

Editorial

Keep Nudie Mags Out of Sight

Many citizens justifiably are upset over otherwise perfectly legitimate stores displaying magazines which, if not pornographic, are definitely embarrassing, especially when one considers that children of all ages may see them.

Those concerned are in no way prudish. A letter received here said that "censorship" should be avoided but that store managers have a responsibility to remember the sensitivities of their customers. The letter writer suggested that such magazines could be sold (not to children) but kept out of sight.

Because many do worry about over-censoring others' rights they feel that it might be a case of "tilting at windmills," as one reader put it.

We don't think so.

At least one town is doing something about it. A couple became concerned when their 11-year-old son was able to purchase one of the magazines using nudity as a commodity. They objected not only to the sale but also to the fact that the magazine was openly displayed — feeling that wise policy would be to keep the magazines under the counter.

The town (Irondequoit) took action, citing Section 235.21 of the State Penal Code — "A person is guilty of disseminating indecent material to minors when: with knowledge of its character and content, he sells or loans to a minor for monetary consideration (a) any picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, or similar visual representation or image of a person or portion of the human body which depicts nudity, sexual conduct or sado-masochistic abuse and which is harmful to minors."

The Town Board passed a resolution asking all store owners in Irondequoit not to display material that is offensive and also not to sell such material to the youth community. It was the policy of some before the resolution and others have adopted it since.

The town, however, is taking it a step further and is researching the possibility of making the resolution law.

So windmills can be harnessed to work for all. We would suggest that any of our readers who are disturbed by such material being displayed in places that children frequent should contact their local officials and cite Section 235.21 of the penal code and ask action. More than likely such representatives will agree with you.

Black and White

A collection is scheduled this coming weekend. It is an important one. It is for the Black and Native American Missions.

As Bishop Hogan explains on Page 3, the proceeds are divided among several groups with part going to the National Office for Black Catholics. This office promotes black ministries within the Church. Needless to point out statistically, there are not enough blacks in the American Catholic Church to make it truly catholic.

The blacks, the same as whites, need the Church but more important the Church needs blacks. Right now increased membership and responsibility would constitute a shot in the arm for a restless Church constantly on the move.

Your contribution this weekend will help. It's that simple.

Where's the Humor?

We agree with those who feel that when times get particularly depressing it helps to inject some humor. We agree but find it difficult when people are starving, almost by design; when the unborn are being slain, almost always by design; when war is still considered by many as some kind of football game, and when football games are looked upon by many as some kind of war; when people are still judged by their color; when in the midst of plenty there is ragged poverty.

Does anyone know a joke to tell a starving child?

In decrying poverty, we hear the complacent response that the Bible tells us "that the poor always will be with us." Perhaps. But shouldn't we all take turns at it?

Opinion

Fr. Greeley Uninformed

Editor:

Father Greeley's knowledge of the Right to Life Movement borders on ignorance. I am, besides a wife and mother of three, on the board of directors of Right to Life and coordinator of its Speaker's Bureau that addresses itself to all the unborn in the world, not only the unborn. I am also actively involved in many community organizations, too numerous to mention, which support life in different capacities. I am hardly alone among Right to Life people. If we spend what seems to be an extraordinary amount of time in "Right to Life activities," it is because in the time allotted we try to compensate for lack of finances and lack of understanding among some pro-lifers that seek to divide rather than unite us. Because I collect for the American Cancer Society does not mean that my heart is not with the Leukemia Foundation or because I helped feed a migrant family of 12 in Wayne County does not mean that I do not suffer when I hear of starvation elsewhere in the world.

That I should have to spend time defending myself to another pro-lifer is a disgrace. I spend 24 hours given to me each day serving God and all His children.

Father Greeley, please pray for all the unborn, unloved, and unwanted that I neglected in taking time to write this letter to the uninformed.

Patricia Dykstra
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Henrietta, N.Y. 14467

Bishop's Act 'Thoughtful'

Editor:

Sincere thanks to Bishop Hogan for his Christmas greeting to the priests and religious of the diocese, which was published in the Courier-Journal just before Christmas. And thanks to him also for sending money to CARE on their behalf. Through this thoughtful act some suffering was relieved and Christmas peace spread.

Sister M. Felicitas
10 Baumer Place
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Help Save OB Unit

Editor:

Now is not the time to sit and sadly ponder the fact that the Genesee Region Health Planning Council is considering closing St. Mary's OB unit.

