

**Editorial**

**Astrology Foolish**

Truth. As with most simple things, its definition and its realization are evasive.

Newspapers, as well as religion and science, have a particular charge in this regard. Truth is this medium's Holy Grail.

Yet there are so many questions that defy mortal intellect that often a mish-mash of unsupported reasoning is presented in the hope that somewhere within lies a kernel of that elusive quality we call truth.

But even in light of this, we feel strongly that astrological speculation should not be presented as a possible road to the ultimate goal. The money-making pamphlets and charts and the horoscopes printed in so many newspapers are just plain sham. We think that any newspaper that runs this garbage should label it "dangerous to your health."

Lest this be regarded as just another religious remonstrance, we allude to a statement just issued by 186 scientists in the current *The Humanist* magazine. These people dedicated to the seeking of truth feel disturbed enough to publicly challenge the "pretentious claims of astrological charlatans."

"We are especially disturbed by the continued uncritical dissemination of astrological charts, forecasts and horoscopes by the media and by otherwise reputable newspapers, magazines and book publishers," the statement says.

Religion and science, while often at odds, have built a mutual respect over the centuries. Both seriously attempt to explain the mysteries of life. Astrology fits neither's requirements. People should know this. And any newspaper that prints astrological gibberish should brand it as such. One's destiny does not lie in the stars; it is within, and that's where the search should be conducted.

**Women in Rectories?**

Unsigned letters generally hit the circular file as quickly as they are read. Yet once in a while a thought is expressed which should be disseminated.

Such is the case with a recent letter signed, "Paphnutius, celibate priest who will probably remain so but does not want others to be forced to do the same." (Editor's note: Paphnutius was a Fourth Century bishop who urged less rigidity in celibacy rules for priests at the Council of Nicea, 325).

The writer raises the interesting question that if we ordain women priests what will happen to rectory life, especially since all concerned presumably will be unmarried. At first glance, this may seem facetious but the more one thinks of it, the more it becomes worrisome, morally, financially, logistically and many other-ally.

Think about it.

**It's True!**

Sometimes those interested in theological disputation get a bit carried away in splitting hairs. Fine, so long as their forensics don't carry over into splitting the Church.

For instance, a Religious News Service dispatch from Rome carries the news that the Italian Jesuit magazine, *Civiltà Cattolica*, has editorialized that the term "People of God" was not intended to downgrade its hierarchy. The editorial said that Vatican II employed the term "exclusively, in the biblical and traditional sense, that is, in a religious and not a socio-political sense."

Now apparently the magazine felt the editorial necessary because there are those who feel that "people of God" refers to the great bulk of Catholics as opposed to the hierarchy.

Well, such argument, as we all well know, might go on ad infinitum. We would like to offer a basic premise for all to remember that might nip such academic argument in the bud. Bishops are people, too!

**Opinion**

**Title Suggested For Nun's Role**

Editor:

I am grateful to Father Ronald Antinarelli for asking about the implication of the term "co-pastor", as applied to Sister Carol Fox and Sister Mary Regis Straughn, who, after long and valuable service as pastoral assistants at Mount Carmel Church, were lately named members of a new type of team-ministry. I also appreciate Msgr. Cocuzzi's explanation of the canonical aspects of their role. I know that others who were puzzled by the announcement will be equally appreciative of the clarification.

What is involved, therefore, is a question of terminology. If the term "co-pastor" as here employed does not mean "co-pastor" in the same sense as when applied to priest-members of a team-ministry, I would strongly recommend that another and more truly descriptive name be invented.

We in the Rochester Diocese faced a somewhat similar problem when the diocese, previously subdivided into deaneries, was re-divided into "regions". Priests were chosen to be chairmen of each region. To emphasize the difference of their role, however, they were not given the canonical title of "dean" (Canon 217), but the distinctive title of "regional coordinator."

Why not call this "innovative" office "pastoral associate"? "Pastoral associate" would distinguish the office, on the one hand, from the canonical office of "pastor"; and, on the other hand, from the subordinate title of "pastoral assistant", as well as from the priestly titles of "co-pastor" and "associate pastor." Furthermore, its adoption now would preclude further confusion if, in the future, laymen as well as sisters were named members of the administrative team of a parish.

Father Robert F. McNamara  
St. Bernard's Seminary

**Even Animals Protect Young**

Editor:

When Our Blessed Mother was to give birth to our Lord, God in His Infinite wisdom guided her to a barn.

There is a lesson to be learned from this; a lesson that would apply to many Catholic and Christian couples alike. A lesson of humility.



