

Editorial

'Triage' Not Acceptable

Triage. A French word. You should be hearing more about it. It is a matter of great concern.

Triage is a French word meaning "selection." In the context of the present world situation it has macabre overtones.

In World War I when French field surgeons were confronted with battlefield decisions, the word triage (selection) first came into usage. The medics made quick selections among the injured, setting aside those who would probably recover on their own, those who probably would not and a third group who probably could be saved through medical and surgical care. Because of the emergency situation, only the third group would be treated.

A religious newsletter, Newsprint, points out that the word achieved more general usage in a book called *Famine — 1975*, which proposed triage as a method of allocating U.S. food, internationally, in the coming time of famine the authors predicted. The book was written in 1967. 1975 is now.

The concept has surfaced in present discussions in how to handle the problems in many parts of the world and it has gained support among some American food economists.

The idea of triage must be condemned. As human beings we cannot let our sisters and brothers die of starvation because it would be easier and more practical to feed others. Triage is inhumane, ignoring the quality of all human life. It is an expedient, bargain basement solution to our economic problems. Surely this country cannot consider becoming the Big Brother of another book, deciding who shall live and who shall die in the world.

We, the world, have food enough. Like wealth it is distributed unevenly. The haves must help the have-nots. Many avenues of action are available.

The World Hunger Committee right here in Rochester has published a booklet describing courses of action and listing agencies joined in the good fight to make as much food as possible available to as many as need it. The address is 750 W. Main St. The telephone number is 716-328-6400. Give them a call. They need your help.

Number 1 Concern

We agree with Religious News Service which named as its number one religious news story of 1974 "the moral challenge to religion to respond to the needs of humanity in a world of crisis brought on by food and energy shortages, population growth and inflation."

We long have editorialized that no one who thinks of himself as religious can turn his back on the problems of his brothers and sisters suffering anywhere in the world.

By now no one can have missed the terrible photos in newspapers or even more graphic film accounts on television of children starving to death in their mothers' arms. No one should be able to sit back comfortably while rich nations of the world, including this one, bicker over what to do while children starve.

It is the number one story of the year, religious or otherwise. It is the number one challenge of the year. And it must be our number one concern for 1975.

A Better Use

We appreciate the simplicity and reason of a suggestion by a Philippine archbishop, Jaime L. Sin of Manila. Noting famine in many parts of the world, Archbishop Sin has appealed for an end to the practice of tossing rice at newlyweds. Rice is food, he pointed out, and should not be wasted.

Opinion

RapAround Praised

Editor:

I'm so pleased with your new feature, RapAround, and would like to give Joan M. Smith my best wishes for her new feature in the Courier-Journal.

I thoroughly enjoyed the entire portion devoted to all aspects of school life involving our diocesan high schools. It's certainly time people in our diocese know what is happening in our high schools and know what good things are being done by our young people today.

I am a 30-year-old housewife with two young children and am a 1961 graduate of Nazareth Academy. I have never forgotten my high school years, and what the Sisters at Nazareth did for me in molding my life. I know your new feature is going to give many surprises about life in a parochial high school to many people of all ages.

It is my sincere hope that RapAround enjoys a long stay in the Courier. I'm excited to know that I can keep up with activities at my Alma Mater and also to keep abreast of what other schools are doing.

Mrs. Elizabeth Grieco
127 Webster Road
Spencerport, New York 14559

Slavery Cited In Red China

Editor:

Mr. Benedict Stavis in his letter to the Courier-Journal (1/8/75) announced that collective farming was working in mainland China.

Mr. Benedict also mentioned that the "Chinese have developed a system which rewards individual labor and group effort together."

And what is that system Mr. Benedict?

Professor Michael Lindsay who has had much experience in dealing with the Chinese Communists noted that they had promised millions of Chinese peasants their own farms but instead, forced them into collective farms which was virtual slavery.

