

**Editorial**

**The Spirit of 75**

The major Vatican document on Catholic-Jewish relations in its conciliatory approach is perfectly suited to launch Holy Year 1975, the theme of which is reconciliation.

If properly implemented locally and globally, as is its intent, it can go a long way toward restoring love and brotherhood between two of the world's great religions. Of course, a document is only abstract; it won't work unless we the people put its suggestions into effect.

Some Jewish spokesmen, while lauding the document generally, have criticized what they see as conversionary aspects, that the Church may use it to proselytize among Jewry.

The section at question states that the Church "must preach Jesus Christ to the world" if she is to be true to her very nature. However, critics at first judgment seem to have overlooked the fact that this statement is followed by "lest the witness of Catholics to Jesus Christ should give offense to Jews, they (Catholics) must take care to live and spread their Christian faith while maintaining the strictest respect for religious freedom."

An earlier version also reportedly included a section calling on Catholics to respect the "religious significance of Israel" which is not in the final document. Some Jewish leaders will find fault with this. Regardless, there is still enough in the document to justify joy.

It reiterates that what happened to Jesus "cannot be blamed on all Jews then living, without distinction, or upon the Jews of today."

It calls for common prayer; greater efforts toward the understanding that the Old Testament "retains its perpetual value" and has not been "canceled out" by the New Testament; urges clarification of liturgical readings in which Jewry in general seems to be castigated; calls on Catholic education to produce a greater understanding of Judaism and its relationship to Christianity; and urges the two faiths to work together "for the good of mankind."

These few details are only the surface; we urge all to read the account of this document on Page 1, assimilate it, and put it into action.

In endorsing the document, we congratulate all who took part in its formulation, and pray that its light of reason will angur well for us all spiritually and in living together harmoniously.

We also feel that if the world is to give credit to Pope John XXIII for the infusion of love that sparked Vatican II then Pope Paul VI, in the light of such documents, must be praised for providing the nuts and bolts to make the Council's teachings effective in the world.

To them and to our Jewish brethren, Shalom!

**A Just Bill**

The bill, or *pelota* if you will, on more effective bilingual proceedings in federal courts is now in the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Senate has passed a bill to provide for more effective bilingual proceedings in all federal district courts. The measure, now in the House, could become law by September if passed there and signed by President Ford.

Author of the bill in the Senate is Sen. John V. Tunney who numbers hundreds of thousands of Spanish-speaking citizens in his California constituency. In promoting the bill he made the correct observation that being a defendant or a party to a civil case is "frightening and disturbing" to practically anyone but the effect of such experience is "compounded" when a person cannot understand English.

More than that, it is a clear injustice when proceedings are carried on in a language that the defendant cannot understand.

The Bi-Lingual Courts Act is overdue. Let your representative know that you support this bill in the interest of simple justice.

**Opinion**

**Oldster Feels Unwelcome**

**Editor:**

Now that the New Year is but a few days old you might say I hope pastors of churches in the neighborhood of housing for senior citizens will give what I have to say some thought.

For years we (senior citizens) live in one parish and we give of our time, ourselves and money; and then time goes by and, due to things we have no control over, we find ourselves without our mate in a strange neighborhood, among strangers and in a strange parish.

This is a time when we need to be assured we are welcome, that the friendly hands of the clergy will be held out to us and we will be made welcome.

But, sorry to say, this is not the case in some parishes. The only recognition we receive are envelopes for the collection basket, no little note, no telephone call, no parishioner sent to say welcome. Not even from the pulpit do they say we are glad you are here. I am sure we do not expect much from our clergy, just to hear Mass, and receive Communion. I am sure that doesn't come to much.

If this complaint fits anyone who reads it then they should try to correct it. I hope we can start the New Year off better. In closing, may God bless all our clergy and our elder citizens and may the late evening of our lives be made a little better.

