

**Editorial**

**Keep It Cool!**

Figures for one year:  
More than 100 murders.

At least 70,000 assaults.

\$500 million in destruction.

A war? In a manner of speaking, yes. Those figures were taken from an 18-month study involving 757 public school districts and they were presented to a U.S. Senate subcommittee investigating violence and vandalism in public schools.

Top educators linked the frightening figures to the declining moral climate in the nation as a whole. James Harris, president of the National Education Association, told the senators that school violence and vandalism will not be adequately controlled until violence in the nation is curbed.

Obviously there is no easy solution. It is, however, equally obvious that we must do all we can to abate the mood of violence and tension in our society even if only by cooling the tenor of our remarks when debating controversial issues. We should restrict our zeal to the problems involved and not direct it at those who disagree.

**Needed: Prayers**

World Communications Day has been scheduled for May 11. But rather than talk about it in the usual vein we would like to take the opportunity to tie it in with more important matters.

The 1974 synod of bishops identified the "most flagrantly violated" human rights as the right to life, the right to eat, socio-economic rights, politico-cultural rights, and the right of religious liberty.

It called for the correction of economic imbalances, for the cessation of torture and violence, for an end to the "insanity" of the arms race, for greater equality in the consumption of the world's resources, for practical recognition of people's right to information, to freedom of speech and press, as well as to freedom of dissent. The synod also called for an end to racism and discriminatory practices generally. As a newspaper we have dwelled on each of these themes. We will continue to do so.

What we ask for on World Communications Day are your prayers — first that we will follow the proper course in these matters and second that we be an effective witness.

**Happy Face?**

Now we know there is a commendable philosophy of putting on a happy face when things get bad. And when things get worse, the face is made happier.

But we wonder if Sister Lois McGovern, OP, of the National Sisters Vocations Conference hasn't overdone the smile when she termed the declining number of women Religious in the United States as "one of the most exciting things that ever happened to the Church." She implies that the new evaluation necessary will be beneficial.

If the drop off of 41,000 nuns since 1966 is described as "exciting" how would one describe the complete absence of all nuns?

**Important Date**

Something to plan for — a National Day of Prayer for a Good Harvest. It has been scheduled for Sunday, May 25.

Never has such a day been more important. Bishop James S. Rausch of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has suggested that local observances focus on the concept of food and natural resources as "gifts of God and a sacred trust."

Our diocese, which always seems to be a step or two ahead of the national Church, already has an office for World Hunger and several parishes already have concentrated on the theme of food. Still this special date provides reason for an expanded observation of the problem of world hunger.

Since man has known enough to turn to his Creator he has prayed for bountiful harvest. Such petition applies now perhaps as never before.

**Opinion**



DAN BECKER

**Thanks Given After Surgery**

Editor:

Our seven year old son, Dan, had open heart surgery on Feb. 27 at Strong Memorial Hospital; and we would like to thank Father John Steger and the St. Jude Parish family, the Folk Group, and Miss Pam Spencer and her second grade First Communion class for all their prayers, cards, gifts and love.

The Charles Becker Family  
4750 Lyell Road  
Spencerport, N.Y. 14559

**Defendants' Rights Protected**

Editor:

This refers to the C-J article (April 16, 1975) headlined: "Sisters Look Critically at Attica Prosecution."

I submit that the Good Sisters should take a longer look at Attica before they go on record supporting Carolyn Micklem, the Judicial Process Commission and the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries in their campaign to "close the books on that tragic series of events".

The Judicial Process Commission they support expresses concern for the constitutional rights of the Attica defendants and the prosecution is described as having "unfair advantages of money, staff and access."

I wouldn't label the likes of Kuntzler and Clark, main defense attorneys for Attica defendants, as exactly minor leaguers and I am most impressed by reports of the size and skill of their investigative staffs.