Professor Lindsay also noted that "a feature of the Chinese economy that is entirely a policy is the very large expenditure on prestige projects — Numerous large buildings whose primary purpose was to glorify the Chinese Communist party of Chairman

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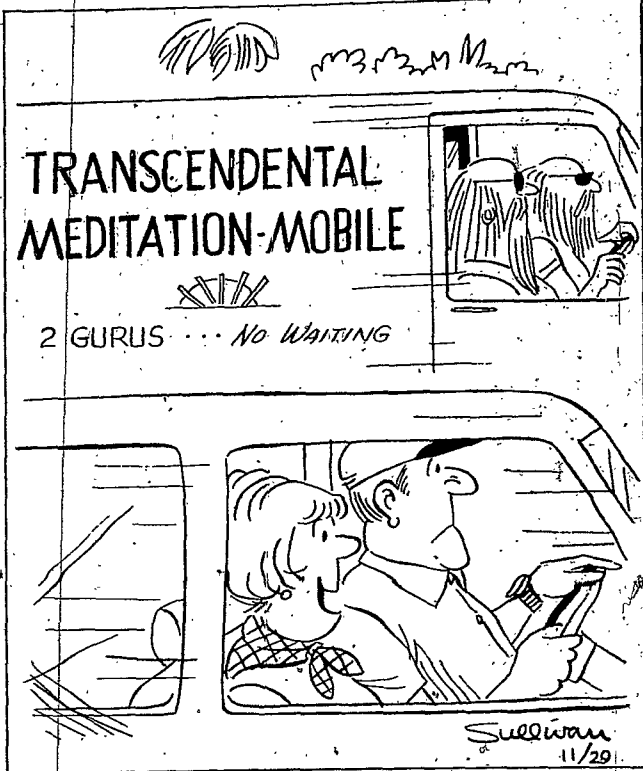
Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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"THAT'S JUST YOUR OPINION... I THINK CALIFORNIA'S KIND OF NICE!"

Mao contrasted with the shabbiness of private housing."

I would like to remind Mr. Benedict that millions of people were slaughtered by Chairman Mao and his fellow party members in their quest for power.

Since the Communists took over Mainland China in 1949, religion, with the exception of the Communist religion, has been virtually wiped out.

Freedom as we know it in the United States is not a fact of life on mainland China.

Does any alleged achievement in collective farming justify the crimes committed by the Communist dictatorship in China? I think not and some of our more gullible visitors to Red China would do well to consider what they have seen might be only the affluent tip of an otherwise poverty stricken iceberg.

Robert Bart
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Apostleship Of Prayer

Editor:

We have been asked to work and pray during this "Holy Year" for peace and reconciliation. It is a way of saying that we are to apply ourselves more diligently to pursue that unity for which the Lord prayed, "that they all may be one in us". Our final goal, of course, is that union of all in Christ described in 1 Cor 15:28: "When, finally, all has been subjected to the Son, he will then subject himself to the One Who made all things subject to him, so that God may be all in all".

I submit that this is the goal of all human development — our final peace. Meanwhile, there can be no peace, not any unity nor reconciliation, apart from the Center of our human family, Jesus Christ, Himself. We do well to symbolize that Center with the sign of His Heart. For the heart stands for the depth of personal existence from which comes all our love and yearning.

The Apostleship of Prayer identifies with the Heart of Jesus in an active search for that unity of the human family which is to be our peace. It is a campaign of prayer and good works which carries the Eucharistic action into the world to transform and transfigure the world into the Kingdom of God. The Apostleship of Prayer deserves attention and support.

Daniel J. McCarthy, SS, CC,
SS. Peter and Paul Church
Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Consider Third Order

Editor:

In answer to Mrs. Frank Smith (Courier-Journal, 1-8-75):

If you are alone, widowed perhaps, inquire around your own parish to find out if there is Confraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis. I am sure you will be welcome. As a member you will receive numerous graces and indulgences. You will become a member of a community of lay people who are working together to promote and carry out the rule of our Blessed Father Francis, "Peace to all, charity to all, and love of Christ crucified."

I know the difficulties of solitude. Yet the Third Order can lead to consolation and contentment with oneself. Consider the prayer of St. Francis:

Lord let me be an instrument of your peace.
Not so much to be loved as to love.
Not so much to understand as to understand.
For it is in loving that we are loved and in giving that we receive.

John H. Keeley
Newton Towers
Elmira, N.Y. 14901

Show the Good That Youth Do

Editor:

For many years our youth could not get their names on television, radio or in a newspaper unless they did wrong. The many good things were never made public.

I am glad to see your new RapAround section which shows the good they can and are willing to do.

Bob Miller
852 Britten Road
Rochester, N.Y.

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.

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