

Editorial

This Is Fun?

Perhaps you can judge a civilization by its entertainment and if that holds any truth and one looks at some of the happenings in the United States world of sports, it is cause for concern.

A highly quoted and respected football coach blows his cool after losing one game following a long winning streak. He publicly accuses the other team of playing dirty, says the officiating done him in, and although it hasn't been verified, has been accused of hitting a student jeering at him.

If this is collegiate sports then someone should be bringing it down a few steps to reduce the pressure.

Another coach who has reveled in being called a "fighter" challenges a reporter to fisticuffs when asked if he still considers himself thus after his team suffered a long string of reversals.

If this is professionalism, then something is wrong with the criteria for so judging.

Other incidents are too numerous and visible to be itemized — baseball fans throwing bottles at players, high school coaches exhorting players to maim, etc., etc.

If this be the nation's entertainment what are we expected to do when we get down to business in a world reeling with friction?

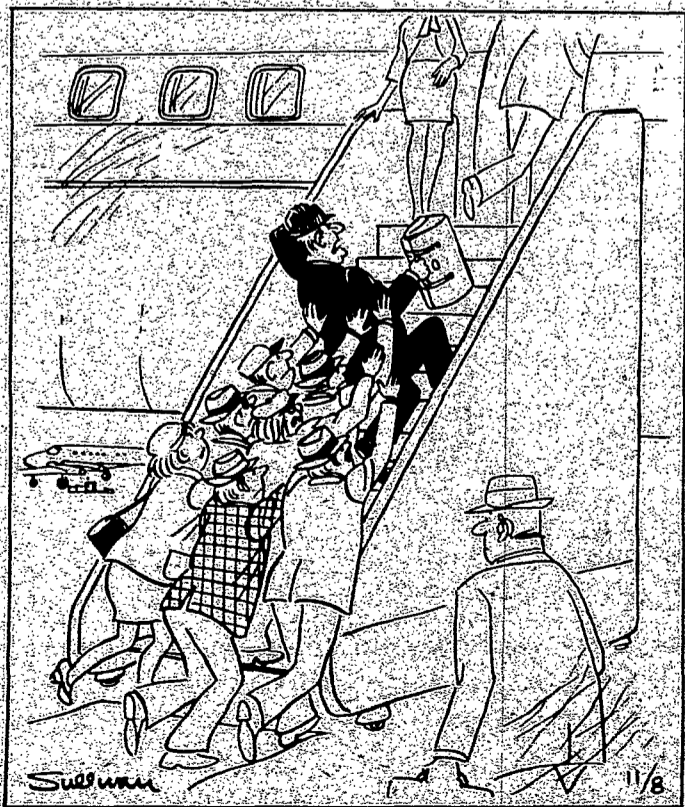
A Chance to Share

At the risk of overusing the word sharing we would like to point out that two of the efforts being undertaken in the diocese this week provide the opportunity for doing just that. They are the Human Development collection scheduled for next weekend and the sixth annual Courier-Journal Christmas Fund to help the underprivileged in the diocese.

Both aim to assist those at home who need help; a portion of the Human Development campaign goes to help our brothers and sisters in need throughout the United States, another portion is used right here in the diocese. The Courier drive, of course, benefits those deemed in most need at Christmastime by Catholic Charities.

Both drives go directly to the heart of problems of those next-door, so to speak. The basic idea of Human Development is to provide help so that others may help themselves. The principle behind the Courier-Journal campaign is to keep anyone near to us from feeling ignored at the special occasion of Christ's birth.

For those that "have" it is a splendid effort to share with those who have not.



* THIS TIME YOUR PARISH COUNCIL PEOPLE HAVE GONE TOO FAR! *

Fr. Greeley Disputed

Editor:

"I do not know exactly what such a Church will look like but I think it will be an interesting one, and I would like to be around to see it, but I don't expect to be."

These are the words of Father Andrew Greeley in an article 'Communal Catholics to Gain; Institutional Types to Lose' (Courier-Journal 11/6/74).

First of all, I wish Father Greeley would use the small letter c in referring to this post Vatican II "new breed" Church he goes on to describe. I would not disagree that the term catholic or universal could very well describe the average lukewarm Catholic today who likes to do his "own thing" for no doubt this type of person is in the majority. However let us consider the other identifying marks of the Church.

The Catholic Church is also one — it was Christ's own prayer that we all be one in Him. How can we ever become one when we take it upon our own shoulders to sever ourselves from ecclesiastical authority and completely disregard religious, social or moral guidance from our hierarchy? How can we be the holy Catholic Church when we disregard religious books, magazines, etc. and throw out our Fatima devotions?

It is only logical then that the institutional Church would have less and less influence over its people. Our Lord told us Himself to "Be perfect as my heavenly Father is perfect."

Considering "apostolicity," Father Greeley feels that the new renewal groups will be in "precipitous decline." These renewal groups are only carrying out Christ's message, as new apostles, to spread the Good News to all men and Pope Paul VI has specifically declared 1975 as the year of evangelization of the whole Church.