It only takes a minute's effort to pick up a pen and let these

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

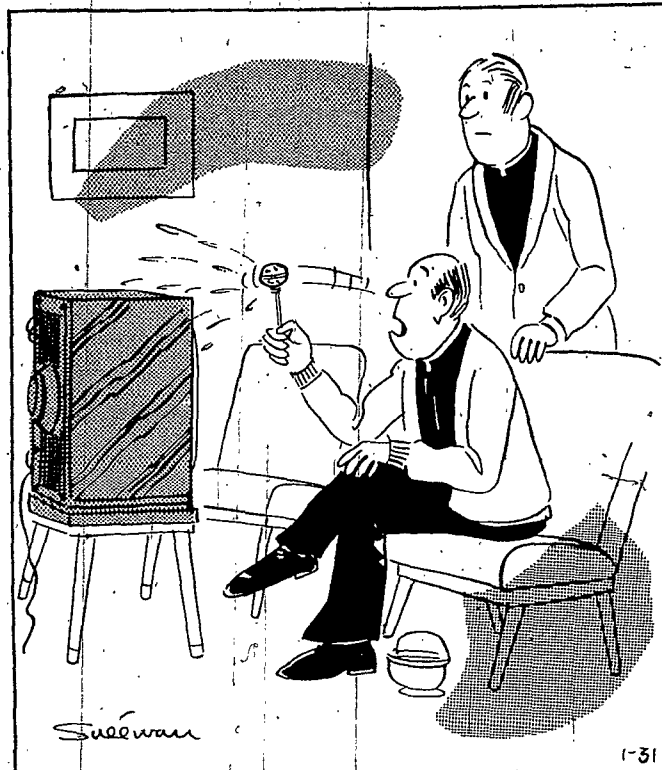
Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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Courier-Journal 1



"SCOFF IF YOU WANT, BUT SPRINKLING THE SET WITH HOLY WATER SEEMS TO CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF TV RECORD COMMERCIALS!"

people know that their action is not in accord with the needs of the people. If you believe that life is sacred, let your voice be heard. St. Mary's OB unit is a witness to the importance of life, the only one in our area that is not performing abortions. Do it now. Send your letters to Anthony Mott, Genesee Region Health Planning Council, 311 Alexander St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607 and to Dept. of Health Hospital Review and Planning Council, 84 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12208.

For my part, this is the least I can do for the dedicated care given to me and to my babies by everyone concerned with this department, labor room nurses, floor nurses, nursery nurses, aides and the many friendly people that are otherwise employed. On nine occasions I received. Can I sit idly now?

Marie B. Landers
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First Fridays Stressed

Editor:

Billy Graham to the contrary (T/U 29 Jan. 75). Catholics have seen those nine days spent in fervent prayer by the embryonic Church, the days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost, (Acts. 1:12-26) as "justification in the Scripture for selecting the number nine for special prayers." Not that "nine" is a number with special magic any more than "seven" or "three". Like "seven" and "three", "nine" has a symbolic meaning: it is a sign of one's perseverance in prayer to make a "novena". Perseverance in prayer, as the good Doctor Graham points out, is highly recommended in Scripture.

The prophetic spirit which led St. Margaret Mary to contemplate the inner reaches of the Savior's life must have also attracted her to perceive "nine First Fridays of every month" as particularly significant for public demonstration of reparative love. Such a perseverance would be extraordinary protestation of one's willingness to make amends for the lack of love-in-return the world makes to Jesus. Over and above the Sunday liturgy, the special "First Friday" liturgy, Mass and Communion, would be directed to the Sacred Heart and the Heavenly Father with the same attitude the Lord had on the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".

The First Friday communion of reparation ought to be stressed in this Holy Year of Reconciliation.

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Church Not A Democracy

Editor:

It didn't please me one bit when I read the article "Altar girls

serve in local churches" in the Democrat and Chronicle, Jan. 26.

The bishop of Syracuse stated the regulation when he said that "the use of women or girls in that capacity violates Church canons." Why haven't the priests who dare to use girls in this diocese been told the same thing, or have they?

If everyone is allowed to treat tradition and canon law lightly it will only result in confusion, to say the least. We are all sufficiently confused now.

In a decree written by his own hand, after seeking the advice of bishops around the world, Pope Paul said, "In accordance with the venerable tradition of the Church, installation in the ministries of lector and acolyte (altar boy) is reserved to men."

What difference does it make that in another statement the Pope reaffirmed the rule of mandatory celibacy for priests? What difference does it make that the U.S. Bishops voted "no" to Communion in the hand?

One of the wishes of the editor of the Catholic Courier for 1975 is that there will be Communion in the hand.

What difference does it make that it is a matter for confession not to attend Mass on Sunday? What difference does it make that the Pope spoke out against birth control?

It doesn't make any difference to a few unhappy ones telling the Pope to mind his own business, and the bishops also.

John Fisher and Thomas More did not try to make any distinctions in the Pope's decisions. They put their heads on the block for his teachings.

Loyal Catholics aren't afraid to display their devotion to the Pope and a willingness to accept his teachings and decisions.

The Vatican Council taught that the mission of the Church is to teach, sanctify, and govern, and yet some would turn the Church into a democracy. Both the cries for democracy and constant attacks on the Pope "corrupt the very idea of episcopal collegiality" as taught by Vatican II.

[Mrs.] Doris M. Stotz
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Rochester, N.Y. 14607

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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