

# More Opinions

## Let's Set Priorities

Editor:

1975 has entered, with its urgent and pressing conditions, and with its decreed "celebrations" of significance. I sense an urgency for us to "get with it," that is, in Paul's phrase "redeeming the time." I suggest we need to address concretely: International Women's Year; the Holy Year; the World Hunger situation; and the call by Pope Paul to a deep reconciliation with our Jewish brothers and sisters. These several and varied observances and rituals can be learning moments, if we so choose to make them.

In his article "The Holy Year 1975 and its origins in the Jewish Jubilee Year," Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum provides rich food for thought, dialogue and action. Along with Leviticus 25, this article could well be the basis of Lenten discussions and liturgies, concretizing the themes of renewal and reconciliation; we could also invite our Jewish neighbors to share reflections.

The world hunger issue focuses on another arena in need of reconciliation: the conflict between national and global interests. Will the proponents of triage represent our response to hunger of millions of brothers and sisters? Will we allow domestic difficulties to overshadow global needs and awarenesses?

The Holy Year, with its calls to renewal and reconciliation confronts us with radical and comprehensive challenges to conversion in thought patterns and life styles.

May we not be nostalgic for pilgrimage, nor take refuge in extra prayers or exhortations, divorced from action. May we instead truly "redeem the time," allowing the sharp sword of the Word of the Lord to open the wounds and reveal the causes of alienations, injustice and division. Further Scriptural sources for reflection on the theme of reconciliation are: Matt 5:23-24; Eph 2:11-21; Col 1:15-22; Rom 5:6-11; Acts 7:23-29 and 2 Cor 5:17-21.

Sister Loreta Jordan  
Anabel Taylor Hall  
Cornell Univ. 14853  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14853

\*Article reprinted from JUBILAEUM available from The American Jewish Committee, Institute of Human Relations, 165 East 56 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10022.

## Let's Give The Intangible

Editor:

This letter is written in response to the ideas presented by Mr. and Mrs. William Folger's article relating to "The Possible Dream" — that of making our world better through the efforts of everyone who is concerned.

I feel that children and young adults need direction and guidance in making moral and value judgments in the world today. This is true because of the rapid changes, confusion and social problems prevalent in our society. Adults, because of more experiences in living, have much to share with young people. All that is really needed is the precious commodity of time and genuine interest.

For most of us, a good starting point in giving of ourselves could begin within our own families. We need to resolve that we will give our children the time needed every day, to help them clarify their values and judgments,

whether they be moral or decisions regarding future goals in life.

Many of the gifts our children receive from us are material things which are tangible and not lasting. Perhaps the world would become a better one if we were to give more of the intangible — time, good example, genuine interest, concern, honesty, sharing, caring — with no strings attached.

I believe that if every family started this type of giving within the home and also reached out to others in the same manner, it would gradually affect the whole world. Yes, this example can spread and make "The Impossible Dream" come true.

Mary McAlpin  
636 Fairmont Dr.  
Webster, N.Y.

## She Counts Her Blessings

Editor:

In reference to the letter (Courier-Journal 1-8-75) titled "Oldster Feels Unwelcome", I'm going to try to reply as one oldster to another oldster in regards to her feelings toward priests.

I've always felt what I've given to the Church, I was giving to God. While not expecting it, He has repaid me with His mercy and Love. He is the One, I look to in my senior years (I'm in my 79th year). I do feel being able to attend Mass and receive Communion every day (if I desire) is so rewarding. In addition, it is a daily opportunity to meet others and exchange "peace be with you."

Our priests are human and let's not make them feel sad, by expecting more of them just because we happen to be oldsters. Instead let's thank God that we have these golden years to praise Him.

Perhaps herein lies the secret for happiness in our golden years — "Rather than expect from others, it is better to give of ourselves." There are many ways we can still give of ourselves in the Autumn of our lives.