Perhaps Father Greeley will be disenchanted when his so called "new breed" Church starts to develop increased devotion to Mary and her rosary, when there is a new search for dependence on papal authority and sacred scripture and an apostolic zeal that is overwhelming. In the end, renewal groups may very well disappear for Christ's kingdom on earth will be achieved.

I have one suggestion for Father Greeley and his "communal Catholics" and that is to say the Our Father very slowly, pausing on the words "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

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Abortion . . . No Compromise

Editor:

I would like to ask Mr. O'Loane, and all who support abortion occurring after rape, incest, or a high probability of the birth of a badly deformed child, or any other reason, who gave man the the right to compromise God's laws? Most abortions are really a means of birth control, and how can we in this rich country, continue in our Pledge of Allegiance, to profess to be "One nation under God," when we have laws which make it legal to slaughter unborn babies?

Also, does Mr. O'Loane know that many of the same people who fought for the legal right to

murder infants, are also directing their efforts to a bill which would legalize euthanasia? I'm already 41. I shudder to think of the wholesale slaughter of the old, chronically ill, mentally retarded, and just about anyone who was an inconvenience to society. We are living in a greedy, anything goes society, so who will we appoint to decide who shall live and who shall die?

A quote from the Reader's Digest: "We don't break God's laws, we break ourselves against them." Let us all work and pray that we may bring God's kingdom to others, and that we may not be tempted to compromise our Christianity.

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Distinctions Unnecessary

Editor:

I write in response to Daniel O'Neill's letter in your Oct. 30 issue, regarding the wearing of a habit by women in religious communities. Fortunately for your readers, Mr. O'Neill's letter inadvertently raises some larger questions for the Church.

First of all, how is it that women only fall into the three categories of housewives, secretaries, and Sister? A modicum of awareness would indicate that laywomen in the contemporary world contribute to society in professional and administrative roles, as well as in the two traditional careers he mentioned. Moreover, why should Sisters be divided from "sisters"? This is precisely one of the major insights of the women's liberation movement, an insight which many religious women have wisely appropriated, and which Sisters of Saint Joseph can proudly say echoes the very intention of our founder:

" . . . the Sister of Saint Joseph moves always towards . . . love of neighbor without distinction — from whom she does not separate herself . . ." (Central Ideas of the Foundress)

In contrast, the institutions of the military, the universities, and the Church, all of which have been dominated by men, show a marked propensity for the careful delineation of status groups, with every kind of title, uniform, and decoration to show who is who in the hierarchy of things. Many women are saying "goodbye to all that," because we believe the Spirit knows no man-made boundaries. Sisterhood means solidarity with all our sisters and brothers in the struggle to become all God calls us to be.

Eleanor Celentani
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'Gun Control' Won't Work

Editor:

Regarding the Courier-Journal publication referring to gun control (10/30/74):

Suggest you read the Second Amendment. I don't know who wrote that tripe, but please tell him or her for me that the article is misleading.

Check the last sentence and you will know what I mean.

I have alerted the National Rifle Association of America and sent them a copy of the article.

Gun control, so called, doesn't work in England or Ireland but it does work in Cuba, Russia, China, Poland and East Germany and so does control of the press.

Now, give us an article on why gun control won't work in our country, or do you intend to present only one side of the issue?

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Clarifier On Baptism

Editor:

The statement of Frank and Sue Staropoli, "We now believe that Christ has already saved everyone, and that Baptism is the celebration of our special call, as Catholics to spread the good news" (11/6), requires some clarification. By his passion and death, Christ redeemed the world and regained for fallen man the supernatural life known as sanctifying grace. However, this sanctifying grace, which is a sharing of the Divine Life, was not immediately restored to the souls of men by the Redeemer. Rather, man must in some way cooperate in the work of the redemption. He cooperates through the reception of Baptism. Through Baptism the life of God is again restored to our souls. We become children of God in a very real sense because we share the Divine Life; but in an adoptive and limited sense. We do not have it by nature, as Jesus did, but only because God chose to give it to us. Hence, Baptism is more than a special call to us as Catholics to spread the Good News. It is the restoration of the divine life of God to the individual soul.

Before this, we are merely human children; after Baptism, we are God's children by adoption. Original sin, which is essentially the stigma of being born without the participation in the Divine Life which our first parents enjoyed, is removed. We are again children of God, sharing the divine life of the Father. As children of the Father, obviously, we are called to spread the Good News of God's love for us as manifested through the Redemption. Baptism in some form — water, desire, blood — is necessary for salvation because it is through Baptism that the Divine Life is again restored to the individual soul.

Before Baptism we are merely human children, not God's children — we do not share the divine life. If we do not share God's life through baptism in this life, we cannot share God's life after death. This state of merely natural happiness is Limbo. Limbo is a state of being, not a place. It is the state of those who die without guilt of serious sin but who, nevertheless, do not share the Divine Life.

We thank Mr. and Mrs. Staropoli for their kind invitation to be present at the Baptism of their daughter and to share their joy on that occasion. May God bless them and the children they have given to Him.

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

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.