

**Editorial**

**Food for Thought**

Imagine a hungry man and another man giving food away free. And they can't get together. Frustrating.

Yet in an oversimplified manner that is the situation regarding the Catholic Church and black people. The Church is hurting from a lack of vocations at the same time black Catholics are seeking a greater responsibility within the Church. And they can't get together.

Ideas for improving the situation crop up now and then but they are apparently slow-growing or their cultivation is neglected. Bishop Joseph Howze of Natchez-Jackson recently urged that seminary curriculum include elements of liberation theology and a "theology of the oppressed which looks into social justice and morality" in today's world.

Bishop Howze, a black man, says that current programs regarding priesthood vocations simply do not reach the black man. Presumably the same would hold true for black women, whose potential service to the Sisterhood is staggering.

But regardless of such curriculum changes or appeals directed to blacks, most vocations spring from families. Thus the job is to get black families into the Catholic Church and then make the Church compatible to their culture, responsive to their wishes, and respectful of their dignity.

Brother Joseph Davis of the National Office of Black Catholics speaking here recently, declared, "We are not asking what the Church can do for us. We are the Church."

That is what we all must remember in considering the situation. If the Church is to be truly catholic, as it must, then there can be no "we" and "they" groups. And to make the most of the vast potential blacks offer for Christ's work through His Church, then we all had better come up with some method of bringing together the hungry man and the man with the food.

**Papers Doing Their Job**

It is reassuring to know that Catholic newspapers across the nation are alive and well and exerting influence.

In St. Paul, Minn., the Catholic Bulletin has called attention to what it describes as an "anti-Catholic" cartoon in the University of Minnesota daily newspaper.

The cartoon show jurors in Boston's Edelin abortion case in Ku Klux Klan garb wearing crosses. The caption under it has jury foreman saying, "we find the nigger, er, I mean the abortionist... er, make that the defendant, guilty of manslaughter."

"Weep for the prejudice it reveals," correctly notes the Catholic Bulletin.

Of course, we all react most strongly when we feel such bigotry aimed directly at us — as well we should. But we should also become more sensitive to it when it is directed at others. We also should realize that even such seemingly minor infractions as ethnic jokes help keep the larger melting pot of prejudice boiling.

But back to Catholic newspapers. The Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin defense conducted a research poll before the Boston manslaughter trial which reportedly showed that 83 per cent of prospective jurors did not believe that abortion is always wrong. The poll also claimed that opinion among Catholics "is not monolithic" and that opposition to abortion was more widespread "among Catholics who read The Pilot most of the time than those who do not."

Congratulations to The Pilot, the Boston archdiocesan weekly, for waging the good fight. And to The Catholic Bulletin for speaking out against bigotry.

**ERA Must Be Stopped**

Editor:

One of the most controversial issues in the news today is the Equal Rights Amendment. Since both the proponents and the opponents of ERA recognize the Yale Law Journal Vol. 80 No. 5 April 1971 to be an accurate analysis of the meaning and effects of ERA I would like to give some excerpts from the journal.

ERA will make every wife in the United States legally responsible to provide 50 per cent of the financial support of her family.

ERA will eliminate the preferential Social Security benefits women now enjoy.

ERA will wipe out protective labor laws which benefit women.

ERA will knock out present laws protecting women from sex crimes such as statutory rape and forced prostitution.

ERA will jeopardize present lower life insurance rates for women.

ERA will integrate boys' and girls' physical education classes in high schools and colleges.

ERA would create havoc in prisons and reform schools by preventing segregation of the sexes.

ERA will make women subject to the draft.

ERA will nullify thousands of present laws which protect women and will transform every provision of law concerning women into a constitutional issue that will ultimately have to be resolved by the Supreme Courts.

The evidence goes on and on, verifying the fact that the Equal Rights Amendment will not help the women of our country but will instead degrade them.

In New York State the Equal Rights Amendment has passed the Assembly twice and the senate once. It must pass the Senate again and then be voted on by the people in November. About 732 of our New York State laws will be affected by ERA.

Many legislators see through the smokescreen called The Equal Rights Amendment and have had the courage to oppose it. Don't let a small but vocal minority of women speak for the ladies of New York State. Let your voice be heard.