I can think of no better way to conclude this than to say as the song says — "and I fall asleep counting my blessings."

Mrs. Rose Mack  
Phillips Village  
Webster, N.Y. 14580

## St. Mary's Must Stay

Editor:

The Board of Directors of the De Paul Clinic are aware of the lack of health facilities in the northwest area of Rochester and the towns in that area. We are deeply concerned over the suggestion that the obstetric unit at St. Mary's Hospital be closed. This decision will affect 230,000 persons in the northwest area. Obstetric care involves many visits on the part of the expectant mother plus post-natal care.

With the present energy crisis and those who are unable to provide care for children at home during pre-natal and post-natal visits the cost of transportation and child care becomes a horrendous part of the family budget.

We strongly recommend that the service remain at St. Mary's Hospital so it is available to the northwest area of Rochester and Monroe County. It is essential that we continue the family care philosophy in this city.

We send this message with every sincere hope that the recommendation of the De Paul Clinic's Advisory Board will be considered.

Carroll Casey  
Chairman  
De Paul Clinic  
Advisory Board

## A Place To Start

Editor:

As a high school teacher I was understandably interested in the opinions of eight high school seniors regarding the place of rules in the school environment in the Courier-Journal of Jan. 15. Not one student totally disagreed with the rule concept, and most noted the positive value of rules.

I wonder if they mean what they say. If they do, it will show up in their conduct in the classroom in the form of courtesy, attentiveness, positive participation, respect for their teachers and for each other. This is their challenge.

For us, as Christian teachers, the challenge is to become each day a little less unworthy of their respect, attentiveness and trust. To this end, I might suggest as a starting point considering the words of Sister M. Madeleva in the poem "Christians":

We Christians are tassels,  
on the hem of Christ's garment.  
Let us remember Who it is,  
Who acts in us.  
To heal those who  
believe in Him;  
As they touch us.

Let us, then students and teachers, undaunted by our inherent human weakness and wearing the mighty armor of mutual respect and mutual (even if covert) authentic fondness assist each other in our challenges. Let's give it a try, starting today!

Arnold B. Morrison Jr.  
373 Grand Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

## Are Boycotts Justified?

Editor:

The several Courier-Journal news articles and photographs featuring demonstrations in support of the UFW boycott against the Gallo company have indicated considerable Catholic involvement.

Economic warfare at the local or at the national and international levels are certainly complex, and the possibility of unjust business practices do exist. Yet, because of that complexity, it is very difficult to determine whether boycott, embargo, or cartel actions are morally justified by the facts. The recent oil squeeze engendering worldwide inflation, loss of jobs, and a decline in productivity illustrates the point.

Local Catholic activists might safely turn to the more obviously immoral businesses operating in the Rochester area community. Demonstrations against the thriving abortion business might be in order. The "X" rated theaters and bookstores could be appropriate targets for Catholic activists' peaceful demonstrations. In these cases, the demonstrators would not need to fear the possible commission of a grave injustice against an honest business.

Frederick W. Straub  
Chaplain [LTC] USA  
Nuernberg, Germany

## On Catholic Education Week

Editor:

Catholic Education Week (next

week) is a time to reflect on the many benefits our children derive from attending a parochial school. Our children have the same subject matter as their counterparts in public school. This is enhanced by a solid foundation in Christian values: love of God and His teachings; respect for themselves, for authority and, equally important, for one another. The children also are taught the meaning of self-discipline, not in an oppressive way, but in a firm, love-based fashion.

Our school, St. John of Rochester in Fairport, is somewhat unique in that it provides a Catholic education by an all-day faculty. We would like to take this opportunity during Catholic Education Week to thank our dedicated teachers.

Principal John McKiernan and Fathers Vincent Collins and Joseph Gorman, who help all achieve their goals.

From where we sit, our children, in that company, are in good hands.

Mr. and Mrs. C.P. McCartan  
27 Timber Lane  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

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