

## Editorial End Racism

"Racism is alive and well" in the Catholic Church, according to the editor of a Chicago newspaper. We have made similar comment and have expressed the folly of preserving such out-moded thinking in face of declining Church membership and even while blacks are clamoring for more responsibility within the Church.

True, the Church is no more guilty of racism than any other predominantly white organization and, true, the racism is more an error of omission than of commission, but equally true is that its unseemliness is compounded in a Christian body.

The Chicago editor, John McDermott, former executive director of the Catholic Interracial Council and executive secretary of the Chicago Conference on Religion and Race, also had a challenge in his talk to Midwest members of the Catholic Press Association.

He said that "Catholic America has been given the mantle of leadership in solving this problem and leading ahead."

If this be true, we pray that we Catholics are ready for the task. There are signs that we are. Among these are the commitment of Catholic schools to ghetto children, regardless of race or religion; the work of the Human Development Office; and increasing support for the rights of minority groups of all shades. These are on the national scene. Pope Paul VI by his visit to Africa, by his concern for the Third World, and by his increasing the number of blacks in the world hierarchy, has provided personal leadership.

But these are only beginnings. Blacks not only must be treated in Christian manner but must be made to feel welcome in our churches, councils and homes — and that means without imposing any superficial requirements, such as a white brand of liturgy.

We agree with McDermott that action by the Catholic press is necessary. One of our functions is to point up abuses of social justice. And we also must bear some of the responsibility for the slow movement of the Church in the direction of a racial unity.

But at least there is movement, which is fitting for our Pilgrim Church.

## Bilingual Progress

It's up to the House of Representatives now.

The Senate has passed a bill to "provide more effectively for bilingual proceedings in all district courts of the United States."

Author of the Bilingual Courts Act is Sen. John V. Tunney of California and his remarks to Religious News Service point up the need for the bill. He noted that being a defendant or party to a court case is "frightening and disturbing" to anyone, but the effect of such an experience is "compounded" when the person is unable to understand English.

"Moreover," he stated, "it is clearly a violation of the Constitution for court proceedings to be carried forward when a defendant cannot understand them."

Amen.

## Opinions

Often letters arrive here which seem to be intended for our Opinion page but are not so indicated. Before we print such letters we must be sure that it is the writer's intention to have us do so, particularly to save embarrassment for the writer.

Thus we remind contributors to this page to indicate clearly that the letter is meant for publication by addressing it to Opinion, this paper.

We would also like to remind readers that we must maintain a policy of a maximum length of 1 1/2 pages, typewritten double spaced, with name and address included. Good taste, of course, is required.

The newspaper must reserve the right to edit all letters so those letters that state that they must not be touched in any way, cannot be used.

May we also take this occasion and brief space to thank all those who write letters to Opinion for providing food for thought for all our readers.

## Opinion

### Book Was Suppressed

Editor:

After Oliver Cromwell had defeated the Irish Catholic Confederation, he established an English garrison at Kilkenny. Life was boring for the soldiers, and they developed a "game" to provide excitement. They tied two Irish cats together by the tails and hung them over a line. The cats, struggling to free themselves, clawed and chewed each other to death.

Dr. Rona M. Fields, a social psychologist at Clark University, spent a year studying conflict in Northern Ireland and concluded that the Kilkenny cat tactic was being used again but with more efficient scientific mechanisms than the old hemp rope.

In her book, "A Society on the Run: A Psychology of Northern Ireland," Dr. Field contends that since all previous attempts to eliminate the unique characteristics of the Irish had failed, British psychological warfare experts now use chemical and mechanical stimuli to engineer chromosomal damage in their victims to ensure that the yet unborn Irish will not be able to continue the struggle against foreign domination. Psychological genocide is a serious charge which, if false, could be refuted by Dr. Fields' professional peers. However, her book has met a different fate.

"A Society on the Run" was a best seller in Ireland in early November 1973. Suddenly, this money-maker was withdrawn from sale by the publisher, Penguin, Ltd. has not explained why it cannot supply copies since it is known to have at least 10,000 in stock.

