

Editorial Insensitivity A Disease

The cultivation of sensitivity is one of the criteria that marks the separation of civilized society from its cruder beginnings. Being aware of the feelings of those who may be superficially different from us and acting sympathetically is a prerequisite in these turbulent times.

If the world community is to be given any credit for enlightenment then we must work to erase the forces of "weism and theyism" that beset us even at this late date in the history of mankind. We must stop concentrating on our differences and begin to build on our similarities — even the simplest inspection reveals that there is far more in common between a white man and a black man, than between, for example, an eagle and a hawk. Yet many prefer to stress the differences between people rather than their similarities.

Bigotry is a strong and perhaps overused word. It implies intentional hatred. Many times words and acts we see as bigoted are more apt to be the result of indifference, stupidity, ignorance or insensitivity. Several recent and unfortunate events fall into these categories.

Action by the Catholic Civil Rights League has brought to general light a booklet published and distributed by the Xerox Corp. which, to put it mildly, implies criminality on the part of Pope Paul VI concerning his encyclical Humanae Vitae. The promulgation of vicious and derogatory statements concerning a man who speaks from a holy and eternal viewpoint on matters such as birth control do not aid in the solution of any problem and certainly promote divisiveness. But this is only one example of boorishness, we hope not to be repeated, in a world beset by the emotionalism inherent in many of our problems.

Lesser examples abound. At a time when Catholics are making it known that they, following in the tradition of other American minorities, no longer will be treated intolerably, a national and respected Catholic newspaper, Twin Circle, has run a cartoon blatantly demeaning Italians. The cartoon supposedly represents an Italian man and wife talking on the new divorce law. The cartoonist first reveals his mental image of Italians as dark, bushy-haired and mustachioed men, and moled women, with aquiline noses distributed evenly.

DA PEOPLE SAY YES! ME ANNA CHURCH-A SAY NO!



DA CHURCH?? SHE STILL-A SAY NO?? EATA YOU SPAGHETTI, LUIGI.

The fact that Italians in their homeland have no reason to speak pigeon English constitutes enough technical fault for any editor to reject the cartoon. An even more ridiculous attitude is revealed by the spinning spoons of spaghetti hand gestures, and implied stupidity. The kind of cartoon one might expect to find in a crass juvenile magazine or an irreputable hate sheet but not in a respected Catholic journal.

Less major but again symptomatic of the disease of insensitivity is a local television station's decision to rerun as regular fare "The Untouchables." Little need exists to rehash the pros and cons concerning this series which semifictionalizes the Al Capone period of the American underworld. Maybe the first time around some could justify it as historical drama, even though it ignores the feelings of Italian-Americans who do not like being identified with Mafia gangsters. But for what reason would anyone want to re-serve this old stew? The answer obviously is insensitivity.

There have been enough events in recent years, ranging from the cataclysmic to the unsettling, to convince all thinking people of the necessity of reconciliation. We must all consciously strive for this, even to the point of becoming aware of the malice inherent in a Polish joke, intended or not.

Opinion

Course Praised

Editor:

I was very pleased to see the picture in your Aug. 14 issue concerning the Gabriel Richard Course being taught to the deaf class.

After taking the course myself four years ago, I have become much more aware of the power we have as individuals to help make the world a better place. The Rochester Center of the Gabriel Richard personal development classes has helped hundreds in this area "come out of their shells" and begin living fuller, more meaningful lives.

I would like to encourage anyone interested in gaining self-confidence, learning to express themselves more clearly, and becoming more effective Christians to contact the director, Richard Morales, at 377-6865, for more information.

Emily D. Petronio
487 Webster Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Priest Chided

Editor:

After reading your editorial (8/18/74) about Father Fortkamp's Ban the Babies (from Mass) movement, it occurred to me that he might read Luke 5, 17-20, with profit.

Anyone bothered by a baby crying would be completely unstrung by the noisy procedure of removing tiles from a roof, and lowering a paralyzed man, bed and all down through the hole into the midst of an assembly.

Eloise (Mrs. Sidney) Wilkin
Lillerand Hus
6309 Shoreacres
Hilton, N.Y. 14468

Why Hospital Is in Trouble

Editor:

Although not a doctor or resident of Seneca County, I've observed closely the plight of such a fine hospital as Taylor-Brown Memorial and the many dedicated people who built it. Doc. David Koch, president of the Medical Society's Seventh District Branch, complains that they are about to lose their obstetrical services because the Health Planning Council requires 60 per cent occupancy and Taylor-Brown is not at 60 per cent. He fears a domino effect,

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 89, No. 17 August 28, 1974

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1



"MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, ST. JEROME..."



"HE'S THE ONLY ONE ON THE PAPER WHO CAN REVEAL HIS SOURCES!"

leading to an eventual complete loss of the hospital.

I agree that it would be a tragedy to close such a vital service to the community. What surprised me was the the author of the letter was Doc. Koch, a major cause of the problem.

What Doc. Koch failed to tell the reader is that he and Drs. William Majors and Paul Jenks have made Taylor-Brown the abortion capital of rural New York. A good deal of money has been made out of the 590 abortions done there last year. His colleague, Doc. Jenks, received a national writeup in the Medical World News for what he calls his "Mid Trimester Obstetrics" where one kills the unborn by salt poisoning.

The July 24 issue of the Rochester Times Union spelled out the ugly story and when I personally sent copies of the article to the local press and radio, not one word was reported to the Seneca County residents. When some concerned citizens there started raising their voices,

the medical staff and board of directors had a vote whether to continue the slaughter. As I understand it now, officially, they will not allow abortions to be performed beyond the 18th week. How nice! What women wants to have a baby in such an institution? No wonder they go elsewhere!

How about it, Doc. Koch, when are you and some of your nurses, and your anesthesiologists and your fellow obstetricians going to stop this killing?

Alban J. Reichert
Attorney and Counselor at Law
45 Exchange St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14514

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richard 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.

OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Board News

[C] 1974, Voice Publications. Bernard Lyons is editor of COUNCIL Newsletter. For a free copy of COUNCIL, write P.O. Box 3455, Chicago, IL 60654.

A parish annual report can be a big help in community building.

Illustrations and graphic word-pictures can help to tell the story of your worshipping community and the persons who contribute to its life.

A message from your bishop, and suitable other additions, can tie the parish into the life of the diocese (e.g. diocesan newspaper, family life bureau) and contribute to an understanding of the "local Church."

The annual report can be a tool for adult education.

Don't just present statistics on baptisms, communions and confirmations, but add instructions and photos so that the reader gains an understanding of the action of these sacraments.

The suitable addition of quotes from the Scriptures, documents of Vatican Council II, and your own bishop can help, too, in not only the artistic rendering of the layout, but also in the comprehensive picture that the report gives of a Christ-centered and universal Church.

Committee reports don't need to be dry listings of activities and

meetings. Stimulate further growth in your community by having committee reports that use a feature style that has names, concrete situations and photos.

The annual report is the ideal place to give recognition to the leaders and workers of the parish council.

Show appreciation, too, for the many "back-pew" Catholics whose steady contributions make certain projects possible, by spelling out the meaning of the financial figures in a person-to-person way.

For example, don't stop at showing the thousands of pounds of clothing contributed to the Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Collection, but illustrate the collection in your parish by showing persons contributing their clothing and then printing photos of persons in other countries using the clothing or in need of clothing.

A similar approach may be used in other areas.

Don't talk about ecumenism in the abstract. Show members of your Community Life Commission in a shirt-sleeve meeting with persons of other denominations, working on a specific, identifiable program.

The issuing of your annual report can be the opportunity for a parish-wide meeting.