion of parish Bingo games should be considered illegal when the state is promoting betting and a numbers lottery.

Therefore we join the National Newspaper Association, an organization of weekly and small daily newspapers, in seeking revision of the law so that all newspapers and citizens be treated the same under the law.

Wide Support

Those who favor liberalized abortion have been quite successful in damaging the pro-life movement by identifying it with the Catholic Church, thus appealing to anti-Catholic bigotry.

That is one of the reasons that the recent meeting of the National Right to Life Committee decided to emphasize the strong inter-religious support for pro-life and to try to expand such sentiment.

The fact that other religions are already involved in the pro-life movement was emphasized.

The Rev. Michael Baldwin, a United Methodist from Yellow Springs, Ohio, charged the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights with using "deceptive rhetoric to substantiate support of abortion on demand." Woe unto them for continuing to give the impression that major Protestant bodies endorse their position.

The Rev. Charles Carroll, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of California, said that if opposition to "permissive abortion is a Catholic issue, I am prepared to stand with Catholics who oppose such devaluing of human life."

Liturgy Seen 'Most Warming'

Editor:

Recently, when the first weekend of camping was over, the weather was less than ideal (being cold and wet) we were warmed not only by propane, but also by the company of relatives who, as luck would have it, are also good friends. But reflecting on that weekend, a special hour is most warming to my memory, and I would like to share it.

As usual, Saturday afternoon we inquired as to the closest Catholic church for services the following day. Our foresighted campground host had arranged for Mass at the recreation hall on Saturday evening.

This seemed an unlikely place for Mass — pizza, pinball machines, and posters of various teen groups including Three Dog Night adorning the place. And was that really a priest? Hush Puppies, overalls, and a tree shirt? But over all this, the familiar vestments were donned and Mass began.

It was a Mass of the people — the people who had assembled there, cold and dirty, smelling of campfires and Coleman fuel. And that priest spoke, as one of us, of the glory of God in our hearts and each other.

The liturgy was unique, but appropriate to the time and place of the service. And the homily was not a sermon, but a reflection on the presence of God in us — a reflection given by a member of this community — not by a teacher to a class.

Walking back to the campsite, in the cold, I reflected on the changes in the Mass. I believe that this is the way the celebration of the Mass was intended. Just as Christ took the word to the people where they lived, shared with them the cold and rain, taught them in their homes using their language and the slang of the day, the Mass was brought to us in that recreation building.

Usually Mass when we are camping is an obligation to be fulfilled as conveniently as possible. This Mass was a celebration of community.

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Nocturnal Adoration

Editor:

The Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) has come and

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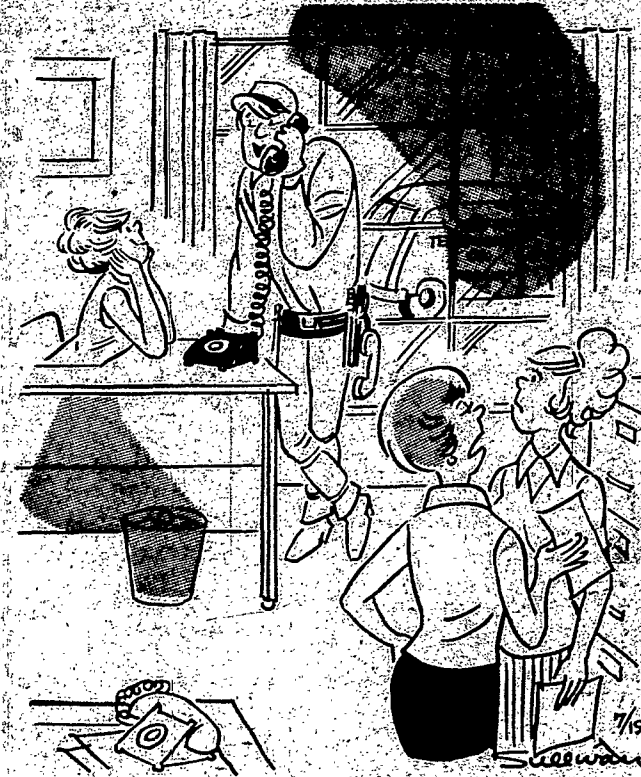
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"I THINK HER DIAL-A-PRAYER HAS BEEN ANSWERED."

gone, and probably the only mention made in many churches was the simple one-line announcement before the Mass, as on any Sunday or Holyday. Yet, this feast celebrates the Eucharist as the very center of our Faith.

Corpus Christi, the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus, directs our attention to Eucharistic Devotion. But such devotion is virtually non-existent, even though the Eucharist is the focal point of the Christian religion.

Corpus Christi is the titular feast of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, an association for Catholic Men (priests and laymen) dedicated to the greater love and honor of Our Lord — Priest, Victim, and King in the Blessed Sacrament. One of the Society's purposes is to atone for the coldness and indifference of so many Catholics toward the Holy Eucharist. Men are brought together in witness to Christ's sacrificial action in the Holy Eucharist by sharing in His night prayer, spending one hour a month before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the hours of the night.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is international. It was founded in Rome in 1810 and has spread to practically every country in the world. National Headquarters are at 194 East 76 St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

Membership is open to all men. There is no age limit, no dues, no social activities. I encourage all the men who read this to talk to their pastors and parish priests about joining the society.

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Gun Control No Answer

Editor:

The Wednesday, May 15, 1974 issue of the Courier-Journal had an article entitled "The Gun Control Question." In view of the fact that the article made several statements which demand an answer, and in my opinion, was inadequate in its presentation of the viewpoint of those opposed to gun prohibition, I feel compelled to reply.

The article contains a statement by a Father Weber to the effect that the NRA is "next to the Mafia — the most dangerously irresponsible organization in the country." It also cites a book by a Mr. Robert Sherrill in which he alleges that there is a "chumminess" between those police officers, congressmen and others who oppose gun prohibition, and the gun industry. These statements amount to little more than character assassination and I can only conclude that these individuals either can't or won't address themselves to the issue and facts raised by those groups and individuals opposed to gun prohibition.

In point of fact the NRA, those police officers and police organizations, congressmen, and others opposed to gun prohibition, are opposed simply because they feel that the "no guns, no crime" philosophy of the gun prohibitionists is not borne out by the facts and because the legislative history of firearms laws in this and foreign countries indicates that such laws will not prevent criminals from obtaining firearms.

Witness the fact that Mr. Colin Greenwood, a British police officer, in his recently published book "Firearms Control: A Study of Armed Crime in England, Scotland, and Wales," points out that despite over 50 years of extremely strict firearms laws, any British criminal who wants a gun can buy one from illegal sources with the greatest of ease. He also points out that Britain has far more crimes involving firearms now than it did before it passed its firearms control laws.

Criminologist Dr. Marvin Wolfgang in his book "Patterns in Criminal Homicide," crime studies analyst Romey P. Narloch, in a study of criminal homicide done for the California Department of Justice, and psychologist Dr. Ernest VanderHaag, in an appearance on the Public Broadcasting Service show "The Advocates," all rejected the theory that there is a relationship between the availability of firearms and the homicide rate, pointing out that those who have reached a mental state in which they are willing to commit murder will do so, regardless of whether or not a firearm is available.

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Grottoes Restored

Editor:

Within the last few months, much activity by the Fathers and Brothers of the Divine Word has brought about a restoration of the once well-known grottoes on Hemlock Lake.

In these beautiful surroundings, devotions and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament are held each Sunday at 4 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

The Society of the Divine Word must be congratulated for bringing about this physical and spiritual renewal.

Thomas G. Donohue
Hemlock Lake
Conesus, N.Y.

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.