While the American press is quick to give headlines when the Russian Communists ban a book or destroy the works of a modernistic artist, the suppression of Dr. Fields' book has not merited even a paragraph on a page with the classified ads. This appears to be selective morality in which we expose the wrongdoings of our enemies but cover up the sins of our allies.

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### Wilson Act Is Praised

Editor:

I would like to share with your readers an experience with Malcolm Wilson which I had as chairman of the legislative committee of the New York State Right To Life.

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Courier-Journal



"DID HE GIVE ANY OTHER REASON FOR LEAVING HOME BESIDES THE BELLY-DANCING CLASSES?"

We had heard several instances where children aborted alive were simply left to thrash and die without medical assistance, and in some instances, i.e., in Massachusetts and Florida, they were intentionally killed. Some, while alive, were used for experimentation. New York had in excess of 40,000 abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy since the 1970 liberalized abortion law.

Consequently, a bill was drafted whose main purpose was to require life saving medical attention to those babies aborted alive and to prevent live human experimentation upon them. It did not prohibit the abortion.

Yet, upon introduction of this bill into the legislative session there was unanticipated opposition from the strong pro-abortion legislators such as Mary Ann Krupsak, Thomas Frey, Donald Cook and William Steinfeldt. Fearing a loss, the sponsor withdrew his bill, and it appeared certain that the bill was dead.

An urgent humane appeal was then made to Gov. Wilson. He was asked to forsake the political practicality of remaining neutral on an issue involving the lives of innocent human beings. He did not have to get involved in an election year. Gov. Wilson responded as a man and a human being. He attached a message of necessity to the bill, and it was passed overwhelmingly by the pro-life legislators in the Senate and the Assembly.

According to the polls and the threats of the extremist pro-abortion groups, Gov. Wilson may well lose the election. If he does, I, for one, will sadly regret the loss from political life of a courageous man who, at the highest point in his career, placed innocent human lives above political considerations. Certainly, a striking contrast to the pragmatic and evasive position taken by Hugh Carey on the same issue and Hugh Carey's strident pro-abortionist running mate.

If we are to have a society where each innocent human life is once again recognized as God-given and inalienable, then we must elect men who not only share the faith of our forefathers, but also share their courage to declare and act upon that faith. Such courage deserves our highest support!

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### Mother Agnes Thanks Diocese

Editor:

Through the Courier-Journal may I express to the Church of the diocese of Rochester the sincere gratitude of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the continued support of our efforts in the area

of total human development with the poor in Alabama and Brazil.

In one sense, today our diocese, our city, our parish have become global in their boundaries. Caring persons need to be concerned about our suffering brothers in far off places. Through wondrous technological advances these are as near to us as our neighbors in the next block. In "Christ-like" love we cannot remain unaware of their great suffering, whatever form it may take.

As you know, some of our Sisters are engaged in helping these impoverished ones find the reality of the Christian message. However, without the strong, tangible aid of the caring persons of the diocese of Rochester, their apostolate would be impossible. Our gratitude deepens conscious as we are of the many increased demands generated in our society and the growing needs here at home. That sacrifice has been incurred by you is evident. May you then have a deep joy and peace in the realization that you are sharing in a definite way in the loving response of brother to brother. The Church in Selma, in the dioceses of Jatai and Uberlandia, Brazil is stronger today because of you, the Church of Rochester.

Mother Agnes Cecilia Troy,  
Superior General  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester

### Friends Are Not 'Chaff'

Editor:

My response to Clarence Styza's reference (C-J 10/2/74) to many of my friends and co-workers who have left the active ministry as "chaff," "dead wood," "dead elms," etc. is one of great sadness and discouragement. If the people whom we serve as active priests in the Catholic Church today have an un-Christ-like attitude as you obviously reflect (at least toward some of your brother and sister Christians), then perhaps we should all consider another ministry. Please, Mr. Styza, don't make it any more discouraging for us than it can sometimes be already.

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Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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