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

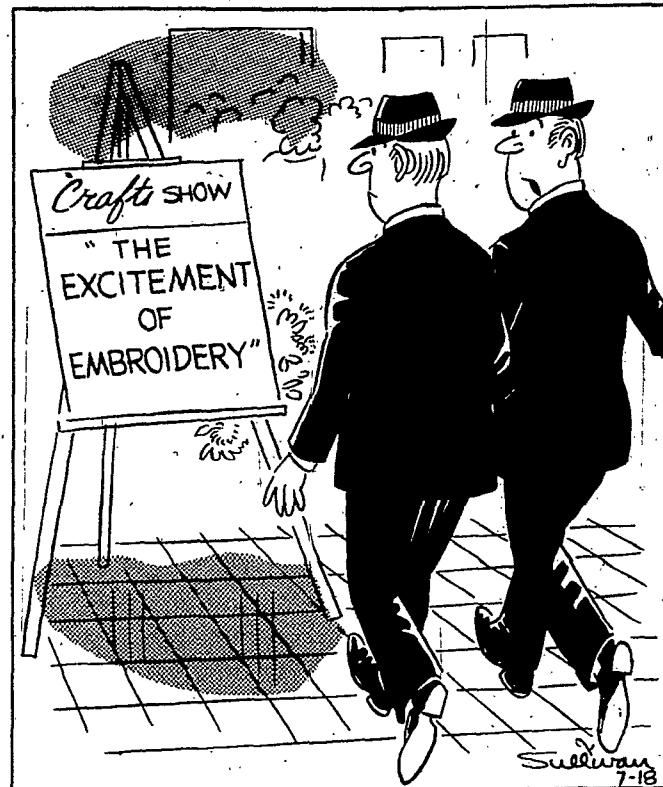
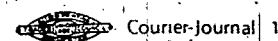
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"IT'S THE ONLY SHOW I COULD FIND IN TOWN THAT LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT BE HALFWAY CLEAN."

God chose a stable, filled with lowly animals, each and every one obedient to His laws. Especially the law of Life! The life of each newly-conceived creature was not in jeopardy from its parents merely because it was an inconvenience, or perhaps to be born with a crooked leg and therefore imperfect, or even because the barn was becoming crowded.

God knew there would come a time when the life of each of His young ones — His unborn children — would be threatened by the whims of its mother. The very children, that from the moment of their conception, His own Son had died to redeem.

A stable was a very appropriate site, in order that future generations could learn from this example. I am sure He had this in mind when He foresaw our generation of legalized baby-killing. After all, even the vilest rat in the barn will fight to the death to protect its young.

Laura Schuhart  
1404 Whalen Road  
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

**How to Help Resettlement**

Editor:

We are concerned with the plight of the 8,000 Vietnamese refugees in the Pennsylvania resettlement camp, 60 per cent of whom are children.

The Vietnamese refugees need sponsors who would help find a family, a job, a home and assistance until the family is self-sufficient. This period of adjustment is usually from three to six months. There are no lasting financial or legal responsibilities.

There are three Rochester agencies which can answer questions and offer information — the Catholic Family Center, the Red Cross, and the Jewish Family Center.

As we approach Thanksgiving, Christmas and the 200th anniversary of our country, this could be a personally rewarding experience. Vietnamese people have put their trust in the American people. They need our attention.

Richard and Sheila Prinzing  
112 South Ave.  
Webster, N.Y.

**Lauds Editorial On Mrs. Ford**

Editor:

Recently a friend gave me copies of your newspaper — and I was delighted with your editorial about Mrs. Ford — and

her "shallow view of life promulgated across the world" via TV.

How true your words: "The trouble is that there are many who cannot separate a person's views from her standing in life and who may feel that if the First Lady takes such positions there must be validity in them. THAT IS TOO MUCH."

Additionally, seeing her use the White House to campaign for ERA — the legislation which we feel will do added damage to women, marriage, and the home — was distasteful.

Phyllis Schlafly who is an outspoken opponent to this bill wants to coordinate women against abortion, against pornography, against the downgrading of family and marriage INTO ONE POWERFUL UNIT. Her address is Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002.

From some of the excellent letters you have printed, I'd hope many would be writing her!

The only time I visited Rochester was when my sister entered the Carmelite Monastery there many years ago. At that time my father was not Catholic — but became a convert not long after.

Kathryn Ellis Nowak  
Chairman  
Committee for Return to Christian Values  
513 Point Road  
Marion, Mass. 02738

**'Ti' Veterans Are Sought**

Editor:

I am seeking men and officers who served aboard the mighty aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Ticonderoga — particularly those of WW2 — while there is time left. Every man who ever served on this fine ship is entitled to join our group. We will be having our next Annual Reunion this coming May at Ticonderoga.

If interested, for more details, write me, giving your rate/rank, the division, and years on board.

James H. Morgan, Jr.  
Big "T" Veterans' Assoc.  
Waterside Lane  
So. Berwick, Maine 03908

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