It seems to me that their constitutional rights are being



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

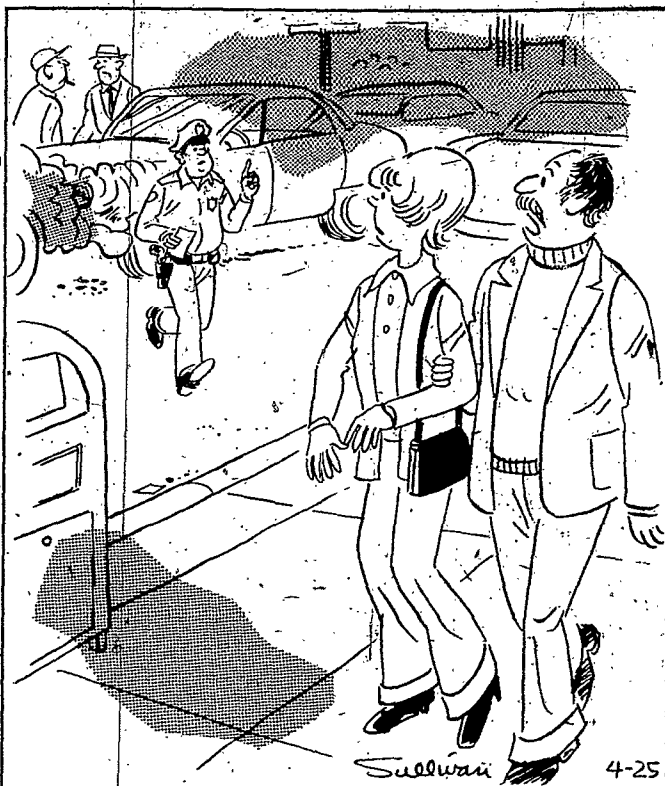
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"LET'S PRETEND WE DIDN'T SEE THAT ACCIDENT, OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE LECTURE ON 'WITNESSING FOR CHRIST!'."

amply protected.

I wonder if these same people are concerned with the constitutional rights of the employees who died violent, premature deaths at Attica in September 1971.

James J. Maguire  
58 Ohio Ave.  
Elmira, N.Y. 14905

**Poetic Look At Mass**

Editor:

My cup is running over;  
This joy is too much for me to bear.  
I give witness to everyone  
who will accept a share

[Mrs.] Barbara A. Fischer  
77 Harwick Road  
Rochester, N.Y.



Dear Father Hohman,

Enclosed are some New York City newspaper clippings that are self-explanatory. [To the reader: the clippings go back to 1969 when some 200 saints' feast days were dropped from the Church calendar]. They were sent to me by a friend, a writer, who finds them somewhat incongruous with the Church's teachings.

Though I am a regular reader of the Courier-Journal and several Catholic magazines, I do not recall similar articles. Knowing to what length Catholic authorities go before conferring sainthood on any individual, I am at a loss as to how to answer my friend. Perhaps you can help me.

I speak as a Catholic who has carried a St. Christopher medal in my car for forty years.

Sincerely,  
R. H.

Dear R. H.,

Maybe you were on vacation or ill at the time the changes were made in the calendar of saints in 1969. I remember it well — perhaps because my good friend, Father Elmer McDonald, and his parishioners had just named their new parish "St. Christopher's" the year before.

The problem you imagine, however, is of little consequence.

For one thing, the process of canonization to which you refer did not even exist prior to the 13th century. In the very earliest days of the Church, only martyrs, those who had shed their blood for Christ, were honored as saints. After the Roman persecutions ended in the fourth century, veneration was extended to people who had defended the faith in an outstanding way. Soon sainthood was extended to those who led very holy lives. But this was ordinarily done by popular acclaim, and I think you can understand how abuses and errors crept in. That is why the canonization process was started. Then too, many legendary figures ended up on the calendar of saints — people who probably never even existed as individual persons.

Take St. Christopher. The name is from two Greek words meaning "Christ-bearer." As an individual he probably didn't exist. But many people in their lives have been real "Christ bearers" and saints, though not publicly venerated. As for using a St. Christopher medal, I still think it's a good idea. It should remind us that all are called to be "Christ-bearers" to care for the well being of all around us. Maybe it would make us drive more considerately. At any rate it never was magic. It couldn't help us if we, for example, ran into a drunk, nor could it help us if we drove too fast or carelessly.

All you "Christ-bearers," pray for one another and for the careless.

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.