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**COURIER-JOURNAL**

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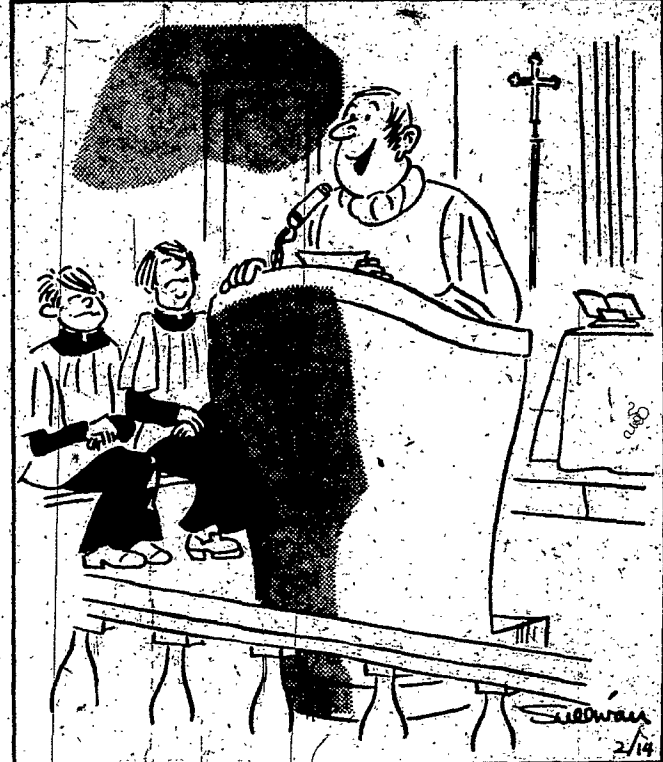
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Courier-Journal 1



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**Must Help Cambodians**

Editor:

Despite the fact that Communist rockets have been indiscriminately killing Cambodian civilians, I have yet to hear one protest from any of our local or national "peace" groups.

Um Sim, Cambodia's ambassador to the U.S., recently told of some 300 men, women and children who were massacred by their Communist "liberators" in the Cambodian village of Prek Pheon.

This type of bloodbath is probably what the Communists plan in the event of Cambodia's defeat.

In this holy season of Lent we should pray extra hard and make extra sacrifices for those brave people in Indochina undergoing trial by sword.

We should also pray that members of Congress wake up and send these people the necessary aid needed to fight the advances of Godless, imperialistic communism.

Write your congressman today.

Robert Bart  
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**Misquoted, Writer Says**

Editor:

Re: "Feminists Support Marriage, Oppose Submission" Courier-Journal (2/26/75) Within the text of this article it is stated that I consider housework "the lowest female profession" and that I "think it's lower than prostitution." This is absolutely inaccurate and represents a grossly misleading interpretation of my original statement which was as follows:

We live in a highly economically motivated society in which there exists a distinct job hierarchy directly related to income. Those professions upon which we place the greatest value are the very ones associated with the greatest financial remuneration - medicine and law are excellent examples. Those professions which we regard as necessary but upon which we place little value (janitorial services, pumping gas, etc.) barely provide minimum living wages. And yet, we have legally established minimum wages for the most unskilled and menial jobs, including those performed by men and women imprisoned in our penal institutions. As a society, however, we have consistently failed to legalize any legislation providing financial

compensation and security for our homemakers - independent of that provided through their husbands occupational benefits. On this basis of greater pay for greater services, it seems apparent that our society places greater value upon prostitution, which it permits and patronizes at \$25. and upwards per hour, than upon homemaking for which it fails entirely to provide for economically.

It is precisely because we recognize the value of the service performed by homemakers that feminists are actively legislating for the establishment of financial benefits and remuneration for homemakers.

Far from considering homemaking the "lowest female profession", lower in fact than prostitution, I personally value it as a viable role in our society, and one which is vital to the stability of our culture.

Lyn Somers  
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**Greeley 'Confusing'**

Editor:

Father Greeley's column of 1/29/75 is confusing. I was under the impression that the right to life movement supported human life at every stage of its development. On the other hand, there are groups that "respect life" after it is born but support killing of the unborn.

Father Greeley's column is further confusing because it mixes unlike things.

It is legal in this country to kill the unborn.

I know of no law which makes it legal to murder by gun. Nor do I know of any law which forbids feeding the hungry in this country or abroad. I know of no law in support of industrial disease.

[Mrs.] Mary Vogle  
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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.