

# More Opinions

## TV Show 'Shocking'

Editor:

The television program "All In the Family" shown Monday September 8 was not only embarrassing, it was shocking and an insult to one's sensitivity. The moral at the very end was superseded only by its bad taste.

If this is a forerunner of their future programs; if this is entertainment then I for one can do without it.

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## More Than Half a Life

Editor:

I take exception to Father Albert Shamon's inference (Courier-Journal 9-17-75) that St. Elizabeth Seton labored for God only half of a lifetime. The inference is that "nothing happened" until she became a Catholic.

At her conversion she was already full-blown in a life of love and in acts of charity. She had a deep love of God and she knew how to love others in Him. She was drawn to God from childhood and her conversion to the Catholic Church is really an explosion of love as Christ finally granted her union with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. But from that moment it can be said that she began acting heroically, part no doubt due to the fact that she appreciated this union and saw it in its reality. Her Sainthood is truly the result of intense devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Elizabeth knows the value and the treasure of the Catholic Church. She knows the limits of the sacramental symbolism of the others, the chief tragedy of their separation.

Also, much is made in the media of St. Elizabeth's Americanism. This should be handled carefully. She was devoted to her father and as part of high society in New York City and the Episcopal establishment it is likely that their political leanings were loyalist—to George III—at least for a time. In any case politics was not a chief concern of St. Elizabeth.

I have drawn my information from biographies by Melville and Dirvin.

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## K. of C. Leaders Taken to Task

Editor:

In Matthew 22-37, in response to a question as to which is the great commandment, Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Yes, the whole law, not just a part of it. This is the social gospel. There is no other.

When the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus decries the social gospel of Jesus Christ, he is preaching heresy, in my opinion. Thank God, he does not speak for Catholic working people. He does not even speak for the membership, which he never consults.

He speaks only for the conservative businessmen who control the Knights of Columbus.

These businessmen have always resented and ignored the social gospel even when it was embodied in Papal Encyclicals which advocated social justice for the working class and the poor of the world. They would substitute patronizing philanthropy for justice.

Forty years ago, they had nothing to say about 17 million unemployed, people eating out of garbage cans and certain doctors making money performing abortions for the rich while neglecting the poor. Then they tried to scare us about communism and the evils that would ensue if we let Congress outlaw child labor through the Child Labor Amendment.

Today these same conservative knights of business direct your attention toward abortion, pornography, etc., in order to distract you from noticing the sins of injustice that the business community is committing in the market place and seats of government against workers and consumers.

They emphasize spiritual values, faith and prayer in order to divert you from taking action on adequate federal legislation in behalf of the sick, the aged, the unemployed and the urban poor. They want to sell you their pie in the sky religion. What they fear most is Christianity in Action.

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## Greeley Said A Windbag?

Editor:

Father Andrew Greeley's response (Courier-Journal 9/17/75) to my recent editorial, in which I commented on his weekly "deit of negativism," leaves a lot to be desired. It shows he is insensitive to the truth about others, but is quite sensitive when called to account.

I did not use the phrase "white ethnic hatred of blacks." What I said was "He has appeared to some to play white ethnic groups against the blacks and browns."

Father Greeley's own ethnic prejudice came to the fore in his contemptuous remarks on Arthur Jones, editor of the National Catholic Reporter. It appears Father Greeley does not like Englishmen (perish the thought — I also am one) and takes great joy in being so full of spinosity in relation to them.

The thrust of my editorial made only passing reference to respect for bishops. However, there is a way of constructively criticizing them without destroying their pastoral integrity. Furthermore, Father Greeley is hardly competent in this field, for while he is a priest-sociologist, his personal pastoral experience is, to say the least, very limited.

I have never charged that Father Greeley wears flamboyant clothes. This would be in direct contradiction to his dreary view of the church and its leaders who sport the cheerful reds and crimsons.

I am saddened to note that Father Greeley also practices rumor-mongering. He ought to know that the professionally competent don't need to curry favors from cardinals, priest-sociologists, or anyone else. Let me assure him that I have no desire to swap the beauty of the City of Saint Francis for the erstaz grandeur of the towers of Chicago. And, anyhow, the Windy City has one windbag too many for my taste.

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Photo by Susan McKinney

Father Philippe Breton poses with Mrs. Leonard DeWolf, French students Cecile Gibassier and Jerome Boesch, Mrs. Lawrence Palvino, and Mark and Katie Palvino. Father Breton and the students spent the summer in Rochester.

## French Visitors Find Americans Friendly

This past summer 200 French students stayed with families in the Rochester diocese brushing their English and "immersing themselves in American culture."

That's how Father Philippe Breton, their chaplain, described the American experience as 40 of the students boarded buses at Holy Trinity Church in Webster to begin their trip home.

Two of the students, Cecile Gibassier, a 17-year-old from Rennes, and Jerome Boesch, "almost 15," from Paris, paused to share some of their experiences. With their respective host families, the Leonard DeWolfs of Rochester and the Lawrence Palvinos of Pittsford, they enjoyed typically all-American summers. They visited the museum and planetarium, saw Niagara Falls, went to a baseball game, picnicked, and went out to dinner and the movies, they reported.

Jerome said that he found it possible to know American people more quickly than the French, and liked their friendliness most of all. Cecile termed American boys "open and to the point." The students also saw differences in American eating habits, housing, and sports. They were accustomed to a big dinner at noon with lots of fruit and cheese. Few French families own their own homes, they said, but they like to buy their apartments, which may cost as much as \$60-70,000. Football is not a French sport. "Too rough," Jerome explained.

Father Breton observed differences in the American Church during his stay at Blessed Sacrament. He said that American priests are more accessible to the people. "The French are more stiff." Religious practice is stronger here than in France, he added. Like the students Father Breton was impressed by friendliness in this country. "I would like to say in your paper that I was very moved by the hospitality that I received. People that I didn't even know had me to dinner."

The program, under the North American Council on Education and Linguistics, was organized

### NEVER TOO LATE

Father Robert J. Miller, a co-pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and Sisters Sandy Finucan and Rita Kaufman have roles in Never Too Late, the play the parish is preparing for Oct. 24. It will be "dinner theater" at the school on East Henrietta Road. Playing the leads will be Julian Borowski and Helen Elam. Others in the cast are Dennis Haggerty, Liz Klemata, Ron and Diane Baird and Leslie Vesneski.

## Drug, Alcohol Workshop Set

Why do people use drugs? Is alcohol different from other drugs? Is marijuana safe? These and other questions will be discussed in depth at the Counselor Workshops conducted by the Drug and Alcohol Council. Fall workshops will begin Tuesday morning, Oct. 7, at 9:30 at St. Monica's Church and Thursday evening, Oct. 16, at 7:30 at the Genesee Co-op, 713 Monroe Ave. Each Workshop will meet weekly for 12 sessions.

Any person interested in attending the Workshop at either location is asked to call the Council at 454-2535 or write to 9 Lawrence Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14607 and ask for application form and schedule. Workshops will also be held in North Chili, Brighton, Pittsford, and Webster this fall.

### CATECHISTS' COURSE

Father Joseph Brennan, rector and scripture professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, will speak at the Oct. 7 session of Religious Education for Catechists and Interested Adults. His talk will deal with the differences in the four gospels, and scriptural spirituality.

The meeting will be from 8 to 10 p.m. in the St. Ambrose Annex, 31 Empire Blvd. Other classes in the series are scheduled to meet at Mercy High School. There is a fee of \$1 per session, except for those who registered in advance for the entire series.

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