

Editorial

Mission Sunday

With Mission Sunday here once again, it is worthwhile to reflect on some figures which show that despite our current hard times, Americans still enjoy an overflowing abundance, especially when compared to many other parts of the world.

The amounts we spend on certain items are so huge that they boggle the mind. For instance, in 1974 we spent \$12 billion on beer, \$2.3 billion on wine. Both of these amounts, however, are dwarfed by the \$26.8 billion that went for liquor.

Think about the \$7 billion we sent after cosmetics and toiletries in 1974, the \$370 million on hair setters and dryers, the \$250 million for hair coloring.

It would take a sociological study to determine to what extent these expenditures reflect our values. Still it is interesting that with all these props, Americans still spent \$200 million on Valium alone in 1974, not even counting the countless other sedatives we apparently require.

While such statistics have meaning when contrasted to a world racked by hunger, there is still another figure that is even more graphically apropos — in 1974 we spent \$194 million on appliances to get rid of our waste food. Think about that.

Humans do not survive on bread alone. But it is surely a Christian duty to attend to the corporal needs of others, particularly those in desperate need. And we do not intend to demean American generosity. Despite griping in some quarters, we long have been known for our willingness to help others. Sometimes this virtue has been misused by our government who see our assistance as something to be bartered for political gains.

Therefore, the annual Missions Appeal is a blessing. It affords us the opportunity to help those who need it most simply because they, like ourselves, are God's children — not because they control populations or live in strategic areas, or are likely to fight for us.

This aid is not administered haphazardly. It goes to help the Church support its missionary personnel, to maintain the Church's presence to heal, to teach, to feed, to save and to serve.

It goes into the formation and training of future personnel of the Mission Church. All over the world, young men and women are answering the call of the Lord. And very important is the fact that many of them will serve in their native lands, helping their own people.

Your aid also serves in emergency situations — chapels are built, schools begun, clinics go up. All with your aid.

Mission Sunday. Make the most of it.

Square Times

Because of its proximity to New York City and because of the long and painfully obvious decadence of that city, this newspaper has pointed out in the past that the Times Square area should be a prime target of missionary effort. In addition, a prize-winning centerfold we did in 1973, entitled "Heartless Core of a Lonely City," depicted the corruption of that once great city.

So, in a sense, it was heartwarming to see that the New York Times (that Great, Gray Lady which sits in the core of the squalor) finally noticed the state of its surroundings last month and editorialized that something must be done to clean it up.

The Times criticized the scores of "peepshows and porno bookstores... dozens of massage parlors." The newspaper added that "this is not 'victimless' crime, the whole area and everyone in it are victims." Now if those were the words of Citizens for a Decent Community or of a morally conscious newspaper, cries of censorship would shake the rafters, emanating possibly from the Times itself.

Regardless, it is well that the Times, for which that notorious square was named, has finally noticed the stench. It is strange that it took so long. The fact that the national Democratic party convention is scheduled next summer in New York City couldn't have anything to do with it. Could it?

Opinion

Voter Outreach Covered Monroe

Editor:

Please refer to the following in your story (Oct. 1) regarding voter registration, "One obstacle to voter registration is the process itself. Local registration days provide citizens with the only opportunity to register at the place where they vote. At any other time citizens must register at the county Board of Elections from 9-5, Monday-Friday."

This statement is untrue in Monroe County.

Since last March, Mrs. Beatrice Williams and I, representing the two major parties, have coordinated the outreach program for voter registration which registered 14,388 voters, about 13,000 more than registered at the Board of Elections.

In April our teams visited 36 high schools in the county and signed up 5,248 18-year-old students. We then went into neighborhoods and other locations that offered possibilities of registrants who might otherwise not register.

From June 11 until the end of August a booth was manned in Midtown Plaza four days a week and other facilities were in other major shopping centers for as many as two evenings a week plus Saturday hours. Other visits were to such places as the Public Market, neighborhood and ethnic festivals, the county fair, etc. Over two dozen nursing homes also were visited.

We find it difficult to believe that many county residents were not near one of our sites at some time during the summer.

We also worked closely with our Citizens Advisory Board under the chairmanship of Father Charles Mulligan and with many community groups.

We are grateful to the media who have been of much assistance and to all others to whom the goal of citizen participation has meant so much.

Frank Welch
Outreach Coordinator
County Board of Elections



By the way, John, I closed out our bank account and put it all in the Mission Sunday envelope.

ERA Seen Dangerous

Editor:

Mrs. Hoffmann attempts to dispel fears about the Equal Rights Amendment in her letter (Courier-Journal 10-1-75) Let's look at what's happening in states that have an ERA in their state constitutions. Perhaps their legislators did not intend for the following things to happen:

In Maryland, women no longer get a break on the cost of insurance because they live longer. This benefit granted to women has been lost.

In Washington, the feminists are complaining because Labor Laws have gone back to sweat shop conditions of the dark ages. They were told that protective labor laws would be extended to men but instead they were removed altogether.

In Colorado, both husbands and wives can be held criminally liable for non-support of their children whereas previously it was only the male partner of the marriage.

In the State of Washington, it became unconstitutional to have separation of the sexes in the private living quarters of the state universities, after an ERA was passed. The legislators said they didn't know this would happen. Then they passed a bill to prevent it. When Sen. Metcalf pointed out that the bill was unconstitutional, the attorneys admitted this, but said the bill would raise legal barriers and delay implementation of this phase of ERA for two or three

years. That would give the school officials and the public time to prepare for dorm facilities which cannot be legally sexually segregated.

In the Spring Grove State Hospital in Maryland, 50 men and 50 women are housed in one large dormitory with one row of communal toilets. The common bathroom has no partitions between toilets. Where is the right to privacy of these people?

Any law that can be so broadly interpreted is dangerous. Could any of the above things happen in New York? They sure could. You can prevent it by voting no to Amendment 1 on Nov. 4.

Mrs. Mary Margaret Hober
OPERATION WAKE UP Chairman
101 Lapham St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Appreciation Expressed

Editor:

We appreciate the interest and efforts of you and the Catholic Courier Journal staff in carrying a story about the 1975 Campaign of the United Jewish Welfare Fund of Rochester. This is most helpful in interpreting our cause to the public.

Elmer Louis
Executive Director
Jewish Community Federation
of Rochester

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I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.
ANTHONY J. COSTELLO,
General Manager