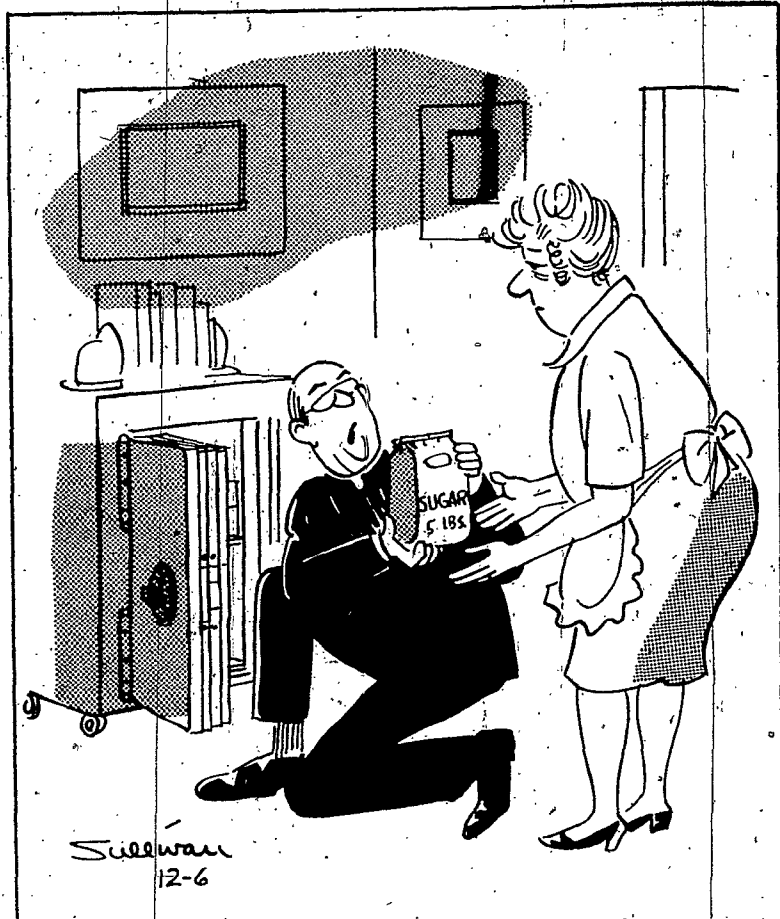
Mrs. Frank J. Smith  
[address withheld on request]

**Adversity Fosters Love**

**Editor:**

How does it feel to be a recipient of charity? I, a mother of six children, have a physical handicap slowing the normal pattern of life, leaving frustration beyond description along with a constant state of fatigue. Bad? No! It brings me daily to a closer unity to people and God and sheds light on my need for both. When financial disaster as well as other obstacles block my path, I turn to the One source of hope and He comes to me—present in you—over and over again. No wonder I continue to reflect on His love.

Not just in the Christmas season but all through the year beautiful people have lifted my spirits. I would like to relate the stories of unexpected Christmas



"TRY TO MAKE THIS ONE LAST, MRS. MURDY!"

deliveries but it would consume too much space if detailed descriptions were attempted of the kindness shown this family.

During the days before Christmas one of the children was hospitalized for dental surgery. Although I am still in the long process of applying for medicaid, the doctors and dentists at the Genesee Hospital were marvelous. The gift of time donated to me by a friend and her husband in driving me to and from the hospital every day will live on in my memories of love in people.

If all material things are lost but faith is held fast, then bitterness cannot grow because Christ is reflected in you. When the path before me is impassable by me, I remember that "Nothing is impossible for God." I write this with gratitude for a taste of poverty for in it I have discovered many truths that are inconceivable in security. How do I feel about this charity? Humble—grateful—and ever so close to Christ.

Name Withheld

**How China Feeds Millions**

**Editor:**

A letter you published on December 18 from Mr. Robert Bart of Ithaca suggested "socialist collective farming is the one biggest reason for food shortages because it destroys incentive

While Mr. Bart may be correct with regard to some places in the world (such as the Soviet Union), he is wrong with regard to mainland China. It appears to be precisely the socialist collectivist system in China which has prevented serious food shortages in China. The collective system simplifies the mobilization of labor for massive water control and land improvement projects which have been necessary to reduce the impact of flood and drought, and to utilize modern inputs. Also, because agriculture is collective in China, everyone shares in the benefits of improvements. There are no landless laborers or tenant farmers who get squeezed in hard times. If the weather is bad, the shortages are distributed evenly so no one starves.

There has been a problem in developing incentives, but over the years the Chinese have developed a system which rewards individual labor and group effort together. The Chinese incentive system is much

more sophisticated than the one in the Soviet Union's rural sector.

When we look at populous Asian countries such as Bangladesh and India, we are overwhelmed by the misery and starvation of large segments of the population. By comparison, socialist collective farming in China makes a lot of sense.

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**A Sincere Thanks**

**Editor:**

At a time when the economy is so shaky, employment is so uncertain, and the national picture is so unclear, there is always the fear that the number of needy people will constantly increase while the number of contributors will decrease. Such was the fear as we embarked on the 1974 Courier Journal - Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal.

But the response by people all over the Diocese of Rochester was overwhelming! I am sure these people realized the dire situation of so many others. Their deep charity and concern for less fortunate people motivated them to be even more generous than they had previously planned.

As a result, the contributions totaled about \$2,500 more than last year. Over 2,000 families were assisted; more than last year, and to a greater extent. What else can one say?

On behalf of all the people who were helped, may I personally express my most sincere gratitude to all of you, the contributors. My wish and prayer is that Almighty God will bless you and yours abundantly during 1975, that it may truly be a Happy and Holy New Year.

Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio  
Diocesan Director  
Catholic Charities

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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.

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