

**Editorial**

**Butz Tasteless**

It was gratifying to see the office of Cardinal Terence Cooke act so quickly against offensive remarks made by Earl Butz, U.S. secretary of agriculture. And President Ford deserves credit for recognizing the crudity of Butz's remark and demanding a public apology which was rendered.

Apparently we will always have with us so-called grownups who resort to sophomoric and insensitive brands of humor. A recent vice president suffered from this malady, claiming that he didn't realize that terms such as Fat Jap and Polack were objectionable. And very recently a high Army official made anti-Semitic remarks.

One wonders if such men rose to high office in spite of or because of their disregard for those who may be different from the majority.

And many may be only slightly disturbed by Butz's resorting to pigeon English to defame a holy man, Pope Paul VI, and a whole nationality, the Italians. Such off-the-record tastelessness, however, reveals more about a man than the whole body of his public statements.

Apparently he will be allowed to stay on the job. We regret that.

**Peace Message**

The proposed agreement to decelerate the nuclear arms race announced last week by the United States and the Soviet Union is welcome news. It does not, of course, insure peace or freedom from nuclear holocaust, but it does represent a tiny ray of light amid the ominous clouds of world destruction that have been shading so many of our activities.

The Catholic Church, as it increasingly gets involved in such political matters, saw one of its clerics speak at the United Nations General Assembly on the same topic last week.

Father John Lucel, an American Jesuit member of the Vatican delegation to the U.N., told the General Assembly political committee that the Holy See believes that the solution to most other global problems depends upon a rapid end to the arms race.

He said that he did not wish to put the blame for the arms emphasis on any one nation but hoped to build bridges between nations.

He said that the Vatican "is concerned not only with the proliferation of nuclear weapons but also with evolving non-nuclear weapons. The Holy See also advocates the elimination of chemical and bacteriological weapons, as well as weapons that can be used in environmental warfare."

Beautiful thoughts. And although the U.N. has been a less than effective means to peace in recent times, in this case it performed the unique service that only it is capable of. It provided a forum for a state which has no ulterior motives to have its message of peace heard by the world family of nations.

**Good and Bad**

Some good news and some bad news.

First the good news.

Religious News Service reports that the latest Vatican statistics show that Roman Catholics worldwide numbered 683 million at the end of 1972, a gain of 14 million over 1971.

Now the bad news.

In that same time span, the number of diocesan priests dropped from 271,852 to 268,976, a loss of 2,875. The number of religious order priests fell by 1,436 from 165,856 to 164,420.

The widening statistical gap speaks for itself. Laymen must assume more of the responsibility for their Church.

And active vocation campaigns, such as conducted in this diocese, must have all our support.

**Opinion**

**New Uses For Old Stamps**

Editor:

The retired people at St. Francis Village would appreciate cancelled postage stamps. They enjoy getting together and sorting the stamps. The money that is realized from the sale of stamps is used for the welfare of the retirement village. Please leave a little paper around each stamp. This prevents it from being damaged and also makes it easier to handle.

Kindly mail the stamps to: St. Francis Retirement Village, P.O. Box 16310, Fort Worth, Texas 76133.

On my part I will remember you in my Holy Masses for your trouble in saving and sending us the stamps.

Rev. Philip Marquard,  
O.F.M., Director  
St. Francis Retirement Village

**Suggested reading**

Editor:

This is a response to John Nawrocki's letter in the Nov. 13 issue.

My dear brother John;

May I ask you please to read the gospel of Matthew 5:38-48. In these passages you and I receive the only new message from Jesus the Christ. If, after reading, you do not understand it, my I ask you to join an Adult Ed class anywhere in the diocese. Perhaps in a community of the faithful this message which was written in a community can be best understood.

My own reflection is that we have certainly watered down the Christian message to reflect our needs, our wants. But God continues to draw us, like a magnet to fullness of being that includes loving our enemies. May the peace of Christ be with you!

Rosalie Muschal Reinhardt  
6830 Fairmount Ave.  
Downers Grove, Ill. 60515

**Versed Praise For Pastor**

Editor:

I would like to pay tribute to our pastor, Father Peter Nobili, at Most Precious Blood Church. A lot of his work goes unnoticed because he does so much on his own. With the help of some parishioners, he is in the process

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Courier Journal 1



"YOU KNOW THOSE DISASTER STORIES—THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE, AIRPORT '75, AND EARTHQUAKE? WELL, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR YOU—IT'S CALLED 'THE SUNDAY COLLECTION!'"

of painting and wall papering the convent. He also drives the school bus every day, making four runs. This is a poem I wrote about him.

**OUR PASTOR-FATHER PETER**

He hops on the bus  
at ten to eight  
Rushing around so  
he won't be late  
Starting the motor,  
away he goes  
On a route,  
so well he knows.

Picking up children,  
wishing them well  
He brings them to  
school, before that bell.  
He's our pastor,  
our priest on the bus.  
We work for him,  
and he prays for us.

Diana Triano  
Kindergarten Teacher  
at M.P.B.

home-manufactured guns would thrive. No one wants to see good handgun laws more than the legitimate pistol shooter. Please consult with him prior to the hasty passage of laws which may only serve to harass him.

Fred Sauter  
203 Dohrcrest Drive  
Rochester, New York 14612

**Ecumenical Invitation**

Editor:

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the Mother Church of Elmira, will begin first five Saturday devotions of the Blue Army, in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. We are affiliated with the diocesan Blue Army Center.

While the Pilgrim Virgin statue was on tour here, many people signed pledges of membership to the Blue Army. We should like to extend an invitation to all surrounding Catholic churches and their members to bring non-Catholic brethren, friends and neighbors to unite with us in this special devotion to Our Lady, and welcome members into the Blue Army Cell as well.

Father Edward J. Foy, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul, will be the spiritual director for our area.

We pray you and your friends and neighbors, Catholic or not, to unite with us on the first commencement of our Blue Army Cell.

Let's return the world to Jesus through Mary, and pray that all might be one in the spirit of the scriptural rosary, which reflects the sacred Scriptures through a never ending circle of prayers.

One prayerful reminder for those who have rosary beads, please remember to bring them.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Joseph and the Holy Spirit bless you and yours always!

Mrs. Charles G. Todd  
1150 Charles St.  
Elmira, N.Y.

**Gun Control Viewpoint**

Editor:

Seeing that the issue of handgun control is with us again, I would like to make several points.

First, this state's handgun laws are already among the nation's most stringent. To obtain a handgun permit in Monroe County, you must be fingerprinted twice, be cleared by local police, be cleared by the FBI, be cleared by the State Board of Mental Health, submit five passport-quality photos, submit six sworn affidavits by personal character references, and have the permit issued by a county judge. Also, anyone who brings or sends a handgun into New York State (except to a federal firearms licensee or law officer) is guilty of a **FELONY** under the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968. If people are now willing to possess handguns illegally in felonious violation of both New York State and U.S. law, what indication is there that they will be deterred from handgun possession or manufacture by further legislation?

Pistol shooting is a recognized Olympic sport and requires considerable coordination and self-discipline. Competitive pistol shooting generates few headlines. In Rochester, during the summer, 3,000 to 4,500 shots are fired competitively every Monday night in the Twilight Pistol League. I would venture that in the course of a year close to 250,000 shots are fired in competitive target shooting in the Rochester area. Further gun laws would only hamper the law-abiding citizen.

The banning of handguns is impossible; illegal imports and

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.