



* LOOK, THE CATHOLIC KIDS HAVE THEIRS — WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A ROBERT REDFORD CENTER? *

Editorial

School Questions

Almost invariably with any newspaper report as much as left out as is printed because of that demon space, or more appropriately, lack of space.

While we feel that the recent section the Courier-Journal printed explaining directions and problems concerning our schools provided enough information to chew on, there is still much more to be said.

For instance, Sister M. James Lynch, our coordinator of educational services, posed five questions which all of us should consider.

- * What is the most essential mission and contribution of a Catholic school?
- * What are the factors which influence parents to choose or not choose Catholic schools for their youngsters?
- * Does sharing of resources among parishes provide better quality and a longer life line?
- * Since significant government assistance does not seem to be available to us, what options do we have?
- * Does the presence or absence of a Catholic school contribute more effectively to the parish's strength as a center for total parish education?

Grammatically these questions are simple, but they pose complex problems.

Their Daily Bread

The United States Catholic Conference is right on the mark when it calls for a public food policy to be formulated by the U.S. government.

While praising the voluntary efforts of individuals and groups to ease the hunger pangs suffered by so many in so much of the world, the USCC rightly stated that such work is "inadequate" if they are not encompassed in a broader public policy which links them to a systematic program of action.

One of the main provisions of any such program on the international level must be that such food aid is not tied to political considerations. The powerless must have equal priority with those who may be strategically located or politically advantageous. Severity of the problem should be the principal guideline.

On the domestic front, the USCC supports a "major review" of the food stamp program with the aim of eliminating "abuses and excesses and making adequate public assistance available where it is needed."

We all should work toward these goals in whatever ways possible. Let your officials know of your concern.

Often it is difficult to budge government, much less move it, through ordinary channels. But there is one source that may help. The one who told us to pray these words, "Give us this day our daily bread" surely will hear such a plea when made in behalf of deprived people.

Opinion

New Feature 'Joy to Read'

Editor:

As a new member of our parish liturgy committee I wish to express my appreciation for your recent articles, "Insights on Parish Liturgy." It is indeed a joy to read some clear thinking on this subject!

"Liturgy" is a word which evokes mixed reactions in the reader. It brings to mind many beautiful services attended. Probably due to a misunderstanding of modern terminology, some services have not been conducive to prayer and worship.

A new understanding of such concepts as relevance, community silence and music as servant should result in more meaningful liturgies in our parishes.

I am looking forward to many more of these articles in the futures. They should stimulate some interesting discussions at parish liturgy meetings.

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Can't Condone Homosexuality

Editor:

Reading the farcical attempts lately of trying to persuade readers to condone homosexuality as a norm in the Church is about as logical as accepting abortion as doctrinaire simply because people will do it anyway.

In the Courier-Journal (9-24-75) we now have a priest informing us that within the inner circles there is a "re-thinking" in regards to homosexuality. Fine, why not? Let's be with it. The majority of American psychologists came out last year and have acclaimed homosexuality as just another way of expressing "love". This year the National Council of Churches agreed to support all homosexual goals which opened the door to ordaining them in the clergy. We have all read in the newspapers of homosexual marriages and of the present attempt for them to adopt children. Why even Playboy magazine accepts it along with all the other healthy "with it" magazines and marvelous picture shows that mirror our society's rationale.

Since sound quotes from Holy Scripture by Father Hogan and others, not to mention the Magisterium, mean nothing whatsoever + then there is no

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reason not to welcome homosexuality or lesbianism, abortion, pornography or whatever else we can find loopholes for.

How hard we try to gain the upper hand over God. Over the One Being who made us all of nothing and who is keeping us all in existence from moment to moment by the simple act of His Will, without which all that is would simply not be. The One Being we could be suddenly standing in front of for judgment at any given moment of the day or night.

The Church has and always will accept the sinner with compassion, as we all should, but never the sin. Those that pose the real danger are those who crawl from beneath vipers nests and spread their venom while under the guise of meaningful re-thinking.

If we or anyone else are ever castigated for "casting stones", a phrase that is used by anyone who someone says don't to for any reason under the sun, so be it. We will gladly cast stones at anyone in order to alert them to the Beatific Vision rather than lull them into the "fires where the worm dies not." And we certainly hope others would do the same for us if we ever took a wrong turn in our pilgrimage.

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More Criticism Of Fr. Curran

Editor:

I wish to applaud Rev. G. Stuart Hogan for his fine letters in the Courier-Journal — particularly his recent one concerning Rev. Charles Curran's remarks in the Democrat & Chronicle (9/28). It is really sad that Rev. Curran is given so much publicity while so many good priests with sound guidance are rarely approached by the news media.

And who will suffer from the errors of priests like Rev. Curran? — anyone who takes his words seriously because they lead to confusion and sadness instead of joy and true freedom.

Are parents good when they allow their children to do whatever their children please? We say, "Of course not!" Then how can we expect the Church to be a good parent if she allows Her children to go without guidance. Jesus established the Church to guide us. Do we think He has abandoned His Church?

I was so impressed with some words from a speech given at the National Right to Life Convention in Denver in June. Jay G. Sykes, former practicing attorney and journalist and currently chairman of the department of mass communications at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said pro-lifers should not minimize the valuable role that the Catholic Church has played and continues to play in the pro-life struggle. He said:

"Thank God — and I say this as a Jew — for the Catholic Church — for this church which is so rooted in the eternal verities and morality — a church that does not yield or bend with the demands of the 'profound problems of the day', a church which does not pander to the prevailing majorities or contemporary passions."

We must all pray daily for all our priests and bishops — they have such a responsibility!

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Sen. Buckley Top Mediocrity

Editor:

Isn't it too bad you didn't have a chance to know how the U.S.

Senate voted on the override of President Ford's vote of the nutrition program for pre-natal care and pre-school children? You could then have headed your "list of mediocrities" with New York Sen. James Buckley. Senator Buckley talks a good talk against abortion and then votes against a nutrition program for the developing fetus and the delivered individual. Is there virtue in delivering a child that will starve to death?

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CAP Book Thanks Paper

Editor:

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Courier-Journal for the superior presentations of the "Children Who Wait." The children are being portrayed as the "very special" people they truly are, with so much warmth and feeling for their particular needs.

The public can only be made aware of the needs of the waiting children through the generous contribution and cooperation of the media. We are continuing to receive one or two calls each week in response to the column.

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ERA Step Backwards

Editor:

We wish to make two points regarding the pleasant-sounding Equal Rights Amendment which will be before the voters of New York this November.

1) The amendment as presently worded makes no mention of women and/or men. It refers obliquely to equality of sexes and that's a different matter. The amendment obviously includes Unisex, which the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano has called 'a tragic impoverishment for mankind.'

2) At both state and federal levels, American women now enjoy legal equality in every area which touches a woman's life. Women in this country are legally protected from discrimination in education, economic, political and financial situations.

Women in America have fought for and/or demanded equality in insurance rates, credit loans, property ownership, small business transactions, military service, private pensions, social security, and child care, to mention but a few.

In many areas, women excel. There is no doubt that they are capable of assuming creative roles in true and courageous leadership. They already have the tools, legally speaking. They already have the opportunities.

American women do not need the encumbrance of a broadly based, dangerously worded ERA which will invalidate many existing legal benefits.

Sometimes equality is a step backwards.

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